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## Wish could be granted for Ridgewood Subdivision occupants targeted to benefit from elementary school plan

By DEON HAMPTON  
[DeonHampton@coloradoan.com](mailto:DeonHampton@coloradoan.com)

A new Thompson School District elementary school could be heading to the Ridgewood Hills subdivision in fall 2008 - a move parents in the neighborhood say is much needed and long overdue.

Fort Collins residents whose homes south of Trilby Road fall within Thompson School District boundaries have long asked for a new elementary school near their homes.

The neighborhood is five miles north of the nearest Thompson elementary school. Poudre School District schools, which are closer, are closed to Thompson residents because of space.

Every day, one of Matt Haggerty's two children is bused to Loveland to receive an education. It's a hassle, Haggerty said, because he lives in Fort Collins.

Most elementary students living in Ridgewood Hills attend Cottonwood Plains Elementary or Edmondson Elementary on the north end of Loveland, said Thompson Superintendent Dan Johnson. But parents hope that will soon change.

The proposed 53,000-square-foot school on 7.3 acres would have room for 450 students, Johnson said.

Though the school would be within the Fort Collins city limits, it's still considered a Thompson school because the northern boundaries for the district end at Trilby Road.

A conceptual review for the yet-to-be-named school has already been conducted and Thompson officials submitted their formal plans to city officials last week.

The planning and zoning board has to decide whether or not to approve the project.

Interested?

A neighbor with Thompson School District homes south of Trilby Road is interested in the school plan. Contact Deon Hampton at 970.226.1111, ext. 1111, or [DeonHampton@coloradoan.com](mailto:DeonHampton@coloradoan.com).

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If they disapprove, a hearing with the school officials will be set, at which time the school board will decide if the school would be built.

The planning and zoning board will conduct a site plan advisory review, based on location, character and extent in December, said Shelby Sommer, Fort Collins associate planner.

Thompson officials don't expect any problems.

The school would be at 7115 Avondale Road near the intersection of Avondale and Trilby roads.

It is being funded by an \$89 million bond that Loveland voters passed last year to address the increasing Loveland school population, much of which is coming at the north end of the district.

The bond was split two ways, with \$53 million being designated to new construction in the school district and \$36 million for maintenance, said Jay Earl, Thompson's bond administrator. Construction on the school is scheduled to begin in April.

The possibility of having a school in his backyard is good news for Hank Curtis.

Curtis and his wife had a daughter earlier this year.

The thought of having a school that his daughter can attend, he says, "makes sense. She doesn't have an excuse to be late."

Ridgewood Hills has a lot of young couples and having a school accommodates those residents, he said.

"It's about time," said Carrie Wills, a nearby resident and the mother of two. "We've wanted a school here for a long time," she said.

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**Originally published October 24, 2006**



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