

## \$3,500 raised to save planetarium at Ocean County College

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TOMS RIVER — The Save the Planetarium Fund says the hundreds of people who turned out for the annual Astronomy Day at Ocean County College helped raise some \$3,500 for the effort to re-open the attraction on the campus.

Out of the donations and pledges made Saturday at Astronomy Day, \$3,000 will be matched by a major donor, effectively doubling the value of donations being made by individuals and youth groups, said Richard Gamba, president of the Save the Planetarium Fund.

College officials closed the planetarium in September after deciding that repeated technical breakdowns and aging equipment meant it made more sense to totally rebuild the facility.

College President Jon H. Larson said the college Board of Trustees and foundation will kick off their own fund-raising drive May 4, with the goal of having the planetarium re-opened by this time next year.

-- Kirk Moore

**STORYCHAT** 

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