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It's Official, George W. Bush To Visit Woodward

Organizers officially announced yesterday, that former President George W. Bush will celebrate the Fourth of July in Woodward.

The announcement came during a special press conference yesterday morning in the Josie Adams Cultural Centre to spotlight the "Let Freedom Ring" celebration.

Woodward Mayor Bill Fanning said Bush will be speaking as part of "a special July 3rd and 4th celebration that will forever mark the positive results that our city has achieved (with the Crystal Beach Park renovations)."

It was revealed during the press conference that this will actually be Bush's second visit to Woodward as he visited the community in the late 1980s while campaigning for his father George H. W. Bush, the 41st president of the United States.

But, according to Fanning, it will probably be the first time that a president has ever visited Woodward proper.

He noted that while 34th President Dwight D. Eisenhower landed at the Woodward airport in 1957, Eisenhower stayed close to the airport and "never actually came into the city."

Event promoter Landon Laubhan said that there was a lengthy and "interesting process" involved in getting the former president to visit Woodward again to be part of two-day celebration in honor of . The process included submitting a number of recommendation letters from officials including U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe and U.S. Rep. Frank Lucas as well as a personal invitation to Bush himself.

"There's no greater honor than to have the 43rd president of the United States, President George W. Bush, to participate in our patriotic celebration," Fanning said.

Since the celebration has been organized to commemorate the renovations at Crystal Beach Park and the park's 80th anniversary as well as Independence Day, the mayor said he is "so excited to be able to reward our citizens and neighbors who voted for and supported our park remodeling project with this celebration event."

In addition to Bush, the two-day event will also feature seven various country artists. Although performance times have not been finalized, the artist lineup was released at Monday's press conference.

On July 3, the concert series is set to begin with a performance by Bo Phillips, older brother to Stoney LaRue. Next in the lineup is Mike McClure, followed by Asleep at the Wheel and Tanya Tucker with Stoney LaRue finishing the evening.

Then following Bush's speech on July 4, there will be a 90-minute concert by Marty Stuart. The Saturday night concert will close with a performance by Sawyer Brown and the evening will then be

capped off by a fireworks display as the grand finale.

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