

McDonald's: City deserves a 'Playland'

By **ROBERT BAUN**
The Coloradoan

In the age of retail superstores, McDonald's plans to bring a super hamburger stand to Fort Collins.

McDonald's gained approval Monday night from the Fort Collins Planning and Zoning Board to build a "Playland" restaurant near the new Fort Collins High School.

A McDonald's official said she hopes the 4,000-square-foot store can be open by the end of the year.

McDonald's Playlands, which include an indoor playground for kids, has become a new emphasis for the fast-food giant as it attempts to broaden its appeal to young families. The Playland features an 18-foot-tall contraption called "The Toy," which includes a tube-slide, ball pit and play room.

Corridor plan OK'd

The Fort Collins Planning and Zoning Board stamped approval Monday night on the Fort Collins/Loveland Corridor Management Plan.

The board voted 4-0 to recommend approval of the plan to the Fort Collins City Council. The council, Larimer County commissioners and Loveland City Council must approve the plan before it's adopted.

As proposed, the corridor plan would give the three governments a framework to review development in the corridor, as well as set goals for preserving open space.

The corridor has been proposed as a means to maintain physical separation between the cities of Loveland and Fort Collins.

Amy Carlson, project manager at McDonald's Denver Region office, said the company wants to add a Playland to at least one other McDonald's in Fort Collins. There are three existing McDonald's in the city.

"We always get people in small towns call us and ask, 'When are we going to get a McDonald's?'" Carlson said. "Now we have people calling from Fort Collins asking, 'When are we going to get a Playland?'"

The closest Playland site is at the McDonald's at 1809 W. Eisenhower Blvd. in Loveland.

The new McDonald's is planned on a satellite site of the Tower Shoppes shopping center north-east of Timberline and Horsetooth roads.

As planned, the shopping center will include a 73,000-square foot grocery store and several smaller retail stores. W.W. Reynolds Co., the developer of the shopping center, has not gained a commitment from a grocery store to anchor the center.