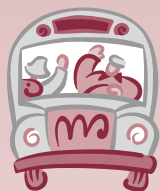


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south
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schools



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South Colonie Schools will hold its Go Home Early Drill on Tuesday, Nov. 10th. Students will be dismissed 15 minutes early to test the Emergency system.



focus

Preparing World Class Citizens

October, 2009

South Colonie Job Fair



**October 15th
6 - 7 p.m.**

**West Wing Cafeteria
Colonie High School**

Need a substitute job? Maybe you are retired or just looking for some occasional work. South Colonie is the place. Learn more by attending this one-hour seminar. Supervisors of the Buildings & Grounds, Food Service and Transportation Departments will be on hand to explain the duties associated with each position. Minimum qualifications will be covered, and employment applications will be available. Training is provided for most positions including bus drivers.



New school buses on October voting ballot

**South Colonie residents to vote October 14
Polls are open 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.**

South Colonie residents will go to the polls on Wednesday, October 14th, to vote on the annual school bus proposition to upgrade the district Transportation Department. The polls will be open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the district's five elementary schools. There is **NO** voting at the high school or middle schools. (More voting information on back page)

Continued on back page ... school bus vote October 14

Energy Star performers

EPA honors three schools

Three South Colonie Schools have once again been honored with an Energy Star Label from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Honored in September were Roesseville and Saddlewood Elementary Schools and Sand Creek Middle School.

Six South Colonie schools, overall, have earned this prestigious label over the years, which signifies that these buildings operate more energy efficiently than 75 percent of the schools in the United States. The other Energy Star Label schools are Veeder and Shaker Road Elementary Schools and Lisha Kill Middle School.

The Energy Star designation is one more mark of success for the district's multi-year energy conservation initiative. Since 2001, South Colonie has exceeded its energy savings projections and avoided more than \$2.5 million in energy expenses. The Energy Star designation for Sand Creek is significant because it is the only school in New York State to achieve Energy Star status four consecutive years.

These Energy Star Awards come on the heels of other EPA honors. In 2006, South Colonie was also among 18 organizations recognized for achieving significant energy savings and leading their fields in responding to the agency's Energy Star Building Challenge. Those honored for achieving at least 10 percent energy savings included school districts, a hospital and supermarket, hotel, banking and commercial real estate companies.

Jonathan W. Buhner
Superintendent of Schools

Tim Backus
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Beverly Miller
Assistant Superintendent/
Management Services

David Seaver
Director of Human Resources

Board of Education
Brian Casey, President
Leonard Motto, Vice President
Robert Domenici
Rick Dunn
Paul Gordon
Shelle Jaquish
Neil Johanning
David Kiehle
James (Tim) Ryan

In Focus Editor: John K. Noetzel

Can I vote?

You are eligible to vote if you are a U.S. citizen, 18 years or older, and a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

Voting Sites

FOREST PARK ELEMENTARY

100 Forest Drive (869-3006)

ROESSLEVILLE ELEMENTARY

100 California Ave. (459-2157)

SADDLEWOOD ELEMENTARY

100 Loralee Drive (456-2608)

SHAKER ROAD ELEMENTARY

512 Shaker Road (458-1440)

VEEDER ELEMENTARY

25 Veeder Drive (869-4661)

Absentee ballots online

Absentee ballots may now be downloaded online from the district web site. Look under Administration (top of page)/ Budget/Voting Information.

SOUTH COLONIE

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... School bus vote October 14

Continued from page 1

The district is seeking voter approval to spend \$629,000 to purchase seven new transportation vehicles to meet the district's annual replacement schedule. The School Bus Proposition breaks down as follows:

- \$537,500 for the purchase of five, 66-passenger school buses, at \$107,500 per vehicle;
- \$70,000 for the purchase of one, 12-passenger/two-wheelchair school bus;
- \$49,500 for the purchase of one, 20-passenger Type A van transportation vehicle.

Some have asked: Why vote on the purchase of new buses every year? The annual replacement plan of the existing fleet has helped to maintain student safety and control repair and maintenance costs on older buses. The district's 82-unit bus fleet travels about 15,000 a year. The average life of a bus is 12 years and 150,000-175,000 miles. The buses are usually never retired for mechanical reasons, said Transportation Director Peter Tunny, but because the bodies wear out.

The total estimated cost of the seven new vehicles is \$657,000. After receiving an estimated \$28,000 trade-in value on the buses that will be taken out of service, the total cost to the district for the seven new vehicles would be \$629,000.

The district also is eligible to receive 55 percent of the purchase in state aid making the district's net cost \$298,099. The money would be borrowed over a five-year period. The cost to South Colonie property owners would be about 2.5 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value if the bus proposition is approved. On an average home assessed at \$150,000, the total cost would be \$3.67 per family. (See complete tax rate chart below).

Bus property tax impact

Annual School Bus Purchase Proposition — \$629,000

Estimated tax rate increase Year 1 (Per \$1,000 of Assessed Value)

	<u>Colonie</u>	<u>Niskayuna</u>	<u>Guilderland</u>
Homestead	\$0.024507	\$0.015835	\$0.019629
Non-Homestead	\$0.025272	\$0.016548	\$0.020915