



One cottage sits on the site at the Staten Island Developmental Center where administrators are considering building more to be used as group homes. The site is bordered by Forest Hill Road.

S.I. Advance Photo by Tony Carannante

"If we could put those two 12-bed facilities elsewhere in the community, I would be willing," he said, adding that one reason OMRDD was building homes on state land was because of opposition to community sites.

Walsh pointed out that Mrs. Pratt led opposition to the place-

ment of a group home for autistic children in Eltingville last September. "These people can't have it two ways," he said. "They can't fight group homes in the community and then fight when we try to put them on state property."

Mrs. Pratt said she thought

the comment was "really unfair," and that she was arguing in this instance against developing the Greenbelt, not against the group homes.

"It's absolutely ludicrous that a stance I took ... should boomerang on me," she said.