

St. Joseph's Villa proposes group home in Irondequoit

By Teresa A. Parsons

Adolescents "on the other side of treatment" for substance abuse are the group St. Joseph's Villa proposes to house in a community residence at 3930 St. Paul Blvd. in the Town of Irondequoit.

If approved by town planning and zoning boards, it would be the first residential program in New York state specifically for adolescents in the recovery phase of substance abuse treatment.

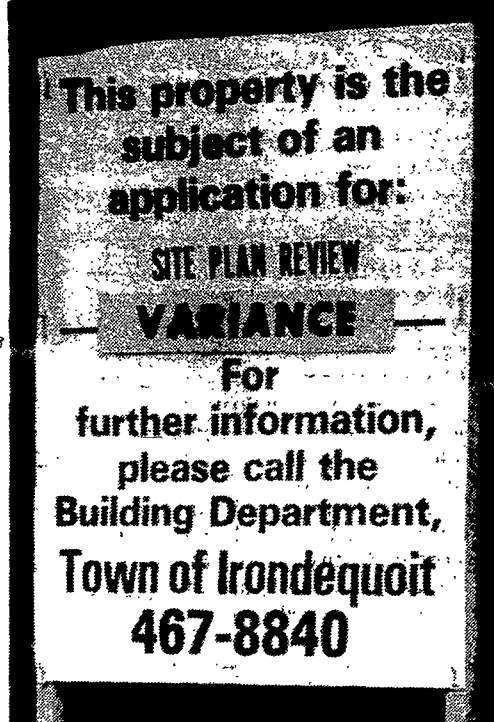
Marianne Virgilio, a spokesman for St. Joseph's, describes residents of the proposed home as "kids who have made a choice to turn things around in their lives ... a highly motivated group." Admission to the six-to-nine month program will be voluntary, and applicants must have completed a primary treatment program and be chemically free, she said.

The home will be staffed by supervisors 24 hours a day to support the youths in readjusting to community life. While attending school or training programs or holding jobs, residents will be learning to use their free time without the help of alcohol or drugs.

A center for comprehensive treatment of children and adolescents with emotional handicaps, St. Joseph's Villa already operates five other group homes — three in the City of Rochester, one in Greece and one in Williamson, N.Y. Virgilio said that the primary distinction between the villa's established homes and its new proposal is that residents will be there voluntarily. "Otherwise, their day-to-day activities will be much the same," she said.

For the past two years, Villa officials have been negotiating with the New York state divisions of Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse and Substance Abuse Services for joint sponsorship of the residence through funding and licensing. Virgilio explained that joint sponsorship was important because adolescents are too young to have developed life patterns of alcoholism or drug addiction. "We knew we would have to work with both crutches," she said.

The St. Paul Boulevard site was chosen from more than 20 alternatives. Not only is it large enough to house the program and convenient to public transportation and schools, but it provides a neighborhood



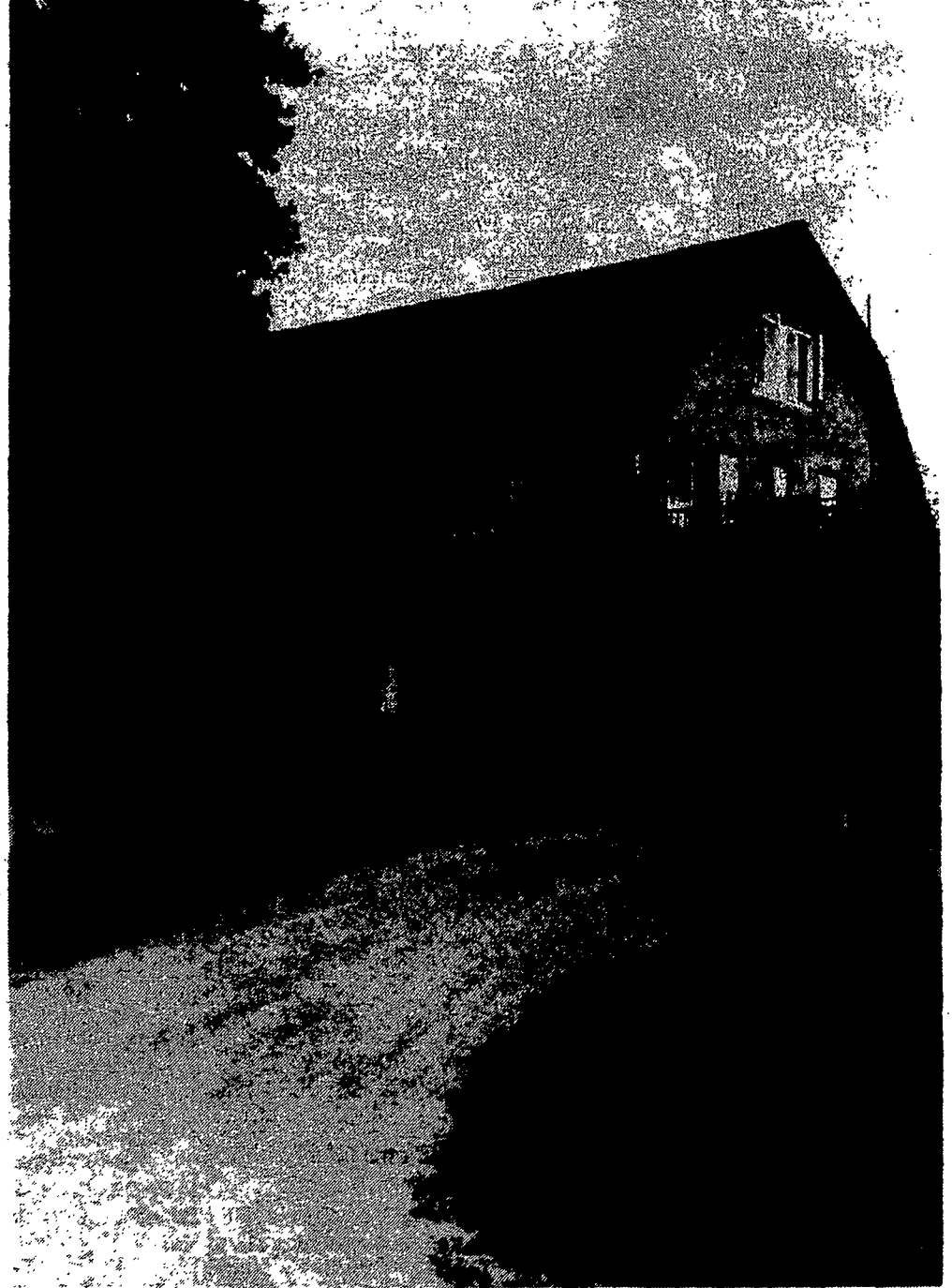
setting where residents can feel a part of life around them.

Facilities for Group Homes, a non-profit organization created to buy and administer the property for St. Joseph's under a lease agreement, has made a purchase offer of \$167,000 for the house. But acceptance of the offer hinges on approval of the Town of Irondequoit.

So far, community response to the proposal has been cautious, but not strident. A meeting with close to 100 neighbors was held on Thursday, August 8, to outline the proposal for the house.

"We sensed coming out that many people who were concerned came out reassured," Virgilio said. Neighbors' questions focused on who the children would be, what kinds of problems they had and what types of support they would need.

On Monday night, August 26, the Town of Irondequoit Planning Board met to consider St. Joseph's proposal. After the planning board, organizers must still meet with the town's zoning board, a gathering tentatively set for early September.



An important criterion met by the site on St. Paul Boulevard was its neighborhood location. The program will help residents readjust to everyday life.

Neighbors in the News



The Italian Women's Civic Club held its installation dinner last month at the Holiday Inn/Genesee Plaza. Officers pictured in the front row, left to right: Mary Buonaccorso, second vice-president; Margaret Vincent, president; Helen Barbato, first vice-president. In the back row, from left are: Mary Jean Gasbarre, recording secretary; Virginia Gagliano, corresponding secretary; Lorraine Fay, treasurer; Florence Bianco, Joan Vazzana and Madeline Pezzulo, directors.

Nazareth College has named Estelle Siener the college's Academic Computing Coordinator. Acting as liaison between the faculty and computer services department, Siener will supply technical and software support for academic computing systems and conduct workshops for faculty and freshmen.

Before her appointment at Nazareth, Siener was a computer instructor at the Gannett School of Science and Man at the Rochester Museum and Science Center. She came to Rochester after working as a computer specialist in the mathematics and computer sciences department of College Misericordia in Dallas, Pa.



The National Secondary Education Council announced today that Jeff Goldstone, a student at the Aquinas Institute, has been named an Academic All-American. The son of Mr. and Mrs. William Goldstone, and grandson of Angela Severino, he will appear in the nationally distributed Academic All-American Scholar Directory.

To be eligible, Goldstone must have earned a 3.3 grade-point average or better and was recommended by his Spanish teacher, Father Norbert Maduzia, the former Aquinas chaplain.

Mary Margaret Mazzella, director of education at St. Joseph's Villa, has been named to the 18th Institute for Development of Educational Activities (I.D.E.A.) Academy of Fellows summer program. The longest continuing inservice program for school administrators in the nation, the academy is also sponsored by the Kittering Foundation.

Mazzella is an Irondequoit resident and has supervised the agency's campus school and recreation therapy programs and staffs for three years. She earned a bachelor's degree from SUNY Genesee and a master of science in education degree in reading from the University of Rochester, where she is now working in a doctoral program.

St. Joseph's Villa recently announced the results of elections by its board of directors. Officers named for the coming year are: Brackett D. Clark of Brighton, president; William B. Wilmot of Brighton, first vice-president; Mary Ann Minnehan of Greece, second vice-president; Lawrence J. Oberlies of Penfield, recording secretary; Harvey Limbeck of Pittsford, treasurer.

Elected to continuing terms as directors were: Thomas Clement of Rochester; John Glavin of Brighton; Louis Litzenberger of Greece; Cynthia Marshall of Pittsford; and Ronald Robitaille of Canandaigua.

Carroll E. Casey of Pittsford, Patrick Gaffney of Rochester and Peter Genga of Irondequoit were elected to St. Joseph's Honorary Board of Directors.

Dr. Richard J. Yanessa has been appointed associate director of the Twin Tiers Rehabilitation Center of St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira. A psychiatrist, or specialist in physical medicine, he will join Dr. Jonathan Cooper in directing the regimen of treatment for both in- and outpatients.

A native of Sewickley, Pa., Yanessa received his medical degree from the University of Bologna Medical School in Italy and served his internship at San-Ursula Hospital. He has since completed residencies at the Medical College of Virginia at Richmond and in Louisville, Ky.



William Wynne of Rochester has joined RCI, Rochester Telephone Corporation's long distance subsidiary, as manager of customer service and administration.

In his new position, he will be responsible for RCI's Customer Service, Corporate Planning and Data Processing departments.

Along with his wife Sandra and two children, Wynne is an active member of Blessed Sacrament parish. He is also president of the board of the diocesan Office of Social Ministries, among other diocesan activities.



Christine J. Piotrowski



Eva Slepceki



Sandra J. Sobieraj

For the 31st consecutive year, area high school graduates have been awarded scholarships by the Rochester Polish People's Home and the Michael Stanley Broki Foundation.

This year's three winners are: Eva Slepceki of Pittsford Mendon High School, who will attend Johns Hopkins University; Sandra J. Sobieraj of Churchville-Chili, who will attend Georgetown University; and Christine J. Piotrowski of Gates-Chili, who will attend the State University of New York at Buffalo. Each winner will receive \$1,000 toward college expenses.