

# MHA is moving along with repairs

By JASON LADAY  
jladay@sjnewsco.com

MILLVILLE — The Millville Housing Authority continued throughout July in its large-scale infrastructure repair on all eight of the city's public housing complexes.

The month of July saw rooftop repair at a Riverview East stairwell, costing \$1,840; sewer lateral repair at Maurice View Plaza, costing \$18,000; and needed mold removal at Ferguson Court, costing \$9,326.27.

Upcoming repairs are scheduled to take place at Holly Berry

Court and Jaycee Plaza, with further work at Ferguson.

"This is one of the largest jobs has done in quite a while," said MHA Executive Director Paul Dice at the authority's monthly meeting on Tuesday. "It's something that needs to be done, and we're moving along with it."

According to some of the members of the MHA, the wide-scale repairs will include tree removal at some sites, as well as a wheelchair ramp to be installed at Ferguson Court.

However, residents there may have to wait longer on the ramp,

according to Dice, who stated, "We've been advised that we can do a better job on that than how we've been going about it."

The improvements, described as "overdue" by members of the authority, also include needed roofing work at Riverview West and Jaycee Plaza, as well as a complete roof replacement at Ferguson Court.

Another large project will see the MHA repairing a recently busted water line outside Maurice View Plaza underneath Buck Street, causing 12 feet of water to leak out under the pavement where a sinkhole had formed in

the road.

MHA officials plan to use the \$720,675 in federal stimulus funds the authority received in March to fund the infrastructure projects.

The average age of all of the MHA's buildings is 34 years old, and some have already reached their general expected life expectancy, according to a report prepared by Dice and MHA Chief Operations Officer Ivy Evans.

All stimulus funds must be attached to a project within a year and spent within two years.

According to Dice, the MHA

is on track to meet its federal obligations.

"We are well within the guidelines and are on track to obligate and expend our funds in a timely manner," said Dice in his monthly report to the MHA board.

In addition, four MHA "scattered site" public housing residences along Broad Street have been deemed beyond repair and will be demolished.

The houses are officially vacant, though a series of squatters have since moved in, according to Evans.