

## SIDC director gives talk

James Walsh, director of the Staten Island Developmental Center (SIDC) in Willowbrook, made a plea for volunteers during a meeting of the North Shore Kiwanis Club last night in the Staaten, West Brighton.

Walsh suggested the group choose a building and work with the clients in that building, giving them a feeling of family and continuity. Only 106 of the center's clients are from Staten Island, he said. The other residents, Walsh said, are visited less often by their families.

Walsh discussed the cost of operating the facility. He reported that the care of one client for one year costs \$49,000, and the fuel bill is \$5 million a year.

He also addressed the issue of future use of the land now occupied by the center. As ordered by the Willowbrook Consent Decree, the majority of the the clients will one day be placed in smaller facilities in their home communities.

Walsh suggested that small dwellings for the remaining residents be built on 40 of the 380 acres, and the rest be handed over to the state.

The next meeting, an inter-club gathering, will be Wednesday.