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The Star-Ledger

Bridgeton News

Millville Housing Authority takes kids

Wednesday, September 01, 2010

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MILLVILLE - The Millville Housing Authority is kid-friendly.

This is the message Executive Director Paul Dice wants to get out to the public.

To this end, the MHA announced on Tuesday that it is recalling a small number of applications for residence at its Maurice View Plaza facility that were recently mistakenly denied.

"Due to a clerical error, a few applications were denied and returned to potential residents with children solely on the basis that the Maurice View Plaza is for disabled young adults," Dice said. "MHA does not deny residency on the basis of familial status. Disabled people with children are welcome to make application. ... What happened was a mistake. MHA will correct that mistake and ensure that all applicants are treated fairly."

Anyone that received a denial can send a copy of the response for reconsideration to: Millville Housing Authority, P.O. Box 803, 1153 Holly Berry Lane, Millville, NJ 08332. They can be addressed to the attention of Paul Dice, Executive Director.

Dice wished to clarify that all disabled persons age 18 to 49 are welcome to apply, even those with children, after hearing rumors that people may not be applying for that reason.

"At one point I had someone call about a three-bedroom unit and I told them they couldn't apply, but that was because we don't have three bedroom units, not because we don't accept kids," Dice said. "We've had (people) that have gained custody of kids and we haven't turned them away."

The error was made by an administrator that believed Maurice View Plaza was an adults-only facility, and responded to applications accordingly before anyone else could see the denials. Dice estimated that about eight people were denied application.

"I want to make sure people know that if they have children, they can apply for housing," Dice said. " ... From here on out, no denial will go out unless I see it and approve it. We will be retraining staff to make sure all people are treated fairly. It was an area of vulnerability I was not aware of."

The announcement comes as the waiting list is steadily increasing after a brief problem with numbers in the beginning of the summer.

The waiting list was open on June 9 for a 30-day period. After receiving little response, the deadline for submission of applications was pushed back to Oct. 31.

Number of applicants nearly doubled over the course of the summer.

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