Heritage apartments continue development, expected to welcome students in fall of 2019

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Starting in the fall of 2019, students at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette will have a new place to call home for the school year.

The Heritage at Cajun Village apartment complexes, located on the corner of Lewis street and Johnston, is on schedule to be completed by the fall semester of 2019, according to UL Lafayette Director Facility Management Bill Crist.

"Everything is moving along on schedule, despite the rain that we've had," Crist said. "We're still shooting to have it completed by August of 2019."

According to UL Lafayette housing website, the Heritage apartments offer one, two or three bedroom suites, each with its own full-service kitchen, washer/dryer combination and private patio or balcony.

Crist said even with the limited time left before it's set to open, there is a lot left to do, citing the items need to get "blackened-in," meaning it's enclosed where the construction crew can sort and start the inside work for Heritage.

"We still have the internal work, like putting in the electrical, the sheetrock, the paint and all those kinds of things," Crist said. "So all those still need to follow the exterior of construction that you're seeing done."

Crist said projects like the Heritage apartments, which began in April 2018, saw changes along the way, adding how you deal with those little problems along the way.

"We've had complete design changes as we've been moving through this," Crist said. "We had some items we felt weren't as nice as they should have been, so we've had total changes."

Crist noted hiccups aren't what you look forward to, but they're what you prepare for.

"Obviously the biggest hiccup we've had to deal with is the weather," Crist said. "So there is always a number of unforeseen conditions when you're on these types of buildings."

Jules Breaux, director of housing at UL Lafayette, said the Heritage at Cajun Village represents an ongoing effort to increase on-campus housing options and renovate existing living spaces for students.

"Any new facility or improvement on campus generates enthusiasm and interest," Breaux said. "It signifies continual, University wide progress and growth that benefits students, faculty, staff members and the community."

Breaux added the location of the new Heritage apartments offers both convenience and proximity to the rest of campus.

Like Legacy apartments, Heritage has one, two, or three bedrooms, but the new complex is set to offer more for UL Lafayette students.

"Two student surveys conducted by the University - one in 2015 and another in 2016 - indicated students want living spaces with 'useful' amenities," Breaux said. "That includes things like the ability to cook their own meals or do laundry or exercise or live in an environment where they can entertain others."

Breaux said the idea of Heritage apartments began three four years ago, aiming to help make the college life easier for students.

"The Heritage at Cajun Village offers recreation areas that include a swimming pool, sand volleyball court and a pavilion," Breaux said. "Other amenities include a fitness center and study rooms. The complex will have almost 5,000 square feet of retail space that will benefit students along with the community local economy."

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Construction at the Heritage at Cajun Village apartment complexes.

Transgender woman arrested for refusing to leave bathroom

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According to an initial incident report released by the Lafayette Police Department, officers arrested Logan Marie Guidry at the Lafayette Greyhound bus station on the night of Nov. 15. The report lists several offenses on Guidry's part, including drunkenness and disturbing the peace.

Guidry, who is transgender, said she was waiting for a bus to her home in Florida and the police arrived after a station employee noticed her in the women's restroom.

"I used that bathroom multiple times. I asked one of the employees where it was when I walked in," Guidry said, "At one point I came in from smoking a cigarette and went to use the bathroom and heard a knock on the stall door pretty much immediately. It was some man telling me I wasn't supposed to be in there."

Guidry said there was neither a cleaning crew in sight nor any indicators that the restroom was closed, despite the employee telling her the restroom was closed for cleaning. She said employees called the police after she refused to leave the restroom.

"They told me that if I didn't leave immediately they would call the cops. Of course I was in the middle of using the bathroom so it's kind of hard to leave immediately. I came out of the stall and there's already two officers waiting for me," Guidry said.

According to the incident report, Guidry yelled profanities at the bus station employees when they asked her to leave the restroom.

"Complainant advised after being asked to exit the bathroom, the suspect began yelling profanities towards the facility employees and refused to leave the bathroom."

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