

## **New Hartford schools may buy rundown house**

Observer-Dispatch (Utica, NY) - Friday, September 30, 2005

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Observer-Dispatch

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**NEW HARTFORD** - A rundown house near a pair of local **schools** could play a role in a future **New Hartford Central School** District building project involving an expanded auditorium.

Board of Education members expect to discuss Tuesday buying 8 Daly Place, a vacant house across the street from both Robert L. Bradley Elementary **School** and **New Hartford Senior High School** . Citing health and safety concerns, the district would like the house to be torn down, Superintendent Daniel Gilligan said.

The land could also prove useful if the district proposes a building project, Gilligan said.

"One of problems we have with the (Bradley Elementary **School** ) site is that it has a limited footprint to it, so whenever you do any type of renovation that involves the displacement of offices or parking spaces or whatever, you're limited because you've got no place to go," Gilligan said. "The first and foremost reason is the safety and welfare of the kids, but the additional space over there does give us some options, should we find ourselves wanting to do some additional work on that complex."

The space could be used for more parking or as a site for temporary trailers to house offices, Gilligan added.

The board plans to host a public workshop at 8:30 a.m. Saturday in the Bradley Elementary **School** library to discuss the auditorium project and review architectural sketches.

Village resident Mary Agnes Brown, who rents an apartment at neighboring 6 Daly Place, said she would be happy to see the district take over the property.

"It's a rundown eyesore, and the kids use it for their breaks," Brown said. "It would help the **school** a lot if that would be parking."

Although the board will meet Saturday to talk about the project, plans are far from being finalized, board President Robert Calli said.

"It's really preliminary in that we have not made any determinations," Calli said. "We have not finalized what plans may look like. We have not finalized what the numbers

may be or how that fits into the budget or our state aid."

If the board votes Tuesday to buy 8 Daly Place, that proposal must go to a public referendum, which will determine whether or not the board can move forward with the purchase, Calli said.

At the crux of the potential building project is the district's auditorium, located in Bradley Elementary **School**. The facility has long been criticized as inefficient and inadequate to meet the needs of the district. But details of an auditorium renovation are not complete, Calli said.

"We have talked about the auditorium," he said. "That's still in the planning stages and still in the stage of no one knows the true extent of the project."

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#### AT A GLANCE

The issue: The **New Hartford Central School** District is considering the purchase of an abandoned house across from Robert L. Bradley Elementary **School** and **New Hartford Senior High School**. The land at 8 Daly Place may eventually be used for additional parking or temporary offices if a building project is proposed by the Board of Education and approved by voters.

What's next: Board of Education members will host a workshop at 8:30 a.m. Saturday in the Bradley Elementary **School** library to discuss a possible building project. Preliminary architectural sketches will be reviewed. At 7 p.m. Tuesday in the library, the board is set to discuss the potential purchase of 8 Daly Place. If approved by the board, the decision will then go to public referendum.

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Record Number: uti17674033

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