

Planetarium remains popular

By Kate York, kyork@mariettatimes.com

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Since May, more than 4,000 people have already experienced the new Anderson Hancock Planetarium at Marietta College, viewing stars and planets from across the world and several centuries.

That tally is from an open house as the planetarium opened its doors, a series of free community events and students coming in from area schools just before the school year ended.

The site should be even busier once school resumes, both at the college and in local districts, said Tom Perry, director of college relations.

"We're anticipating a lot more interest from area schools in the fall," he said. "Over the summer, we've had Boy Scout troops and almost any group you could think of."

There will be one more community show at the planetarium this summer, with three showings, and a September show has also been announced.

The August program, "The Solar System," will allow attendees to learn more about how to find planets in the current sky and will include a live star talk to answer questions like why Pluto is no longer a planet and if Mars will be as big as the full moon in the sky.

The shows are scheduled for 7 p.m. Aug. 27, 7:30 p.m. Aug. 28 and 3:30 p.m. Aug. 29.

The September show will be "The Equinox," and will focus on the autumnal equinox. Also included will be a 22-minute viewing of "Secrets of the Sun."

The September shows will be at 7 p.m. Sept. 24 and 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sept. 26.

Marilyn Johnson, 71, of Marietta, has attended each of the community shows and said she plans to be part of the crowd this month as well.

Fact Box

If you go

What: "The Solar System."

Where: Anderson Hancock Planetarium.

When: 7 p.m. Aug. 27, 7:30 p.m. Aug. 28, 3:30 p.m. Aug. 29.

"I think this is a great asset to our community," she said. "It's educational, and it's just beautiful. I've been amazed by it, and I take my grandchildren and they're amazed, too."

Reservations for the shows can be made by e-mailing planetarium@marietta.edu .