

# Tysen St. group home readied for its 'unofficial' opening today



Renovations are completed on this Tysen St. home in New Brighton which had its "unofficial" opening as a group home today.

Painters and other workmen rushed to finish renovations in the Tysen St. group home yesterday to ready the home for its "unofficial" opening today.

According to Diane Whyte, who coordinates group home placement on Staten Island, reports that the home was to open Monday represented "a misunderstanding." An "official" opening for the home is planned in the next few weeks.

The Tysen St. home, originally selected as a group home site in 1974, has been plagued by delays in the past five years. Originally opposed by the New Brighton community, it eventually won community board approval.

Successive renovations, totaling nearly \$70,000 above the \$64,000 paid for the home, also delayed opening the facility, which will serve former residents of the Staten Island Developmental Center and retarded persons who have never been institutionalized and already live in the community.

The Tysen St. home will house eight persons and will be run by the Association for the Help of Retarded Children, a private group. While four ex-developmental center residents have been selected to live in the home, selection of four indigent retarded persons has not been completed.



Carol Gemelli, resident supervisor, left, and Diane Whyte, coordinator of group home placement on Staten Island, put the final touches on the Tysen St. group home in New Brighton.

S.I. Advance Photos by Frank J. Johns