



ADVANCE PHOTO ■ FRANK J. JOHNS

Councilmen James Oddo, left, and Stephen Fiala and Kathleen Broderick, OMRDD associate commissioner, at meeting in Blue Heron Park to discuss the NY Cares Program.

In recent weeks, a groundswell of opposition has arisen across the Island against several proposed community residences. The homes typically house 8 to 10 developmentally disabled persons whose disabilities include mental retardation, autism, epilepsy and other impairments of the brain and central nervous system.

Informational meeting held on community residences

■ Meeting was attended by politicians, community board members

By FRANK DONNELLY
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With its thriving sweet gum forests, colorful wildflowers and shimmering ponds, the Blue Heron Park Nature Center, in Annadale, is a haven of serenity. But yesterday, the 222-acre home to wood ducks, warblers and egrets provided the backdrop for a discussion on one of the Island's most volatile topics in recent months: Community residences for the developmentally disabled.