

Letter- Gamba thanks trustees

in Opinion

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I am a very relieved resident of Ocean County and the president of Save the Planetarium Fund Inc. The STPF is a nonprofit corporation formed by myself and other Ocean County residents. Its purpose is to work toward reopening the doors of the Robert J. Novins Planetarium through community support and awareness and a variety of fundraising efforts, so the residents of Ocean County and its neighboring communities can once again enjoy the immersive experience and magic that can only occur in a planetarium theater.

With the commitment, publicly offered last week by the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the commitment by the college's board of trustees Monday, the residents of Ocean County may all be able to take a collective sigh-of-relief, that we may once again see the doors to the planetarium open for good.

I would personally like to thank the members of the board for responding to the desires of the community in such a timely fashion. By their willingness to have the college begin fundraising efforts and allowing Dr. Larson to focus on how best to utilize the planetarium facility to accommodate both the college's needs and the public's, they are putting forth the correct message of leadership and vision.

I am very pleased with their decision. I would like to inform them of my commitment, and that of the Save the Planetarium Fund, to continue a campaign of community awareness and fundraising. We are committed to helping them achieve the goal of making the planetarium a world-class facility and a sought-after destination, not only for the children and residents of Ocean County, but also for all the residents of New Jersey and beyond.

The planetarium already has a reputation for providing high quality programming for education and entertainment. The fund wants to work with the trustees and Dr. Larson to ensure the planetarium continues to provide the high quality programming for which it has become known and to ensure it has the tools needed to carry it into the future.

We feel certain continued strong public involvement and commitment will only serve to ensure the ongoing operations and longterm future success of the planetarium.

Our Web site, SavethePlanetarium.org, will continue to provide all the current information on our fundraising efforts and the status of the rebuilding of the planetarium.

I wish us all the best of success in this wonderful and meaningful endeavor. And please remember the "I'm Helping to Save the Planetarium" teeshirts are available on our Web site.

RICHARD GAMBA

Toms River