

# 2 organizations get \$1.65M in state aid

## ■ North Shore Jewish Community Center and On Your Mark to use money on buildings

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The North Shore Jewish Community Center (JCC), Tompkinsville, was the scene of a very happy meeting yesterday, during which \$1.65 million in state funds were given to two Staten Island organizations.

The JCC and On Your Mark were recipients of the state dollars. Assemblyman Eric N. Vitaliano (D-Mid-Island) and Assemblywoman Elizabeth A. Connelly (D-North Shore) were at the JCC to announce the funding, which they had secured along with state Sen. John J. Marchi (R-Staten Island).

The funding, which came from the state's \$425 million Community Enhancement fund, will help the JCC move to a new facility in Sea View, while helping On Your Mark purchase the 70-year-old Tompkinsville JCC building.

The JCC received \$1 million in state funds, while On Your Mark received \$650,000.

"We could not think of two greater organizations, with proven records," Vitaliano said.

Added Mrs. Connelly, "It's wonderful what we can do as a community. We're providing such important services for our seniors, our vulnerable population and the community at large."

In a statement, Marchi said, "Both of these items represent the united support of the three Staten Island legislators. I am proud to have taken part in delivering these items with Eric and Betty."

The JCC's plans to build a new recreational facility on Manor Road near Susan Wagner High School, on Greenbelt property that

the JCC has used for 20 years as an outdoor family camp.

Lewis Stolzenberg, executive director of the JCC, estimated that this project will cost between \$12 million and \$15 million.

The JCC has raised almost half of the funds it must raise, Stolzenberg said. He estimated that ground will be broken on the facility in September 2000, with the center opening in January 2002.

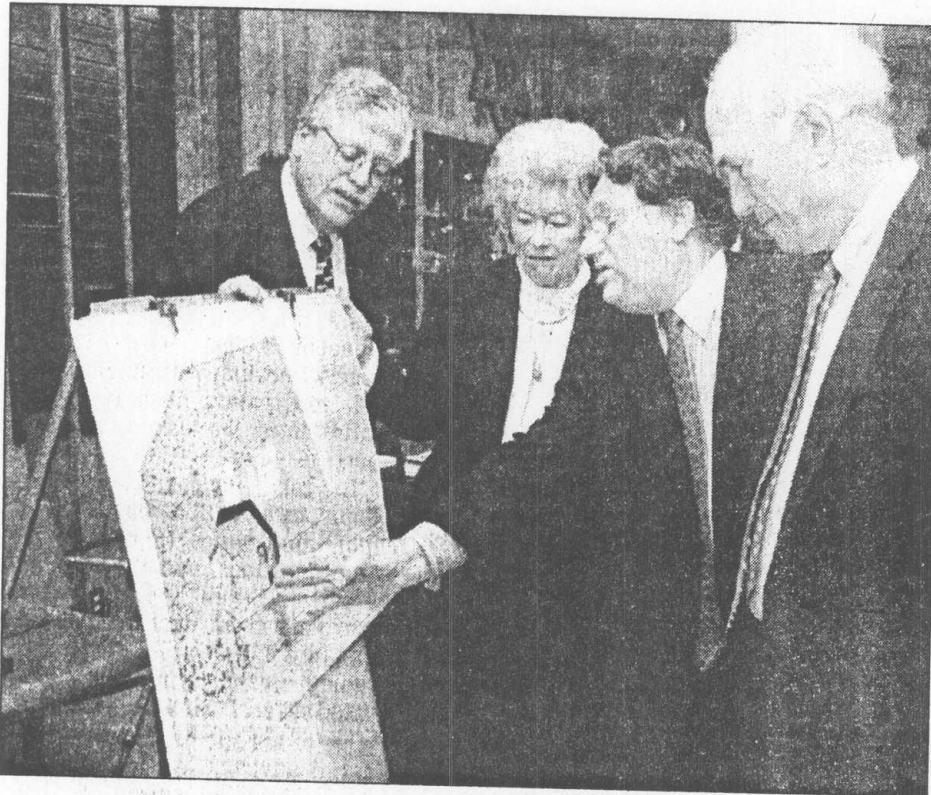
Stolzenberg told the two Assembly representatives: "We thank you for the job you've done for Staten Island. You've brought home the pastrami on more than one occasion."

On Your Mark, a West Brighton-based agency, provides support services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

On Your Mark also has some more money to raise, according to Gene Spatz, executive director. Spatz said the total cost of On Your Mark's project is around \$2 million.

On Your Mark, which serves

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Studying a drawing of the new JCC building are Assemblyman Eric Vitaliano, left, Assemblywoman Elizabeth Connelly, JCC Executive Director Lewis Stolzenberg and JCC Board President Arnold Beiles.

ADVANCE PHOTO ■ IRVING SILVERSTEIN

nearly 500 children and adults, already uses the North Shore JCC every week.

When it becomes owner of the building, On Your Mark will keep the facility available to all of Staten Island, maintaining the tradition of the center.

"It's going to be very much an

inclusive center," Spatz said. "We're encouraging groups to come in and continue using the facilities."

While conceptual drawings of the Sea View center were hanging in a JCC conference room yesterday, Stolzenberg cautioned that those were just computer sketches of what the building might look like. An architect will be hired within the next month, he said.

In addition, the JCC is awaiting approval from City Planning to begin building in the Greenbelt. The JCC has already conferred with borough environmental groups, Stolzenberg said.

The new center will be 90,000 square feet in size. In comparison, the North Shore center is 33,000 square feet.

The JCC, which also has a center in Greenridge, serves more than 5,000 members on Staten Island.

Arnold Beiles, president of the JCC board of directors, said the

state funding will help the JCC in its goal of serving the borough. "We tend to think that we try and give back to the community more than we receive, and I'm confident we will continue to do that," Beiles said.

Sheila Lipton, associate executive director of the JCC, marveled at how Vitaliano, Mrs. Connelly and Marchi had all worked together to make this funding possible. Vitaliano said it was a matter of doing the right thing.

"You can do the political thing during the political season, or you can do the Staten Island thing," he said. "And we do the Staten Island thing."

In the state Assembly, \$300,000 was procured for the JCC, while \$500,000 was obtained for On Your Mark.

In the state Senate, \$700,000 was acquired for the JCC, while \$150,000 was obtained for On Your Mark.