

Holy Name announces it will acquire Central Middle School site

From staff reports

Holy Name Catholic Community in Sheridan announced an agreement with local developer Paul DelRossi that will allow it to acquire the site of the former Central Middle School.

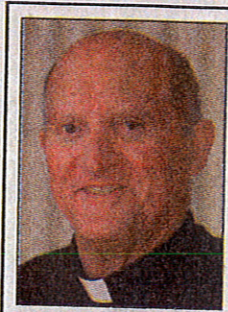
The site is bounded on the north by Brundage Street, on the south by Works Street, on the west by Custer Street, and on the east by Sheridan Avenue.

The announcement was made in a press release from the Rev. Tom Ogg, Holy Name Church pastor. The release offered no details of the agreement including any purchase price.

In the release, Ogg called acquisition of the property a "very unique opportunity" and added:

"One of our most pressing needs is to build a new Holy Name School. Our current school buildings are quite old, and we are very near the point where they will have to be replaced.

"We are thrilled that we will now



The Rev. Tom Ogg
Holy Name Church Pastor

be able to do that, without disrupting classes, in a location that is very near our church and our parish center."

Both Holy Name Church and Holy Name School are on South Connor Street, about one block west of the former Central Middle School site. Holy Name School has about 144 pupils in grades preschool through eighth.

A telephone call to Ogg seeking additional comment was not immediately returned this morning.

According to the press release, the site meets several needs of the parish.

"In addition to the school, our long-term goals include expanding our preschool program and our parish thrift shop, as well as doing what we can to create more and better housing opportunities for Sheridan's seniors and low-income residents," said Ogg.

"Our ability to acquire this very unique site makes all of these goals a very real possibility," he added.

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The site has been of some public concern, according to published reports, because of the possibility of extending Loucks Street through the property to create an east/west traffic corridor.

DelRossi, a Big Horn resident, reportedly has opposed extending the street through the property. Attempts to contact him today were not successful.

In the release, DelRossi said: "We are very pleased that the Catholic Church has acted to

acquire this unique property, which has served the community for generations as a school.

"We understand that the church will explore the use of the property for its historic purposes as it looks to build a new campus for Holy Name and other church-related purposes."

The property is owned by Whitney Benefits Inc., noted Whitney Benefits Board President Tom Kinnison. DelRossi has an option to acquire the property.

"I have no idea what is going on," Kinnison told The Sheridan Press today. "Paul DelRossi

has the option, and that's all I know."

Fernando Pages, a Lincoln, Neb., resident and developer in Sheridan, is suing DelRossi, claiming that DelRossi broke a promise to share the option to purchase the middle school site.

Pages, who owns Brighton Construction of Lincoln, which has an office on Main Street in Sheridan, said he did not know how the acquisition of the site by Holy Name would affect his lawsuit.

"I know that they (the parish) were interested from the outset," he said.