

Staten Island

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College plan upsets group

By MARY ENGELS

Members of the Ocean Breeze Civic Association have been upset ever since the College of Staten Island announced its preference to move its new consolidated campus to some of the buildings at Willowbrook, now called the Staten Island Developmental Center.

Arthur Carecci, president of Ocean Breeze, said, "We had been told that the college would eventually relocate at the Ocean Breeze site right off Father Capodano Blvd. and adjacent to the South Beach Psychiatric Center.

"In fact, our members, although reluctant at first, finally went along with the proposal. Now, suddenly, they do an about-face, and we are told it's Willowbrook they prefer. Our major concern is what will happen now to the Ocean Breeze property?"

JACKIE COWAN, vice president of Ocean Breeze, said, "We keep hearing rumors about low-income housing going in down there and we don't like what we hear. If not the college, what then?"

What angers the civic group even more, its leaders said, is that, in researching property values of the land in question, they discovered



JIM HUGHES DAILY NEWS

Ocean Breeze Association President Arthur Carecci and Jackie Cowan, vice president, at site originally proposed for new campus of College of Staten Island.

that only last year a portion of the adjacent land, which borders Staten Island Hospital, had been sold to the hospital for about 62 cents a square foot.

"Twenty years ago, the property went for 80 cents a square foot," declared Carecci. "If the land is going to be sold, it should be sold at today's valuations."

Carecci said members of the association, more than

200 in all, "would rather see the college there than anything else."

"**WE ARE** afraid of what else will go in there and we intend to bring those fears to the borough president and seek his assurances that the land in question won't be used, for among other things, low-income housing," he said.

Liz Seder, a spokesman

for the College of Staten Island, said, "As of this moment, assurances are good for the Willowbrook site.

"If this, for any reason, should go down the drain, the Ocean Breeze site was the second preferred choice of our consultant's study," she said. "However, at this point, all that awaits is the Willowbrook Task Force rubber stamp of approval for Willowbrook."