

SPECIAL REPORT
LIFE AFTER WILLOWBROOK

Good neighbors blend right in

Many Islanders report no problems with community residences in their areas

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ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

Practically everyone rallied against it.

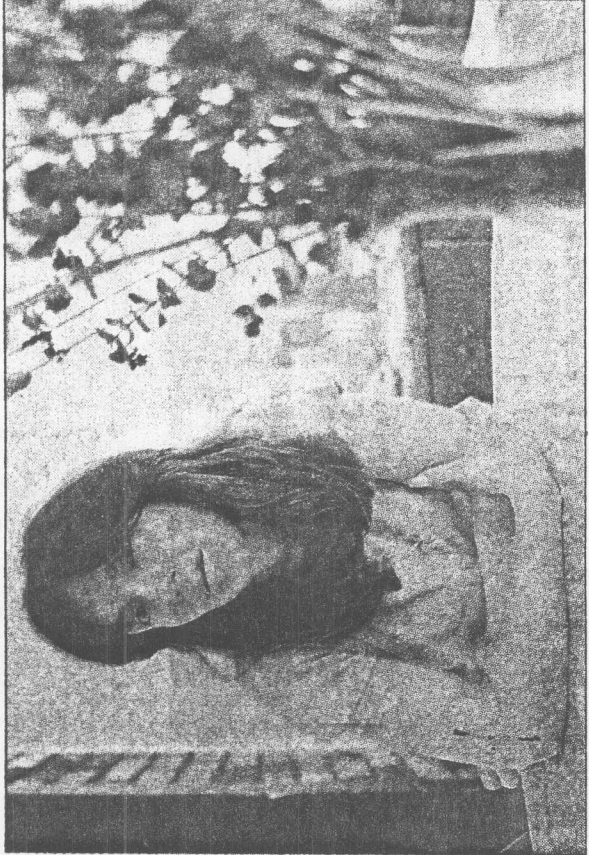
A bucolic side street, one block from an intermediate school in Great Kills, was no place for a home for the developmentally disabled, Nash Court residents insisted in 1992. They predicted property values would plunge, children would be terrified, and retarded people would harass

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BOARD OKS USE OF HOME FOR 5 ADULTS
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like civilized people," she recalls.
Disgusted, Ms. Sweeney stopped attending meetings. Ultimately, the board rejected the site, but because the board's vote is not binding, the developmentally disabled settled there anyway.
Eight years later, Ms. Sweeney, a nurse and real estate agent, feels differently. "You really don't even know



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Lisa Sweeney of Great Kills on the developmentally disabled in a nearby community residence: "You really don't even know that they're there. They're not a bother at all."

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