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AHOME aims to build, renovate 23 sites in M'ville

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MILLVILLE — AHOME is expanding its services into the Third Ward.

The Millville Housing Authority's board of commissioners passed the titles to six properties — five in the Third Ward — to Affordable Homes of Millville Ecumenical Inc. at Tuesday's meeting. The

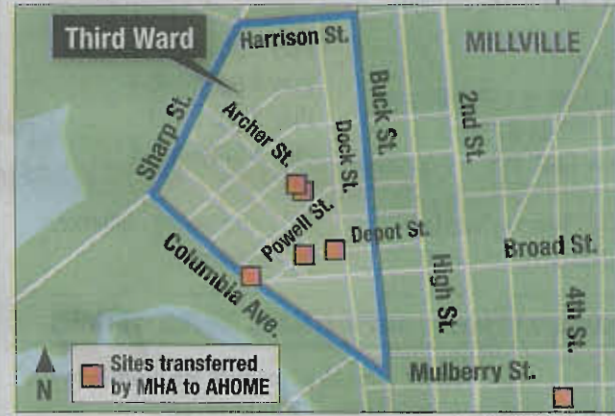
nonprofit organization will begin its two-year plan to build and renovate 23 sites in the city and sell them at affordable prices by the end of the year, according to Executive Director Donna Turner.

The MHA planned to use these sites for their own affordable housing projects through the state's CHOICE program, which provides houses for people in blighted neighborhoods

at a reduced price. But financial constraints and the housing market forced the authority to hold off on their project and transfer the sites to AHOME, MHA Executive Director Paul Dice said.

The city gave the MHA \$270,000 to develop the properties, Dice said. AHOME is not paying the authority for the properties, he said.

Please see AHOME on A2



Staff graphic/Joe Moore

AHOME

From A1

"The city gets what they wanted, to develop these properties for this purpose," he said.

The five sites in the Third Ward are the first time AHOME will develop homes in that part of the city, Turner said, adding the organization is increasing its visibility there. The organization is helping coordinate the new project on the former Millville Gardens site, and opened an office on Buck Street earlier this year.

"People are always saying they wished we could do more in the Third

Ward," she said. "This allows us to do more things."

The Third Ward sites are at 56 Columbia Ave., 129 Depot St., 311 Powell St., and 819 and 821 Archer St. The sixth site is at 220 N. 4th St.

The Third Ward is bounded by Columbia Avenue, and Harrison, Sharp and Buck streets. The city has two other designated neighborhoods: Center City and South Millville.

AHOME has built 38 homes and counseled more than 4,000 people since its inception in 1991, Turner said. All of its projects were in Center City, which is bounded by 10th, Main, High and G streets.