



## **City Seeks Brownfields Designation Matching funds would be needed**

*The Post Star, Saturday June 5, 2004- By Maury Thompson*

GLENS FALLS - City officials are seeking a special state designation that could steer significant funding to rehabilitate abandoned buildings and industrial sites.

Areas designated a "Brownfield Opportunity Area" will receive preferential treatment in state programs that provide grants for cleaning up environmental contamination and redeveloping abandoned buildings, said Jim Thatcher of Avalon Associates, Inc., a consultant to the city.

A brownfield is a former industrial site that is suspected to contain environmental contamination at a level not serious enough to be designated a Superfund site.

The proposed designation would include areas around Warren and Elm streets as well as property along the banks of the Hudson River and elsewhere in downtown.

The state designation would dovetail with an existing federally-funded brownfield program in the city, said Economic Development Director James Martin.

The city received a \$200,000 Environmental Protection Agency grant in 2000 and a second \$200,000 grant last year to identify sources of contamination and prepare plans for cleaning it up.

Grants received under the new state program could be used to subsidize the actual clean up work, making buildings and industrial sites more attractive for redevelopment, Martin said.

"Because of the work that you've already done, I think it's a no brainer," Thatcher said. The Greater Glens Falls Development Corp. board on Thursday authorized paying Thatcher up to \$2,500 to prepare the application to seek the designation.

If a preliminary application is approved, the city would receive a grant to cover the costs of setting up the designation, Martin said. The city would be required to provide 10 percent of the grant amount in matching funds, but that money could be paid from the existing federal grant, Martin said.

"There is really no local source here per se," he said.

Visit us online! [www.AvalonAssociatesInc.com](http://www.AvalonAssociatesInc.com)