

Family Center freezes renewal rates

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MILLVILLE — The Holly City Family Center is preparing to freeze membership rates at 2011 levels for those who renew for next year.

Rates for new members will go up between 50 cents and \$1.50 starting in January, according to center Executive Director Janet Reeves.

The Holly City Development Corp., a nonprofit affiliate of the Millville Housing Authority, operates the Mulberry Street center. The decision on membership costs was disclosed last week.

Housing Authority Executive Director Paul Dice said officials want to "incentivize" members to stay with the Holly City Family Center. Reeves has pushed for the one-year rate freeze, he said.

"One, it makes good business sense," Dice said. "Two, it's a 'thank you.'"

Individual center memberships number about 2,300 now.

Reeves said the top rate, for new members, would be \$54.25 a month to cover an entire family for all services. That would be an increase from \$52.75 a month this year.

Meanwhile, the center's expansion is on hold for what officials hope is a brief time. It broke ground about two weeks ago on a 1,600-square-foot addition.

Dice, however, said the city housing inspector is withholding permits to start putting in a foundation until plans for a sprinkler system are approved. "Hopefully, we'll get this permit going," Dice said. "Neither the architect nor the builder are throwing up any red flags."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

» To learn more about the Holly City Family Center, visit www.hollycity.org or call the center at (856) 293-0609.

» Winter sign-ups start Dec. 5, with sessions beginning Jan. 2 and running through Feb. 25.