

# Carousel repair on the way

By SHERRY BOSCHERT  
ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

Two out-of-state carousel experts are traveling to Staten Island at their companies' expense to give estimates on repairing the dilapidated merry-go-round at the Developmental Disabilities Services Office's (DDSO) Richmond Complex in Willowbrook.

Once used by retarded residents of the Willowbrook State Home and its later incarnation, the Staten Island Developmental Center, the carousel has been still in the three years since the SIDC closed and transferred most of its land to the College of Staten Island.

DDSO Director Robert Witkowsky hopes to move the carousel to property still owned by the state there, for use by about 100 residents still in group homes and others in day programs at its resource center.

Witkowsky said earlier this week he hadn't been able to find someone who could assess the repair costs. But a local carousel buff, Lisa Pisano of Huguenot, came to the rescue, Witkowsky said yesterday.

Miss Pisano "got us in touch with Carousel News and Trader," a publication whose staff referred Witkowsky to carousel companies, he said.

Next week, a representative of Carousel Works in Mansfield, Ohio, will examine the broken motor, worn floorboards and rusty, chipped horses of the merry-go-round. Fabricon Inc. of Glendale, N.Y., will send an employee soon after; both experts will estimate the cost of repair, refurbishing and moving the ride.

Witkowsky said the DDSO will hire one of the companies if the price is right, but he could not name a price range at this point. "If it's a little costlier than we can handle, I might seek donations," he said.

If it's not used by the state, the carousel may be sold or given away.