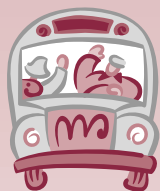


in

south  
colonie  
central  
schools



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



# focus

Preparing World Class Citizens

October, 2010



### Did you know?

The annual replacement plan of the South Colonie school bus fleet has helped maintain student safety and control repair and maintenance costs.



## New school buses on October voting ballot

**South Colonie residents to vote October 13  
Polls are open 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.**

South Colonie residents will go to the polls on Wednesday, October 13th, 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 13*

## Restaurant Week to benefit South Colonie Dollars for Scholars

The Colonie Chamber of Commerce's first Restaurant Week in October will help benefit the South Colonie Dollars for Scholars chapter.

From October 18-23, a variety of Colonie restaurants will be offering three-course meals for \$18.95 to commemorate the date when the town was founded. On Sunday, October 17, from noon to 3 p.m., there will be a kickoff event in the barn at the Pruyn House, where people will be able to sample food from some of the participating restaurants.

For \$15 a head, people can sample these foods with \$10 of the \$15 going to a charity or organization of their choice. That organization for the district this year is the South Colonie Dollars for Scholars chapter. SC Dollars for Scholars is a volunteer, community-based financial resource awarding scholarships to deserving Colonie Central High School seniors furthering their education.

To support Dollars for Scholars during Restaurant Week, simply visit the Colonie Chamber of Commerce web site at [www.coloniechamber.org](http://www.coloniechamber.org) and register. A drop down menu including South Colonie Dollars for Scholars will allow users to choose where their money will go.

In addition SC Dollars for Scholars is holding its first annual Phone-a-Thon, October 18-19, from 5-8 p.m. Donations are tax deductible.

**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 the drop down menu under Transportation.

## SOUTH COLONIE

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## ... School bus vote October 13

*Continued from page 1*

The district is seeking voter approval to spend \$634,200 to purchase seven new transportation vehicles to meet the district's annual replacement schedule. The School Bus Proposition breaks down as follows:

- \$555,000 for the purchase of five, 66-passenger school buses, at \$111,000 per vehicle;
- \$98,000 for the purchase of two, 20-passenger school bus vans, at \$49,000 per vehicle;

Some have asked: Why vote on the purchase of new buses every year? The answer is simple. The annual replacement plan of the existing bus fleet has helped to maintain student safety and control repair and maintenance costs on older buses. A well thought out bus replacement plan is more cost effective and enables the district to consolidate routes and adjust its fleet as needed from year to year. The replacement plan has also helped the district establish an excellent safety record with the New York State Department of Transportation.

The district's 82-unit bus fleet travels nearly 1 million miles 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 \$653,000. After receiving an estimated \$18,800 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 \$634,200.

**The district also is eligible to receive 50 percent of the purchase in state aid making the district's net cost \$328,992.** The money would be borrowed over a five-year period. The cost to South Colonie property owners would be about 2.6 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value if the bus proposition is approved. On an average home/business property assessed at \$150,000, the total cost would be about \$3.90 per property. *(See tax rate chart below).*

## Bus property tax impact

### Annual School Bus Purchase Proposition — \$634,200

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

	<u>Colonie</u>	<u>Niskayuna</u>	<u>Guilderland</u>
Residential/Business	\$0.026625	\$0.017839	\$0.020974