

First On Campus

New 440-space parking garage ready for business

UL LAFAYETTE'S FIRST PARKING garage may not be its last. It was not even open yet this spring when university officials began trying to determine the best site for another one.

The Taft Street Parking Garage, nestled among trees at the intersection of Taft Street and St. Mary Boulevard, has room for 440 vehicles.

The four-and-a-half-story structure will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday. There

is a minimum \$1 fee for up to an hour. After the first hour, it will cost 25 cents for each additional 15 minutes.

The parking garage and parking

lots on campus are open to the public, as well as students, faculty and staff.

Students will be able to pay cash or use their Cajun Cards to park in the new facility. A Cajun Card, which doubles as a UL Lafayette identification card, is like a debit card.

Simon Broussard, director of parking and transit at UL Lafayette, said the parking garage can be used after hours

for university-related special events. It's adjacent to Angelle Hall, which has a theater. It's also near the Paul and Lulu

Hilliard University Art Museum and the UL Lafayette Alumni Center.

Broussard said an additional 5,000 parking spaces would be needed on campus to accommodate demand. About 3,500 students park their vehicles at Cajun Field and take a shuttle bus to campus and back. Others pay to park in nearby private lots.

In 2002, UL Lafayette students voted to pay an extra \$25 per fall and spring semester for construction of the parking garage and other improvements to the parking and transit system.

The original plan was to provide parking spaces for 500 vehicles, but in 2005, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita drove up the cost of materials. So, the number of parking slots was reduced to stay within the university's budget. ■



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Barras Mueschke Architects of Lafayette's design of a new parking garage accommodates several trees.