

Group home proposed in Great Kills

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The Association for Children with Retarded Mental Development (ACRMD) has proposed to build a group home at 107 Jumel Street in Great Kills for 10 physically and mentally handicapped adults.

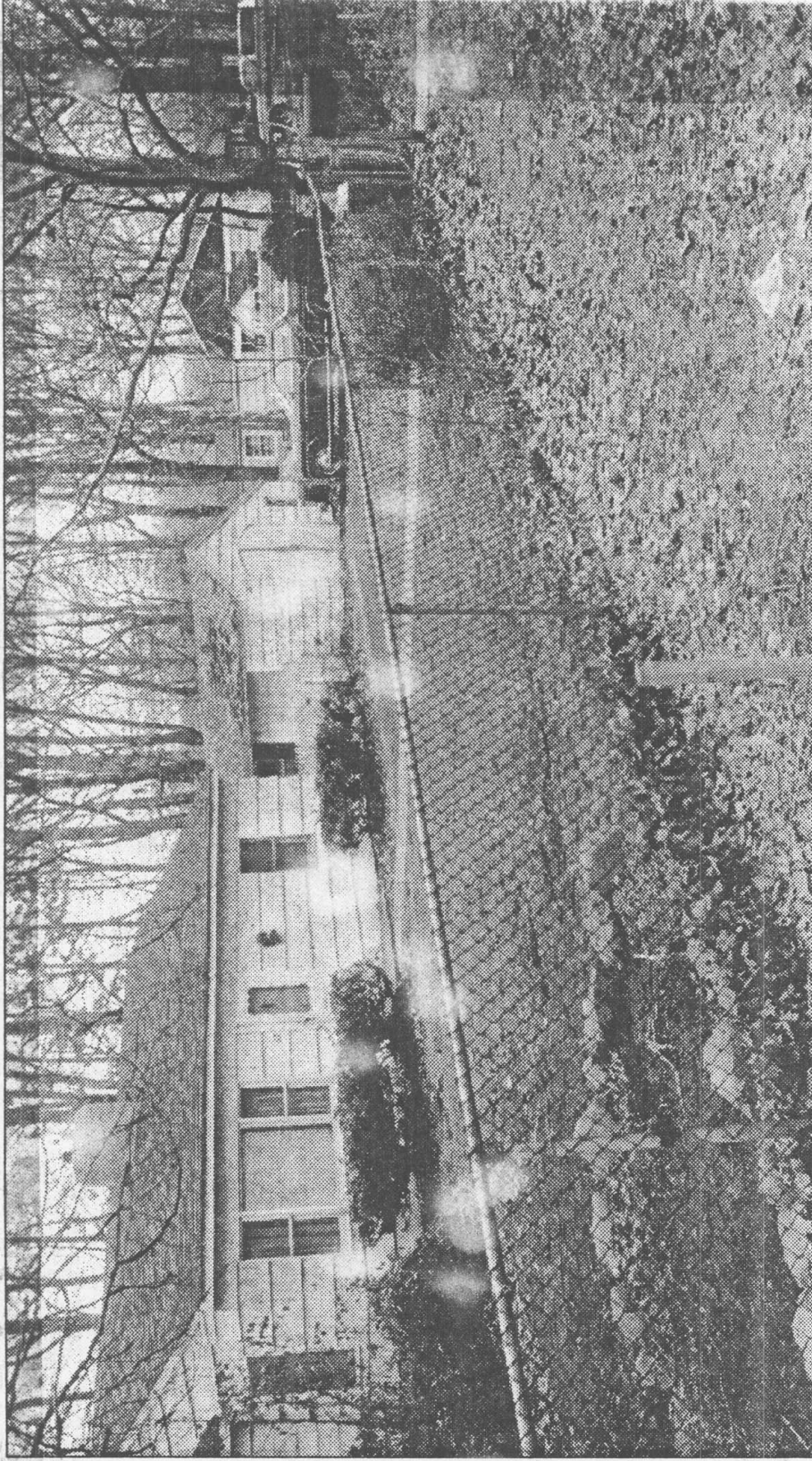
On Tuesday in board headquarters, Community Board 3's human resources committee will hold a public hearing on the proposed site.

ACRMD, a Manhattan-based not-for-profit agency, currently operates three group homes on Staten Island.

Should the site be approved, ACRMD plans to demolish the one-story white house and build a new one-story, handicapped-accessible facility with five bedrooms by the end of the year. The building needs to accommodate clients who are all bound to wheelchairs or orthopedic carts.

Thomas McAlvanah, ACRMD's director of residential services, said the clients would come from facilities of the Staten Island Developmental Center in Willowbrook that have to be closed by the end of the year. He said all residents of the proposed home are Staten Islanders.

All the clients would attend six hours of treatment programs each weekday and the home



ADVANCE PHOTO/IRVING SILVERSTEIN

This home at 107 Jumel St. in Great Kills would be demolished, under a proposal by a not-for-profit agency, to build a group home at the site.

would be staffed 24 hours a day, McAlvanah said. There would also be recreational activities and programs planned for evenings and weekends.

During Tuesday's hearing, the agency will present information on the site and answer questions from the committee and community residents. The committee

will then vote to approve or disapprove the site based on the Padavan law, which provides for the placement of group homes in residential neighborhoods.

The only criteria for voting down the proposed site would be an oversaturation of similar group homes in the neighborhood. Residents of Jumel Street who

live next to the proposed site said they were not aware of the public hearing or any plans to build a group home on their block.

Some neighbors interviewed said they were unsure how they felt about the proposed group home. Others said they were not opposed to it, but were tired of the construction in their neighbor-

hood from an ongoing sewer project.

McAlvanah said he is aware of opposition to residentially located group homes, but said he feels neighbors would change their minds if they visit an existing group home to see how it operates.