



New Villaggio Development closer to completion

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Villaggio, the 64-acre community on East Texas Street, is that much closer to its completion by the end of the year.

"We've already done the underground work," said John Good Jr., the developer of Villaggio.

Good said that includes water, sewers and more.

"We've already moved more than 200,000 yards of dirt," he said.

The entrepreneur had a small reception last week to showcase his newly completed models for the new urbanist community. The event included Rep. Jane Smith, who is now vice chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, along with other dignitaries.

"We want to accentuate the positive things in Bossier City," Smith said.

Good also developed the Louisiana Boardwalk and the upscale Stonebridge community.

Villaggio (an Italian word for village) is located just east of Swan Lake Road and west of Bossier Parish Community College. In fact, the property will be within walking distance of Bossier Parish Community College.

Phase 1 construction is slated to cost of \$80 million to \$90 million.

"This whole area is going to turn on a dime," Good said. "Bossier City really makes it happen."

The mega-development will feature a sandy-beached lake, 55,000 square feet of retail space, multi-family housing with two- and three-bedroom apartments, town homes, dining, office and commercial space, and a lakeside promenade with the property's trademark 45-foot clock tower.

There also will be jogging/walking trails, swimming in designated areas and paddle and sailboat rentals.

All this, Good said, for apartment rentals of about \$700 to \$1,300 per month.

"We're very reasonable," he said.

Lots also will be offered for sale for home building. Villaggio's retail space, called Buoni Negozi following the Italian-style theme, will showcase main street frontage and some will offer a view of the Promenade at Lake Villaggio.

A special market area called "Carrelli" will utilize umbrella market carts offering everything from fresh flowers to Italian coffees. Good is anticipating a summer Phase I opening.

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