

## Sex offender information

The Colonie Police Department provides our schools with a list of the names and addresses of Level 2 and 3 convicted sex offenders living in the South Colonie Central School District.

Those lists are now kept in a binder at each school and the District Office and can be viewed during normal school hours or by contacting the Colonie Police Department. A signature is required. Pages can be copied for 25 cents each. Information is also readily available on the Colonie Town Police web site at [www.colonie.com/police](http://www.colonie.com/police), the district web site at [www.southcolonieschools.org](http://www.southcolonieschools.org) and the New York State Sex Registered Sex Offender web site at <http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us>.

## Tax rate set

The district has set the tax rate for the 2005-06 school year at \$19.28 per \$1,000 of assessed value for South Colonie property owners — 1 percent less than projected in May due to equalization rates. For more, visit the district web site.

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### Pizza with the principal

Shaker Road student Billy Pfeiffer (center) enjoys pizza with Principal Elizabeth Wood, his sister Margaret and friend Dylan Ngu this fall after winning the prize at last spring's PTA auction fundraiser. He chose pepperoni.

## Internet Safety program

The Colonie Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the Town of Colonie Police Department, is presenting a free program for parents on Internet Safety and how to protect your child. The program will be held at 7 p.m., Tuesday, October 25, in the Colonie Central High School library.

### SOUTH COLONIE

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Transportation vote tax  
Impact chart ..... pg. 2

Students help get Sand  
Creek grant ..... pg. 3

Free & reduced ... pg. 3



State lauds Lisha Kill  
test results ..... pg. 3

Pizza anyone? ..... pg. 4

October Internet  
Safety program ... pg. 4



### 'We've got your back'

Saddlewood Elementary youngsters stuff backpacks full of school supplies and personal items they plan to send to victims of the Gulf Coast hurricanes.

## Students come to aid of Gulf hurricane victims

### Various fundraisers held, others in the works

When it comes to helping the victims of the hurricanes that have devastated the Gulf Coast Region this fall, Saddlewood Elementary School students "have their back."

The school has joined the national "We've Got Your Back" campaign where they stuff new and used book bags with various school supplies and personal items and send them to their peers in the South. Saddlewood teacher Lynn West said her students got the idea from a web site they came across in class called [www.dosomething.org](http://www.dosomething.org) and couldn't wait to help out. She said she and her students liked this relief effort among all of the others because "it benefits kids directly." Before long, they had the whole school involved, collecting pencils, pens, crayons, notebooks, erasers, toothpaste, snacks and more and packing them into 54 backpacks to ship to the Gulf.

Continued on page 2 ... school hurricane aid

## Emergency radios/new buses on fall ballot

### District residents to vote October 20 on two important propositions

South Colonie residents will go to the polls on Thursday, October 20 to vote on two separate propositions 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.

### Proposition No. 1 — School bus purchase

Proposition No. 1 calls for spending \$521,500 to purchase six new transportation vehicles to meet the district's annual replacement schedule. \$460,000 or \$92,000 each would go toward the purchase of five, 66-passenger school buses and \$80,000 for one, 20-passenger, two-wheelchair school bus. After receiving \$18,500 trade-in value on five buses that will be taken out of the fleet, the total cost is \$521,500.

The district also is eligible to receive 52 percent of the purchase in state aid making the district's net

Continued on page 2 ... bus/radio vote

## ... bus/radio vote

Continued from page 1

cost \$269,094. The money would be borrowed over a five-year period. The cost to South Colonie property owners would be about 2 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value if Proposition No. 1 is approved. (See complete tax rate chart below).

### Proposition No. 2 – Transportation Department Bus Radio Replacement

Proposition No. 2 calls for spending \$298,000 to replace 100 school bus two-way communication radios and two base radios and to upgrade the emergency communications system from analog to digital. 52 percent of the cost is eligible for state aid making the district's net cost \$153,768. The cost to South Colonie property owners would be about 1.1 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value if Proposition No. 2 is approved. (See complete tax rate chart below).

Replacing the two-way radios is an important student safety measure as they enable the district to have instant contact with police, fire and EMS personnel. By the end of 2006, the Town of Colonie will have switched its emergency communications system from analog to digital. Without the upgrade called for in Proposition No. 2, the district's communications system would no longer be able to interface or work with the town's new digital system. The new system would also put buses in contact with emergency personnel anywhere in the Capital District.

## Property tax impact

### Proposition No. 1 (School Bus Purchase)

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

	Colonie	Niskayuna	Guilderland
Homestead	\$0.019704	\$0.021245	\$0.014823
Non-Homestead	\$0.026192	\$0.028792	\$0.020442

### Proposition No. 2 (Transportation Radio Replacement)

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

	Colonie	Niskayuna	Guilderland
Homestead	\$0.011259	\$0.012140	\$0.008470
Non-Homestead	\$0.014967	\$0.016453	\$0.011681

\* These propositions together would increase property taxes about \$4.80 on a house assessed at \$150,000.



Fifth graders Ashleigh Hutton (left) and Lauren Paulsen take the "mic" during Karaoke for Katrina Victims at Lisha Kill Middle School. The fall event raised \$846.

## ... school hurricane aid

Continued from page 1

### Lisha Kill students have their own 'voice' in relief effort

Lisha Kill Middle School students, staff and parents also wanted a "voice" in the hurricane relief effort. So their idea — Karaoke for Katrina Victims — hit a high note in September when they raised \$846 at a karaoke night. Participants stepped to the mic and became instant stars in a fun-filled evening sponsored by the school Student Council and Human Relations Club. That total grew to nearly \$1,200 after the two clubs also sold support ribbons at the school. Other support efforts in the works include:

- **Forest Park Elementary School** students, staff and parents are collecting "Coins for Katrina" in their classroom and at school events.
- **Veeder Elementary School** is hosting a family dinner and silent auction fundraiser to benefit hurricane victims on Thursday, October 27, 5-7 p.m.

- **Roessville Elementary School** is organizing a benefit basketball game and will use the proceeds to adopt a Gulf Coast school in need of help.

- **Colonie Central High School** is hosting a benefit variety show showcasing the talents of students and staff.

- **Sand Creek Middle School** has been collecting funds during lunch periods for hurricane relief, sending backpacks and supplies to needy schools and is collecting books for depleted school libraries.

- **Shaker Road Elementary School** is collecting new and used stuffed animals and toys for a shelter in the South.



Sand Creek Middle School students proudly display the \$5,000 check they received for a water conservation project idea they had for their building.

## Students' idea leads to \$5,000 grant for Sand Creek Middle School

### Money flows through water conservation project

Wasting water is something that this planet cannot afford to do. That was the feeling of a group of Sand Creek Middle School students, who put their thoughts into action and captured a \$5,000 water conservation grant from Johnson Controls this fall.

The grant — part of Johnson Controls' Education Achievement Giving Program — was awarded to the students in September and will be used to purchase and install electronic handleless water faucets in six sinks at the middle school — three each in the girls and boys locker rooms.

After learning about various ecological systems in their science classes and how man has often hurt those systems, the students began to look at their own environment. They came to the realization that they can help their environment by conserving water. They researched ways they could help by conserving water themselves, educating others to do the same and looking into new technologies that would do it for them.

Their science teacher James Brown, who is also the district's Energy Educator, helped them research and write the grants that would support their conservation efforts. The electronically controlled water faucets piqued their interests. The students believed that since the gym and locker rooms are used by many different people, these areas would have the greatest exposure for their water conservation efforts.

Once the electronic devices are installed this year, the students will monitor the water savings, make comparisons from year to year and chart their conservation progress as part of their science studies.

## State Ed honors Lisha Kill testing

Congratulations to Lisha Kill Middle School for being among 15 area schools earning statewide recognition for providing "High Performing/Gap Closing" education for their pupils.

According to State Education Commissioner Richard Mills, Lisha Kill was among 571 schools in New York State that met or exceeded state standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics for two consecutive school years. Pupils in these schools met the English Language Arts and math standards and made "Adequate Yearly Progress" (AYP) in those subjects and had high graduate rates during both the 2002-03 and 2003-04 school years.

## Free & reduced meals available

The South Colonie Central School District participates in the National School Lunch Program providing nutritious meals for students free or at a reduced price of 25 cents. Free or reduced priced meals are provided daily based on household size and income. All information is kept strictly confidential.

To see whether your family qualifies for this program all you need to do is complete an application available at your child's school or contact the South Colonie Food Service Department at 869-3576. You will be notified within a few days if you qualify for the program.