

New donations to help with renovations at Toms River planetarium

Posted by the [Asbury Park Press](#) on 06/22/07

BY [KIRK MOORE](#)
TOMS RIVER BUREAU

STORYCHAT: [Post Comment](#)

TOMS RIVER — New donations pledged by top Ocean County College officials will enable the OCC Foundation to advance \$375,000 toward new equipment and renovations at the Robert J. Novins Planetarium, college president Jon Larson and donors said this morning.

Combined with the foundation's commitment to dedicate its annual Sept. 8 gala to raising planetarium funds, about half the money needed is in sight, and officials believe the planetarium can reopen in September 2008, college trustee and fundraising chief Stephan Leone said.

"The amount is not as important as their commitment," Leone said. The pledges will be fulfilled over the next five years, allowing the foundation to advance the money, he said.

The campus planetarium, built in the mid-1970s, shut down last September after college officials decided it wasn't worth repairing its old equipment. At the time, they thought they had a commitment for a \$2.5 million donation, an offer that later proved to be bogus.

Early this year, planetarium supporters organized the Save the Planetarium Fund, a community effort that's raised about \$50,000 so far. College officials started their own drive in cooperation with the college foundation.

Judge Robert A. Fall, a college trustee, stressed ""this is a community, regional facility" and said fundraisers have a long-term goal of providing a sufficient operating fund to keep the planetarium operating and capable of funding upgrades for years to come.

STORYCHAT 

 [Post a Comment](#)

This article does not have any comments associated with it

Copyright © 2007 Asbury Park Press. All rights reserved.

Users of this site agree to the [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy/Your California Privacy Rights](#) (Terms updated March 2007) Site design by [Asbury Park Press](#) / [Contact us](#)