

Trailwinds Park and Open Space at 13385 Holly St. The entrance to the park is off Holly around 134th Avenue. Go west into the entry and turn right at the roundabout to reach the dog park.

No children under 12 will be allowed within the dog park.

RideArrangers available

The Denver Regional Council of Governments' (DRCOG) RideArrangers program can help metro commuters reduce their monthly commuting costs to save money. DRCOG's program helps commuters and businesses with many options, such as carpooling, vanpooling, telecommuting and using transit, to reduce commute costs. RideArrangers offers free ride-matching carpool and vanpool services in the Denver metro area.

Commuters can calculate the total cost of their drive to work by using RideArrangers' online commute calculator at www.drcog.org/ridearrangers.

For more information on RideArrangers' programs, contact Sarah Carroll at 303-480-6705 or visit www.drcog.org and click the RideArrangers link on the left.

tractor working on the aquatic center, is also at work on the memorial, he said. "We realized a pretty significant cost savings," Hake said. "The equipment is already there right now."

"We jumped on that opportunity," he recounted. "We were able to save our donors quite a bit of money."

and accepts online donations, he said. The organization can be contacted through information on its website at thorntonveteransmemorial.org or by telephone at 303-563-7046.

Fundraising has had its challenges, according to Hake, whose involvement in the foundation goes back more than five years. He said

Virgil Watson, with Blueprint Stating Services, places safety caps on pieces of rebar at the Thornton Veterans Memorial last Thursday. The memorial is under construction outside the Adams 12 Five Star Schools Veterans Aquatic Center, on 120th Avenue near Holly Street.

that in addition to reaching out to companies, groups and residents for support, the foundation will apply by the end of the month for an

Adams County Open Space grant. "They shot us down once, but we're going to try again," Hake said.

Mapleton gets second chance at BEST

Board to decide on bond next month

By Caroline Kipp

Staff Writer

If Mapleton Public Schools can get its match from the community this year, nearly half a dozen organizations could come together to rebuild parts of the district's Skyview Campus.

The school district is again set to receive Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) grants to improve its deteriorating school buildings after the state's Capital Construction As-

sistance Board announced its recommendations to the state board earlier this month. The district received a similar grant from the BEST program last year, but the bond measure to match the funds failed by 52 votes.

More than 40 grants totaling more than \$250 million are on the list to be awarded, which the state board will vote on in early August. That total includes the required school district matches.

Mapleton's \$31.7 million award for renovations is again the largest project. The district must match with \$22 million, and Superintendent Charlotte Ciancio said she and

her staff will approach the school board about a bond election during its first meeting of the 2010-2011 school year, set for August 10.

While Ciancio said numbers for the bond aren't ready yet, she said, "the bond will have a minimal impact to their pocket book each month."

There are two types of BEST grants awarded, said the Colorado Department of Education's BEST Director Ted Hughes. Both require school districts to match some of the funds.

The first are cash grants — smaller awards funded as soon as the state board approves them. Mapleton re-

ceived \$606,992 for multiple roof replacements. Adams County School District 50 in Westminster also received cash grants for new roofs, totaling more than \$1 million. Adams 12 Five Star Schools did not submit an application. Those are funded through the State Land Trust, lottery proceeds, school district matches and interest earned on money already in the fund.

A second group of grants are larger and financed by the state through Certificates of Participation, Hughes said.

Please see **BEST** Page 8A

BEST: This could be fourth go for a bond

From Page 3A

The funding is indefinite, he said, though state law limits the amount the state can allocate toward payments on the lease-purchases to \$40 million each year. There is at least two more years before the state reaches that cap, he

said, adding "it's a bit of a moving target," depending on the projects that come through.

Because some school districts, including Mapleton, were not able to get their match for grants last year, Hughes said the committee has selected some back up projects.

"There's always more demand than there is funding," Hughes said. "We want to do as much as we can."

A more-than-\$16 million project including a new elementary school and additions to a high school in Akron are on deck to take the funds

if those awarded grants can't make the match.

"They made it clear they had little confidence in our ability to pass a bond," Ciancio said. "It's really now or never."

Project plans for the renovations at the Skyview Campus, 88th Avenue and York Street, are basically the same as last year's, Ciancio said.

Two new buildings would be constructed on the site to house four of the district's small schools - Skyview Academy, Clayton Partnership, Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts, Mapleton Early College, and the North Valley School for Young Adults. The auditorium, gymnasium and commons areas will stay.

Ciancio said the grants cover improvements to classrooms and the bond would cover other improvements. The total project cost is \$53 million, with more than half coming from the BEST grants.

Unlike last year's plans, the swimming pool area would not be demolished under the new plans, Ciancio said. Instead, they would keep the building, though the pool was condemned last year, for a potential future remodel.

The new campus would include partnerships with the City of Thornton, Rangeview Library District and even the Regional Transportation District (RTD), along with other entities providing grants for programs, some of which are still in the works, Ciancio said.

"We want to open our spaces for the community," she added.

The school would fund the new library building, but the Rangeview Library District would provide the books and supplies to operate its Anythink Library inside the new building. The partnership has been in the works for two

years, said Pam Sandlian Smith, director of Anythink Libraries.

"We thought it would be very rewarding for us," she said. "It would be great for the community. It would be great for the kids."

The district would move its location near 89th Avenue and Washington Street to the new building, Sandlian Smith said, so operational costs would stay roughly the same, though details have not yet been worked out.

The library would be open to the community during Anythink's current hours, including evenings and weekends. The idea of a public library on a school campus, Sandlian Smith said, is unique.

"It's a very wise economical model," she said.

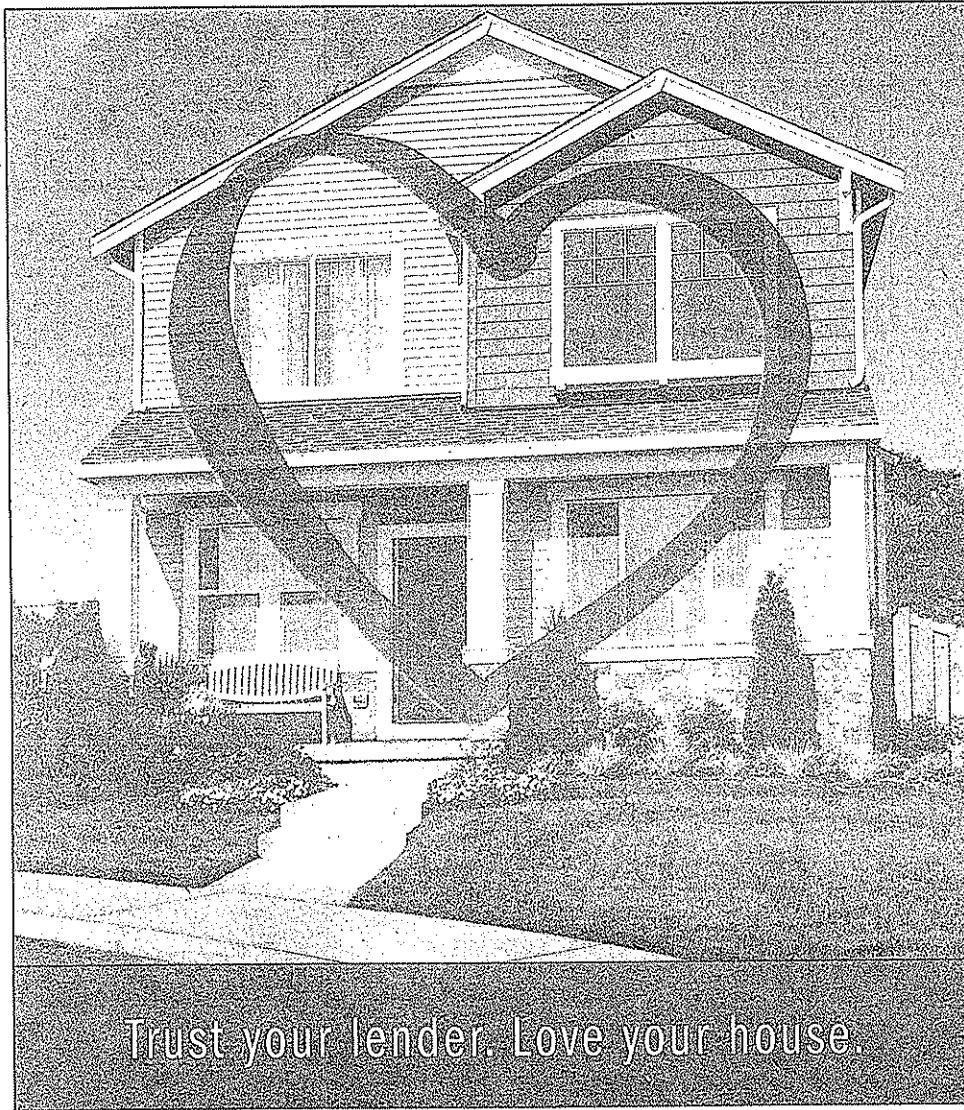
The Mapleton Board of Education will meet to discuss a possible bond measure in early August, but won't vote on an issue until later in the month. Ciancio said while she and her staff plan to ask the board to put a bond measure on November's ballot, a mill levy override is not part of the plan.

"I'm hopeful it's successful this time," said Steve O'Dorisio, a Mapleton resident who has helped the district promote past bond measures. "As people see the benefits of education, they'll realize how important it is for our community. I really just want to see it happen."

The district has tried for three years to pass a bond, but measures in 2007, 2008 and 2009 all failed. Voters in the district last year approved a \$1.9 million mill levy override.

Information about board meetings can be found at www.mapleton.us.

Caroline Kipp can be reached at carolinek@metronorthnews.com



Trust your lender. Love your house.