

## ***State threatens Island woodlands***

The following was sent to Gov. Mario Cuomo:

"I am writing to show my concern about how New York State is handling the development of the property belonging to the Staten Island Developmental Center.

"There are well over 300 acres in this tract of land. The site chosen to build four group homes for the developmentally disabled will cut into the Corson's Brook Woods area. This area is a unique natural woodland on Staten Island. It has been recommended for inclusion in the Staten Island Greenbelt by the city Planning Department's Greenbelt study.

"I would like to see the group homes built on a more appropriate site within the SIDC grounds. Surely there is no need to destroy more valuable natural areas when there is adequate land available.

"Work is temporarily stopped at the Corson's Brook Wood site, but the state continues its court action so it can build there. Can it really be? State tax dollars are paying for lawyers to help destroy the Greenbelt?

"Governor Cuomo, please intercede now so that negotiations can begin to find a suitable alternate location for the needed group homes. We have come a long way to preserve the Greenbelt. Let's continue to work together."

**BOB SZITA**

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