

Boards go own way to solve problems

(From Page 1)

demonstrated a good working knowledge of the problems developers face.

"Because of their years of experience with these sorts of problems, Community Boards 2 and 3 have shown a pretty good grasp of the technical steps of development," Margolis continued.

Community Board 1, which takes in the North Shore area, does not deal with many construction problems because most of the area is already developed. Board members are primarily concerned with the adequate delivery of social services.

While some critics say community boards are too absorbed with the problems of their own area and fail to approach problems from a Islandwide or citywide perspective, others say the boards should be parochial to a large extent.

Martin Gallent, vice chairman of the City Planning Commission, has said the



Thomas LaManna
Community Board 1



Joseph Manifold
Community Board 2



Richard McGivney
Community Board 3

boards are "best thing that ever happened to the city" because it gives community residents the ability to have their views heard.

If the community boards are too parochial on a particular issue, Gallent says, the City Planning Commission will overrule them.

Board members are under increasing pressure to keep themselves well-in-

formed on a wide variety of important and often controversial issues. They must also be prepared to receive nothing but criticism for performing a volunteer job.

This is the first in a four-part series on Staten Island's three community boards.

Page 2 of 2 Pages