

neighbor to neighbor

COMMUNITY NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF ORANGE

ORANGE HOME GROWN CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF URBAN AGRICULTURE

When the farmers market in Old Town Orange opened on the morning of May 7, 2011, no one really knew how it would turn out. “I remember standing at the packing house at six o’clock in the morning wondering if anybody would show up,” says Megan Penn, executive director of Orange Home Grown, the non-profit organization that runs the market.

Penn needn’t have worried. Thousands of customers showed up on that very first day to partake in locally grown produce and boutique food products, and they’ve been coming ever since. “It was a magical day,” says Penn.

In the years since, the farmers market has become a mainstay of Old Towne Orange, but it was just the first step for Orange Home Grown, whose mission to educate the community about urban agriculture and sustainable food production continues to evolve. In 2016, they opened the Education Farm on North Lemon Street, where they offer classes and outreach programs to the local community. They also maintain a seed lending library, partner with local schools and businesses, and award annual scholarships to promising students in food science, agriculture and environmental studies.

The past year has presented a new set of challenges to Orange Home Grown. After the pandemic shut down the farmers market in March 2020, they worked with city and university officials to reopen after only one month, in accordance with state and local health guidelines. Volunteers, mostly from the university and local high schools, stepped in to help monitor crowds. “They wanted to support the community,” says Penn, “and help make sure people had access to nutritious and healthy food.”

What will the next ten years look like for OHG? Penn hopes that with continued support from Chapman and other local partners, they’ll continue to grow the size of the market. She’d also like to add more locations to their urban farming programs. “Every week we have someone new who reaches



“This is one of the best examples of how a university and a local non-profit can come together,” says Chapman University President Daniele Struppa during a recent visit. Chapman has been a dedicated supporter and partner for the past decade, including providing rent-free space for the farm and market to operate. “The value of an institution is in its relationship with the community, and I think the partnership we have here is one of the most beautiful.”

out and wants to get involved, so we’re starting to feel some growing pains in our current space. With new locations, we can do more to support a healthy community, mentally and physically.”

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MATH LEARNING CENTER OPENS WITH FREE ONLINE RESOURCES

Faculty and students in Chapman University’s Teacher Education program have launched a new Community Math Learning Center that integrates teacher education training and community math enrichment. The math center uses a virtual learning environment to serve local families and youth while giving teachers in training at Chapman hands-on practice.



As part of Attallah College’s commitment to innovation and to positively impacting Orange County schools, graduate students in the Teacher Education program leverage virtual tools and online spaces to create rich mathematical experiences.

The primary goal of the program is for the Chapman students and the K-12 children to learn by doing. The abrupt shift to remote learning last spring presented both a massive challenge and an opportunity. Like so many educators forced to transition to remote instruction this year, Chapman faculty and students had to enhance their knowledge of educational tools to teach mathematics in a virtual environment.

To integrate these tools and help families and students access resources, Cathery Yeh, Ph.D., faculty director of the new center, and her team created a Virtual Math Classroom as a one-stop shop virtual learning environment. Yeh said the virtual learning tools have offered Chapman students a wonderful opportunity to prepare for their future classrooms.

Families and educators are encouraged to make a copy of the Virtual Math Classroom, which includes math resources and a Math Task Bank with 30 different types of math tests and tasks, from pre-K through 12th grade.

Students and faculty also created a free, online Chapman U Math at Play Video Series. Posted to an open YouTube channel, the series addresses pre-K through 8th grade mathematics standards and is accessible to educators and families

alike. Video lessons are available in English and Spanish. Activity handouts are also available for download in English and Spanish.

Families who wish to take advantage of these free resources can visit:
<https://www.chapman.edu/education/centers-and-partnerships/comm-math>

Did You Know?

Chapman University will hold commencement ceremonies for the classes of 2020 and 2021 over the course of two weekends: July 30–August 1 and August 6-8. We anticipate increased traffic during this time in the area around Chapman Stadium, and neighborhood parking restrictions will be lifted during both weekends of the event.

Need to report a concern?

- Contact Chapman University’s Office of Community Relations at **(714) 289-2097** or email 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!

Join us for these engaging events at Chapman

Most in-person activities and events are on hold until the campus can safely be opened again to the public. Until that time, we invite you to participate in these virtual events. Find more at the University's online events calendar, chapman.edu/events.

Chapman University Economic Forecast Update

Wednesday, June 16
3 p.m.

Regarded as the most accurate forecast in the nation for years, Chapman accurately predicted the V-shape recovery of 2020. Our forecast for 2021 will be analyzed, and trends for the latter half of the year will be revealed. Thanks to our sponsors, registration is complimentary.

More info: economicforecast.chapman.edu

Spring Dance Concert

June 7—27
Available On Demand

Neighbors are invited virtually to attend CoPA's Spring Dance Concert directed by Jennifer Backhaus. The concert will feature choreography by senior dance majors performed live on the Musco Center stage. Regular admission: \$10.

More info: events.chapman.edu/83038

Telling Stories: One Room at a Time

Available On Demand

This virtual exhibit tells the stories behind six of the Leatherby Libraries story rooms. Explore their origins, see photographs of the various artifacts and collections, and learn about the individuals, stories and communities highlighted in each room. Featured topics include Sikhs and Sikhism in America, the 1947 Mendez v. Westminster case against segregated schooling, the Italian Heritage Archive and more. Free to the public.

More info: scalar.chapman.edu/scalar/leatherby-libraries-story-rooms



One University Drive
Orange, California 92866
1270-12700



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