

neighbor to neighbor

COMMUNITY NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF ORANGE

Orange Home Grown And Chapman Plant The Seeds Of Healthy Foods With Farm Project

On North Lemon Street in Old Towne Orange there's a vacant lot covered in bare dirt. But soon there will be a bounty of vegetables, fruit trees and herbs flourishing there, along with an outdoor teaching space where the community can learn about backyard agriculture and experience the delight of farm-to-table gardening.

Thanks to a unique collaboration between Chapman University and the non-profit community group Orange Home Grown (OHG), the Lemon Street Community Farm has launched at 356 N. Lemon St. Chapman will provide the lot rent-free and OHG will plan and manage the educational farm that will be dedicated to teaching the values and know-how of producing locally-grown food.

The educational farm builds on the success of OHG's Farmers and Artisans Market held every Saturday at the historic Villa Park Orchards Packing House lot on the Chapman campus. It is the realization of a dream that has been stirring for more than a year, says Brian Kunisch, OHG Board President and Co-Founder of OHG.

"It embodies our mission to help cultivate a healthy community and serves as a new platform for educational, volunteer, and collaborative opportunities. Even in the early stages, as we are now, the support for this farm has been overwhelming and we feel this will continue to grow along with the farm. A special thanks to Chapman University for their continued support and generosity to enable the efforts and visions of OHG to come to fruition," Kunisch said.

A central part of the farm will be an outdoor teaching area where classes, workshops and farm-to-table education dinners will be held.



Celebrating the new partnership between Orange Home Grown (OHG) and Chapman University at the Lemon Street Farm are, from left, OHG Board Member Doug Turner, Chapman Vice President of Community Relations Jack Raubolt, OHG Founding Member Nedra Kunisch, OHG Founding Member and Executive Director Megan Penn, Chapman University Chancellor Daniele Struppa, OHG Board Member Paula Soest, OHG Founding Member Martha Turner and OHG Board Member Glory Johnson.

Community members will be invited to work the farm, but individual plots will not be available for lease. Produce grown in the demonstration plots will be donated to local food pantries or possibly used by local chefs in special seasonal promotions. Eventually OHG hopes to include programming led by other groups, as well, from Chapman food scientists to local student groups.

Like its Saturday market, volunteers and community support will be relied on to get the garden up and running and continue its maintenance. Supplies, donations, elbow grease, strong backs and all manner of helping hands are being sought by OHG. A blueprint of the site has already laid out plans for row crops, berry bushes, fruit trees, compost and worm bins, a potting table, storage shed, bike parking and seating benches.

At approximately 8,000 square feet, it's smaller than many urban farms springing up across the country, but it's enough to show people what they can do with a home garden, said Megan Penn, Executive Director and Co-Founder of OHG.

"We're not saying you have to feed your family just by what you grow, but putting your hands in soil and growing something is good for you," Penn said. "It's healthy. It goes into our whole mission of trying to keep our community healthy. We want to help provide resources for people to do that."

To learn how you can help out at the Lemon Street Community Farm, contact Orange Home Grown at orangehomegrown.org or visit its information booth at its Farmers and Artisans Market.

Did You ? ? Know?

The office of community relations has a new home in Old Towne Orange. Jack Raubolt, vice president of community relations, and his staff recently moved into offices at 332 N. Olive St. The offices are located behind the residence at the front of the property – soon to be the home of Jack and his wife, Hong, – and is accessible by a path alongside the home's north side.

Staff there will maintain regular office hours, and can be reached at 714-289-2007.

Need to report a concern?

- Please contact Chapman University at 714-997-6763 or email neighbors@chapman.edu
- To report a disturbance that needs urgent attention, please call City of Orange PD dispatch at 714-744-7444.

Poetic Partnership Hits Five-Year Mark

Michelle Ramirez, a senior at Orange High School, stepped to the front of a Chapman University lecture hall on a Monday after school recently to read poetry. Even better, it was her own poetry.

"What a fool I am to have thought I was the only flower in your garden," she began, reading a poem she wrote about how quickly high school love can fade, and comparing her rivals to thorny roses. "And here I am, a hopeless daisy, drying out waiting to be no more but a memory."

Ramirez was just one of 24 OHS students in a semester-long workshop guided by six MFA students and assistant professor of English Jan Osborn, Ph.D., as part of the Chapman University/Orange High School Literacies Partnership in collaboration with the John Fowles Center for Creative Writing.

The students shared their poetry and short fiction in a community reading Monday, April 25 at Chapman. Student work from each semester is



published in a small poetry collection, or chapbook, titled *Down the Street*. Copies are available for viewing at the City of Orange Main Library and Chapman's Leatherby Libraries.

Old Towne industrial building finds new life as Hilbert Museum of California Art

A group of City of Orange officials were treated to a personal tour of the new Hilbert Museum of California Art with Mark and Janet Hilbert on May 3. The museum was established in the heart of the historic industrial section of Old Towne Orange thanks to the generosity of the Hilberts, whose unmatched collection focuses on the “California Scene” painting movement of the 1920s through the 1970s.

City of Orange Mayor Teresa Smith thanked the Hilberts for bringing the museum to Orange, noting that many of its residents are native Californians with family ties to the locations portrayed in the paintings.

“For your being here and bringing this to our community we are very, very grateful,” Mayor Smith said.



Mark Hilbert, far left, gives a special tour of the Hilbert Museum of California Art, sharing with city leaders some stories of the artworks in the collection.

In fact, one piece in the collection – “Mary by the Sea,” by Lee Blair – is set along the Palos Verdes Peninsula, a stretch of coastline that was included in one of the first Spanish land grants held by Mayor Smith’s ancestor Juan Jose Dominquez.

Located at 167 N. Atchison Street, the museum is housed in a building fully refurbished by Chapman to integrate with the area’s industrial uses. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.



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YOU'RE INVITED!

Join us for engaging events this summer at Chapman

There are many terrific events at Chapman University and neighbors are always welcome. Here are just a few of many. Find more at the University’s online events calendar, www.chapman.edu/events. Advance tickets for performing arts events may be purchased online at www.chapman.edu/tickets.

iViva el Mariachi Femenil!

May 29 – August 1

Leatherby Libraries, floors one and two

The Mariachi Women’s Foundation presents ¡Viva el Mariachi Femenil!, an exhibit of photographs and artifacts depicting the history of women in mariachi music from 1903 to 2016. The trials and tribulations of the pioneers of women in mariachi and the evolution of all female groups into the present day will be demonstrated through historic photographs, documents, artifacts, and displays of mariachi suits. Curated by Leonor Xochitl Perez, Ph.D., from interviews, photographs and artifacts collected along with Laura Sobrino and Nancy Munoz.

Summer Choral Music Camp for High School Singers

Monday through Friday, June 20-24.

The Hall-Musco Conservatory of Music hosts the Chapman University Summer Choral Music Camp for High School Singers June 20-24. The regular tuition is \$395, but scholarships are available. Deadline to register is June 1. For scholarship information, please email music@chapman.edu.

Orange County Guitar Circle Showcase Recital

Saturday, June 18, 8 p.m.
Salmon Recital Hall

An evening of classical guitar music performed by musicians from Chapman and greater Orange County. Admission \$15. For more information, contact Jeff Cogan at cogan@chapman.edu.