

Good news:

Willowbrook boat ride

Sailor hats, balloons, hot dogs and ice cream will cheer some 850 mentally retarded persons during a three-hour cruise up the Hudson River tomorrow aboard the ferryboat Verrazzano.

Over 300 patients at the Willowbrook Developmental Center, including some patients in wheelchairs who seldom have an opportunity to leave the center, will join youngsters from other organizations for the mentally retarded, among them the Staten Island Aid to Retarded Children and the Tom Prisco Association.

They will be guests of the Anchor Club of the Department of Marine and Aviation on the club's third annual John Somma Memorial boat ride established in honor of the past president of the club.

Hopefully, good weather will greet the boat as it leaves St. George at 1 p.m. The boat will turn at the George Washington Bridge and head back to Staten Island by 4 p.m. As the boat pulls out into the harbor, youngsters will be greeted

by plumes of water spurted by a fireboat from Marine Co. 9.

According to Anchor Club president Don Pariseau, much help went into planning the ride. All food was either donated by merchants or paid for by individual contributions. Crew members of the ferryboat and other employees of the Marine and Aviation Department are also volunteering their time at no cost to the city.

Three bands will be on hand to entertain along with several clowns who have also volunteered their time.

Pariseau wishes to thank all the people who have contributed to the boat ride. "Thanks to them and, with a little help from the weatherman, all these kids will be able to enjoy a rare day of fun."

Willowbrook music concert

The Willowbrook Developmental Center will sponsor a bicentennial music concert for residents, their families and invited guests from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 17 on the lawn between buildings 20 and 22.

The concert will feature the Corporation L.T.D. Band, Little Jazz Group, Tracs Rock Band, Jazzelle Quintet and Brothers and Sisters United — all Staten Island groups. Refreshments will be served.