The Cajundome, located at Congress Street and Bertrand Drive, is near completion.

Cajundome officials plan grand opening celebration

In 18 days, one of Acadiana's most ambitious projects will make its debut. The Cajundome will open its doors to the public Sunday, Nov. 10.

The landmark facility will serve as a multi-purpose center for the area. Cajundome officials are confident the new facility will bring Acadiana to the forefront in entertainment, athletic, educational, community and cultural offerings.

To welcome such an addition to Lafayette, a celebration of comparable proportions has been planned.

The centerpiece of a three-week Grand Opening Series is an Open House to Acadiana, the afternoon of Nov. 10. The Open House is a symbol of what the Cajundome has meant and can mean in the future to the community, Cajundome officials say. The entire celebration has been put together with the help of donations of time, talent and funds.

An afternoon full of entertainment will be provided by musicians, magicians, dancers and other entertainers who are requesting no payment, other than the chance to be a part of a significant moment in Lafayette's history. The Open House will begin at 12:30 p.m. with a special dedication of a memorial to one of Lafayette's Vietnam veterans, the late Capt. Steven Bennett, who earned the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The ceremony will be followed by a formal dedication of the Cajundome and several hours of fun and exploration, as visitors are entertained and allowed to tour the facility. There is no admission fee and the day's activities are open to the public.

The merrymaking will be led by Master of Ceremonies Rockin' Dopsie, known as the "Prince of Zydeco." with an assortment of local artists providing musical and magical entertainment. They include Russell Mayne, Beausoleil, Kat and the Kittens, Toulouse Cruise, Fife, Atchafalaya, Jazz Extension Dance Company, Rob Rue and Company, Lafayette Jr. Miss Mousercise, Magic Moods, Elaine Mann School of Dance, Jody Reynolds, Kelly Johnson, Pok-E-Dot the Clown, 3 Sharps and A Flatt, Cheers Singing Telegrams, Happy the Clown and Lafayette Concert Band.

Rogers, the Oak Ridge Boys and Sawyer Brown a sellout in less than one week. Also, ticket sales for the Foreigner rock concert have been swift.

Two other shows are also now on sale, The Muppets Show on Tour and a concert featuring Country Music Entertainer of the Year Ricky Skaggs.

Tickets to another lively performance go on sale Friday: Paramount's Three Decades of Rock Sock Hop, with Little Anthony, Gary Lewis and the Playboys, Sam and Dave and Three Dog Night.

There are plans to try to plug in another big performance, if possible, along with several local events sprinkled in between.