

# neighbor to neighbor

COMMUNITY NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF ORANGE

## Planners have three student housing projects in the works

Plans for new student housing projects at Chapman University continue to advance, moving the University closer to its goal of providing housing for at least 50 percent of its undergraduate students.

“The housing goal was one of the main priorities agreed upon in meetings of the Neighborhood Advisory Committee,” says Jack Raubolt, the University’s vice president of community relations.

The type and scope of the plans vary by site, and each have different construction timeframes.

### Villa Park Orchard Residence Hall

Located at the northwest corner of the intersection of West Palm Avenue and North Cypress Street, this project is nearing the final stages of entitlement and design review with the City of Orange. As proposed, it is expected to include about 400+ beds. The conceptual design by the architectural firm Togawa Smith Martin, Inc. echoes the industrial character of the historic area. Depending upon planning approvals, occupancy could be as soon as fall 2019.

### Panther Village

The University recently purchased vacant land adjacent to Panther Village, located on West Chapman Avenue near Interstate 5. Two development options are being considered. One concept calls for demolition of the existing Panther Village, formerly a low-rise hotel, and combining it with the newly-purchased lot for development of a high-density student village.



As proposed, the Villa Park Orchards residence hall could potentially house 400-plus students. The above image is a conceptual rendering. The plan is being reviewed by the City of Orange.

The other would leave the former hotel intact and develop a less dense project, only on the new property. Both concepts and the potential financing of each are being studied by University administrators and the Board of Trustees.

### North Residence Hall

Replacement of the 45-year-old residence halls on the north side of campus is planned. Conceptual plans are in progress. The University is seeking

a project that would house many more students than can be accommodated in the existing low density apartment-style halls.

The University welcomes all comments, concerns or questions about current and future construction projects. Please email them to [neighbors@chapman.edu](mailto:neighbors@chapman.edu).

## Chapman students bring film magic to life for young filmmakers

A beloved celebrity was dead. The detective was determined to nail the suspect. Even if the case was ... a tad squishy.

“Did you kill SpongeBob SquarePants?” the young investigator asked the suspect.

“No! I didn’t do it!”

Thankfully for fans of the yellow cartoon hero, this drama was make-believe, all part of a mock television show filmed by sixth graders at an afterschool program staffed by students from Chapman University’s Dodge College of Film and Media Arts. The fun was made possible by a new community service course launched by Dodge

College in collaboration with Higher Ground Youth and Family Services, a non-profit organization that serves at-risk youth and families in Anaheim and Santa Ana.

As far as the kids were concerned, though, it was the real deal.

“I’m really good at the microphones part,” said Catie, 11.

“The cameras are cool. They have a lot of buttons,” said Israel, 12.

With the help of eight film students, Higher Ground can maintain a 1-to-4 instructor student ratio. The sixth graders use iPads to film on “location” in the city park where Higher Ground is located. A studio stocked with retired film equipment from Dodge offers a taste of working on set. Basic editing is done on a bank of computers outfitted with editing software, supported by a grant from Adobe.

The film program is just one of many service programs involving Chapman students. This semester more than 70 Chapman student volunteers assist in several afterschool activities, from photography to fitness. All the instruction in hands-on skills is great, but it’s really icing on the cake, says Joe Baldo, founder of Higher

Ground. The experience and relationships matter most and are at the heart of what Higher Ground is all about, he says.

“Whatever it is we do, whether it’s playing soccer, or doing art or in this case, filmmaking, it’s yet another way for these kids to interact with positive role models,” Baldo says. “That’s the main thing.”



Chapman film students and sixth-graders from Higher Ground in Anaheim get ready to work on a film project together.

## Did You Know?

### Mark your calendars for fireworks!

Commencement Weekend is Friday, May 19, through Sunday, May 21. Commencement events start Friday at 4 p.m. and continue through Sunday at 1:30 p.m. **A fireworks display on the Aitken Arts Plaza is planned for Friday at approximately 8:10 p.m.** as part of Closing Convocation and Senior Toast.

### Need to report a concern?

- Contact Chapman University at (714) 997-6763 or email [neighbors@chapman.edu](mailto:neighbors@chapman.edu).
- To report a disturbance that needs urgent attention, please call City of Orange PD dispatch at (714) 744-7444.

## YOU'RE INVITED!

Save these dates and join us for music, theatre and more!

There are many terrific Chapman University and community events planned this month. Here are just a few. Find more Chapman events at the University's online events calendar, [www.chapman.edu/events](http://www.chapman.edu/events). Advance tickets for performing arts events may be purchased online at [www.chapman.edu/tickets](http://www.chapman.edu/tickets).

### Disney Production Art

On display through September 23

Check out rare animation cels and related production work from such film favorites as *Snow White*, *Dumbo*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Lady and the Tramp*. Hilbert Museum of California Art, 167 N. Atchison St., Orange. Free. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Sundays and Mondays. For more information, call 714-516-5880.

### Big Band & Jazz Combo

Tuesday, May 2, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Jump, jive and boogie as this award-winning ensemble directed by Professor Albert Alva pays tribute to the music of Louie Bellson. Called "the world's greatest drummer" by Duke Ellington, Bellson also was a prolific composer and is credited with the invention of the double bass drum. Memorial Hall. General admission \$10; \$5 senior citizens, alumni and non-Chapman students. FREE post-show community reception. [www.chapman.edu/tickets](http://www.chapman.edu/tickets).

### "Picnic" by Williams Inge

May 4-6 & 11-13, 7:30 p.m.;  
May 6 & 13, 2 p.m.

Inge's exploration of small town life and the loneliness, boredom and sexual desires that hide behind the white picket fences. Winner of the 1953 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the 1953 New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Play. Waltmar Theatre. General admission \$20; \$15 senior citizens, alumni, and non-Chapman students. [www.chapman.edu/tickets](http://www.chapman.edu/tickets).



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Find more news at  
[NeighborsofChapman.com](http://NeighborsofChapman.com)

## A neighborly visit with ... hometown alumna Crystal De La Riva

A growing number of first-generation college students are choosing Chapman University. And when one is a native City of Orange resident and even goes on to build a career at her alma mater, it's a proud moment for us all.

That's the story of Crystal De La Riva '09 (MA '17), an academic advisor and coordinator of the university's Promising Futures Program, which conducts outreach to first-generation students. We caught up with her for a conversation about that remarkable journey – a journey that almost didn't happen.

### Why did you choose to attend Chapman?

"I have to admit the last thing I wanted to do was stay in Orange for college. I wanted to go out of state. But my family really wanted me to stay close, especially my father. He said we have a really great school in our backyard. Why not? Chapman's was the first acceptance letter I got. Everybody was at home. And being a first generation student, that was the first college acceptance letter my family had ever seen. I think I had underestimated what

that meant for us. My dad asked if he could open it. He started crying, my mom started crying, and my sister started crying and I started crying. The other college acceptance letters were never the same."

### How has the decision to come to Chapman shaped your life?

"My dad ended up getting sick when I was in college and passed away. And I always think about how that might have been different if I were out of state then. I was able to share all of the college experiences that I had with my father as long as I could. And as a student, I remember I had my ups and downs. But those experiences molded me into a very resilient person. It's hard to imagine doing what I do at any other institution. Chapman is something that's been around since I was a young kid. I grew up with this in my backyard. It was kind of my first understanding of what college was."

### Glad you stayed around?

I love my city! You'll have a hard time finding people who love Orange as much as I do. Part



Crystal De La Riva

of the work I'm trying to do now is outreach to local first-gen high school students. I would like them to come and visit and I want to eventually implement college planning workshops for them. Hopefully work more with my alma mater, Orange High School!

More inside!