

Rosh Hashanah  
greetings

# Freeport • Baldwin

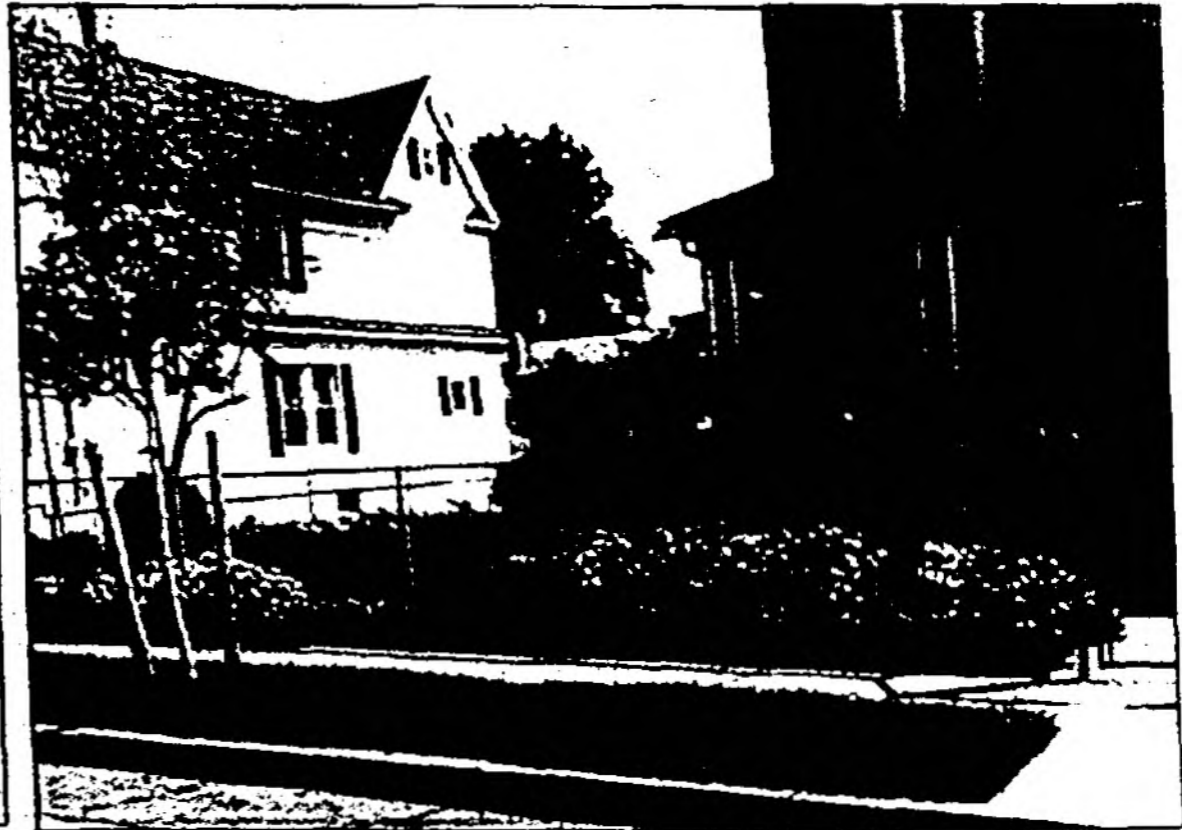
## THE LEADER

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### Freeport's in Fall Flower!



DELIGHTFUL IMPATIENS in a breathtaking variety of color decorate the Branch Avenue corner property of Mr. and Mrs. J. Wolf, who garnered second place in the 1989 Fall Flowering Contest.



COLORFUL BORDER PLANTINGS of Impatiens, marigolds and geraniums took third place in the Fall Flowering Contest for Mr. Boise Martin of Harrison Avenue. And the winner is ..... (see page 6)  
photos by Joe DiSavo

## Putnam Avenue group home welcomes friends and neighbors

by Maurice Forge

Residents, their parents and friends, neighbors, staff and directors from the Epilepsy Foundation took part in an "open house" reception at the group home last week where they displayed their achievement in the house at 187 Putnam Avenue since they opened last March.

Nine residents and an around the clock staff already live in the four level home and applicants for the two remaining spots are being considered to fill the maximum of 11 set by the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

When the purchase of this house was first proposed by the State last year, Village officials and neighbors in the area objected to the group home, not out of lack of sympathy for its potential residents or indifference to the needs of persons needing mental health service, but primarily because of the belief that "Freeport has been singled out for locating such facilities in it," according to the opponents. Mayor Dorothy Storm pointed out at the public hearing on January 26 that the Village already had 26 such facilities and was "oversaturated," and called upon the State officials to use their good offices to get other communities, in which there were no group homes

"to emulate us."

But last week, the home's manager, Howard Goldberg, and the Epilepsy Foundation's Nassau County Director of Residential Services, Donna Zaino and her assistant Della Charbonnet were obviously proud of the apparent success of the enterprise and the public display at the reception. They all stressed that the neighbors have been "very friendly."

Linda Williams, one of the dozen or so visitors from close neighboring houses, agreed that "the home occupants have been good neighbors and our family is

glad Freeporters have been cooperative." "These people have special needs," her daughter Carolyn added "and we are glad to be helpful, especially since they have been such good neighbors." Mike Zisman who has lived all his life at 175 Putnam Avenue said "this is a great neighborhood and they fit right in."

Theodore and Lena LeCours, originally from Rumford, Maine and now back there after living in Hicksville for many years, came all the way from the northeast to share in the reception with one of the residents, Thomas Lemmo

whom they know from their Long Island days.

The facility, operated by the Foundation, is funded by New York State as part of the provisions of Mental Hygiene Law Section 41. The residents, ranging in ages from 23 to 57 years all work at an AHRC workshop in Freeport where they earn for their personal expenses and do all the housekeeping work in their home under the supervision of the professional staff. They are given medication and most of them have already been trained to administer the

prescribed drugs to themselves.

The social rooms, spacious modern kitchen, recreation room and impeccably kept bedrooms with two beds each are all cared for by the residents who do the cooking and other kitchen chores, use the two washing and drying machines.

It seems that the staff at the Garden city headquarters of the Foundation, the local staff and the residents have had their work cut out for them, for in six months they transformed an old house into a modern home and maintained its charming exterior.



WELCOME TO FREEPORT: Robert Goldberg, manager of the group home operated by the Epilepsy Foundation for the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, cuts the cake at the Open House.



PUTNAM AVENUE NEIGHBORS at the Open House given by the group home September 18, among them Mika Zisman, Linda, Chris and Carolyn Williams and others