

## Millville Housing Authority has stimulus cash, list of repairs

By EDWARD VAN EMBDEN, Staff Writer, 856-649-2072 | Posted: Friday, July 31, 2009 |

MILLVILLE - The Millville Housing Authority is using federal stimulus money to make much-needed repairs - a lot of them, actually - to its numerous properties across the city.

Executive Director Paul Dice said every single cent of the \$728,000 the authority received from President Barack Obama's stimulus bill will be put toward repairs, although that may not be enough.

In making all of the necessary repairs - many of them major - the authority could spend as much as \$1.2 million before all is said and done. The additional funding would come from the authority's capital projects budget. Loans would not be necessary, Dice said.

The authority hired Vineland-based architect John Pederson more than a month ago to help conduct inspections of every property. A priority list has been made, and the authority is ready to start the fix-up process.

Pederson and a staff of engineers conducted the inspections and developed a plan for repairs. They are being paid an hourly rate, and about 8 percent of the federal stimulus money - or about \$61,000 - could be paid to the team.

"We are fast-tracking this as much as possible," Dice said. "I hope to be out to bid on the bigger projects within the next two weeks."

Dice said the bigger projects include repairs to roofs at four major sites, including senior high rises Jaycee Plaza and River View West, and at housing complexes Ferguson Court and Holly Berry Court.

Holly Berry was originally slated to be torn down and rebuilt. The recession forced the authority to rethink its plan and keep the complex open. The authority now intends to make repairs at the property.

"Originally, there was going to be a demolition down here. We elected not to do that because I didn't think it made financial sense," Dice said. "We haven't gotten to a full-scale remodeling of the facility, but we've located some areas that need attention. It wasn't on our original list, but during this last inspection it came up."