

Asbestos notification

In accordance with the EPA Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1987 (40 CFR Part 763), the South Colonie Central School District put in place a management plan to identify and manage asbestos building materials. Last spring the triennial reinspection was done, reviewing and updating the management plan for all of the district buildings. Periodic surveillances are done every six months.

The Asbestos Management Plan for the district is kept on file at the District Office. These records are available for review during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) or by making an appointment. For more information, contact Stephen Benedict at the District Office — 869-3576.

Meeting change

The Board of Education meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. on September 20 has been rescheduled for September 27.



Meeting the math, science and engineering challenge

Five Colonie Central High School students had a unique opportunity over the summer to participate in a national math, science and engineering competition hosted by Alfred University. The 48-Hour Challenge pitted students from 20 schools and five states in timed lab experiments such as breaking a complex message code and constructing a water-run clock. Pictured left to right (back row) are Thomas Nedimyer (an Alfred University senior assigned to work with the team), CCHS students David Nollet and Matthew Demers and CCHS Physics teacher Dominick Cammarere. (Back row) CCHS Physics teacher Michele Cannistraci and CCHS students Adam Andersen, Jessica George and Eddie Yeung.

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Capital project update

School improvements heat up over summer

Summer may have been a needed break for South Colonie students and teachers but it has been a busy time for crews working on school renovations and building improvements. The meat of the \$22.8 million capital project approved by South Colonie voters in December, 2003, is now underway following approval by the State Education Department and the awarding of contracts. Here's a brief look at the recent construction activity:



Crews begin the ground work for the construction of a new library addition at Saddlewood Elementary School. Several school projects got underway this summer.

- Crews have broken ground on the new library additions for Saddlewood and Shaker Road Elementary Schools and six new classrooms (three regular and three technology) for Lisha Kill Middle School. The work will continue throughout the school year and next summer and is scheduled for completion by September, 2006. Construction is being done in isolated areas so it will not affect instruction.

- Work has begun on the expansion of the Veeder Elementary School cafeteria and new gym

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South Colonie announces administrative changes for 2005-06 school year

New principals and Assistant Superintendent for Instruction appointed during summer months

The South Colonie Central School District announces the appointment of various administrators to fill positions that opened as a result of retirements.

Anthony DeBlois, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Anthony DeBlois is South Colonie's new Assistant Superintendent for Instruction. DeBlois began his new position on August 15.

DeBlois has been working in education in the Capital District since 1972, starting out as an English teacher (1972-1993) and Dean of Students (1993-95) at Mohonasen High School. His was Assistant Principal at Scotia-Glenville

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In Focus Editor: John K. Noetzel

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station. The back parking lot will be unavailable during construction so a temporary parking lot has been set up.

- New roofs are being installed at Veeder and Forest Park Elementary Schools. The majority of work is scheduled for completion before the start of school in September.

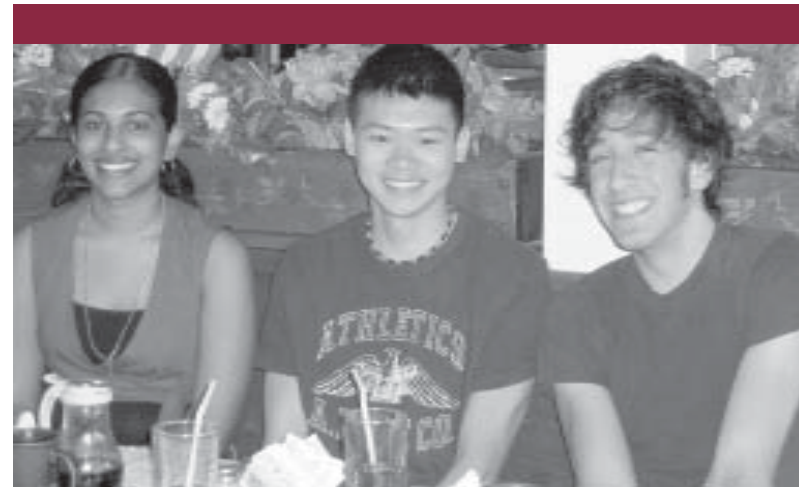
- Crews are removing asbestos from Colonie Central High School. The project will be completed before the start of school. Students, staff and visitors may notice some ceiling classroom tiles out of place during the school year so that crews can make improvements to plumbing and heating/air conditioning systems over night.

- Plans also call for infrastructure upgrades district-wide to heating, ventilation, fire alarm and some detection systems; various electrical improvements; door and restroom renovations; parking lot and sidewalk repairs and resurfacing, some locker replacements and more. These improvements will be done at various times.

The entire capital project is scheduled for completion by the 2006-2007 school year. Some repairs like the track resurfacing at the high school and various roof repairs there and at the district bus garage have already been completed.



Construction crews replace the roof at Veeder Elementary School.



Colonie Central High School Physics scholars

Congratulations to Colonie Central High School juniors Jessica George and Eddie Yeung and sophomore Max Young for earning a "perfect score" on the Regents Physics exam last year. The three were treated to breakfast for this very "rare and amazing" achievement by their teachers Michele Cannistraci and Beth Lomanto.

District mourns loss

The South Colonie Central School District mourns the death of Board of Education member Joan Ricciardi. Joan passed away on June 30 while serving her second, five-year term on the school board. Prior to that she was a dedicated employee of the district for more than 30 years, working as a transportation dispatcher for 25 years, and in the district's Food Service Department for six years.

Joan had lived in South Colonie for 45 years. She and her husband Dominic moved from Rensselaer to South Colonie in 1960.

Ricciardi most recently chaired the Board of Education's Policy Committee and was a member of its Accountability and Transportation Committees. She had also been a community volunteer for years and was active in the PTA, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Fuller Road Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary, Colonie Elks Auxiliary and Women's Republican Club. For many years she volunteered to help at school musicals.

The South Colonie Board of Education is deciding when to appoint a replacement to fill Joan's seat on the nine-member board until May 16, 2005, when an official election will be held. The winner of that election will fill the one-year remaining on Joan's five-year term. That seat would then be up for re-election once again in 2007 for a new five-year term.

In other school board news, James (Tim) Ryan has been elected Board President and Paul Gordon Board Vice President. Also in July, Brian Casey was sworn in for his first term as a board member, elected by residents in May to replace J. Dennis Cafaro. Cafaro did not seek re-election after 10 years of dedicated service to the district.



Roessleville Elementary School's Coach Michael Palmer honors students Brenden Deady, Eric Kaminski, Erik Rivera, Sierra Trance, Gabrielle Shea and Jessica Penny with Physical Education Student Leadership Awards earned last school year.

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High School (1995-97), Principal at Mohonasen High School (1997-2002) and most recently, Principal of Ballston Spa High School, since 2002. He has also coached football, wrestling and track and field over the years.

DeBlois is a graduate of the State University at Albany and did his undergraduate studies at Castleton State College in Vermont. He replaces Dr. Al Aldi, who has retired as Assistant Superintendent of Instruction — a position he's held for the past nine years. He was Colonie Central High School Principal for five years before that.

David Wetzel, Colonie Central High School Principal

David Wetzel is the new Principal at Colonie Central High School. He began the position on August 1. He came to the district from Niskayuna High School where he had been Assistant Principal since 2001. He had also worked as an assessment consultant with the State Education Department and a social studies teacher in Niskayuna and Amsterdam. Wetzel is a graduate of the State University at Albany. He replaces Harry Kachadurian who had been Colonie Central High School Principal since 1996. He came to the district in 1984 as a teacher and coach of football and track.

Francis Coccozza, Lisha Kill Middle School Principal

Francis Coccozza is the new Principal of Lisha Kill Middle School effective August 1. For the past two years he had served as Associate Principal at Lisha Kill Middle School. Prior to that he was a social studies teacher and administrative intern with the Shenendehowa Central School District. Coccozza is a graduate of Siena College and the State University at Albany. He replaces David Perry, who has moved to Sand Creek Middle School to become the Principal there.

David Perry, Sand Creek Middle School Principal

David Perry is the new Principal of Sand Creek Middle School. He replaces Michael Norelli, who had served as Sand Creek Principal since 1988 before retiring. Norelli had worked in South Colonie since 1973. Perry had been Principal of Lisha Kill Middle School for the past two school years before moving over to Sand Creek.

South Colonie News & Notes

Thanks for the donations

Thanks to the Colonie Central High School Advertising Club for donating 500 preprinted souvenir cups to the Class of 2005. Two local merchants — Cornwell Appliance and Paigo Home Improvements & Glass — funded the printing of the cups, which were distributed at the senior breakfast in June. During the year, the Advertising Club also sold CCHS sports bottles to raise money for Sugar Free Gang, a local support group for children with Juvenile Diabetes.

Veteran earns diploma

Congratulations to Korean War veteran William F. John who received his high school diploma from the South Colonie Board of Education as part of Operation Recognition. Operation Recognition enables veterans of World War II and the Korean Conflict, who did not complete their high school education for any reason, to earn a diploma based on their years of service to America. For more information, contact the District Office.

Look who's in Time

Did you see the July 18 issue of *Time* Magazine? If you did, you may have noticed an article about the Colonie Youth Court on page 63 that featured many of our Lisha Kill Middle School students. South Colonie has made the national headlines!

Energy savings top \$1 million

South Colonie has topped the \$1 million mark in energy savings thanks to four years of successful conservation measures. Total cost avoidance in district schools and offices through a partnership with Energy Education, Inc. now totals more than \$1,125,000. The savings have been used to support the education budget and give back to students.