

# The News



of Cumberland County

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2010

## Millville awaits snow \$\$, gets free food

### State appears sno' good now

By Jason Laday

[jladay@sjnewsco.com](mailto:jladay@sjnewsco.com)

MILLVILLE — Millville housing officials have secured at least a portion of the funds they hope to receive from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to make up for last winter's costly three snowstorms.

According to Millville Housing Authority Executive Director Paul Dice, FEMA has provided \$5,492 to help recoup the cost of the first storm, which hit the city in December 2009.

However, FEMA has not yet

opened its doors to claims regarding the pair of storms that buried the area in early February.

"We did — we will — get money back for the December 2009 storm. It was determined that we were eligible for \$7,323, which 75 percent would be paid by FEMA and 25 percent would come from the state," said Dice, addressing a meeting of the MHA board of directors on Tuesday.

"But, right now, with what's going on at the state level, it doesn't look like we're going to be getting that money."

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### Food Bank of N.J. is coming

By Jason Laday

[jladay@sjnewsco.com](mailto:jladay@sjnewsco.com)

MILLVILLE — Approximately 100 senior citizens at three Millville Housing Authority properties received deliveries of free food thanks to a new partnership between the authority and a statewide non-profit food bank.

Beginning Tuesday and continuing on the third Tuesday of every month, the Community Food Bank of New Jersey will deliver large boxes of food to residents to sign up and who meet certain age and income qualifications at

Riverview East, Riverview West and Jaycee Plaza.

According to MHA officials, plans are coming together to include Ferguson Court and Cedarview Court in the program.

"At first, a lot of the residents weren't sure about signing up — they were pretty wary," said Dorothy Conti, senior services coordinator for the MHA, on Tuesday. "But, then, when the food bank came in with the big boxes of food those who did sign up were so thankful — they were like little kids — and those that didn't were

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# Sno' funds

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Dice later agreed that MHA officials are resigned to the fact that the state matching funds would not be coming, and that they would only receive 75 percent of the total.

The MHA is seeking to make back at least a portion of the \$20,000 to \$25,000 it spent in response to the heavy snowstorms.

According to Dice, the MHA spent \$1,000 on each of its seven housing developments during each of the three storms.

He added the authority's only piece of heavy equipment for snow removal is a single front-end loader.

While the authority has managed to secure funds for the first of the three snowstorms, MHA Chief Operations Officer Ivy Evans stated that specific blizzard may be the least of the authority's problems.

"That storm was actually the least expensive of the three," she said.

Local FEMA representatives with the Cumberland County Office of Emergency Management could not be reached to say when claims regarding the other storms would be accepted.

As for the city as a whole, Millville Commissioner Dale Finch on Tuesday said the department of public works has collected approximately \$71,000 from FEMA to recoup the cost of the December 2009 storm.

"At the meeting we had, they said they expected to make some kind of determination on the other two storms — so far, the decision is that we will get something," said Finch. "They're discussing whether (the February storms) will be grouped in as one, or not."

City officials have stated the snowstorm on Dec. 19 cost the municipal government \$74,844.55 in salt, overtime hours and private contractors.

A pair of similar storms on Feb. 5-6 and Feb. 9-10 was estimated to cost the city \$70,000.

# Food

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like, 'Where's mine?' We signed up maybe 10 or 12 more on the spot.

"Some of these people have to sometimes choose between medication or food. This is just the first day. This is going to be very good."

So, 102 seniors in Riverview East, Riverview West and Jaycee Plaza have joined the program.

However, as a condition for some of its state funding, Community Food Banks of New Jersey is striving to sign up at least 200 Millville residents in MHA properties.

Residents in Ferguson Court and Cedarview Court will be able to sign up for the program on Monday.

To be eligible, residents must be 60 years or older, and have a household income at or below 130 percent of the federal poverty line.

That's \$1,174 per month or below for singles, and \$1,579 or below for couples.

Each resident in the program this month received a box containing two half-gallon bottles of apple juice, a large box of pasta, Corn Flakes brand cereal, a bag of dried milk, Cream of Wheat brand cereal, 15 cans of vegetables, peanut butter, a large block of cheese and other items.

According to Conti, she and her partner with the food bank, Charity Development Manager Carmen Mollineaux, now have the task of advocating on behalf of the program to residents of the five eligible

properties.

"At first, the food bank was just taking it upon itself, with Mollineaux going to the seniors, and that wasn't working out," said Conti. "Thankfully, (MHA Executive Director) Paul Dice got us together and now our job is to the people and get them signed up."

They'll also depend on the help of their housing managers, who on Tuesday knocked on residents' doors to remind them to pick up their food.

Others helped deliver the boxes to seniors who could not leave their rooms.

That's important, considering residents who miss pickups two months in a row are taken off the program — another state provision, according to Conti.

"The managers have been a big help, which is great because Mollineaux and I are the only volunteers in this so far," said Conti. "The only problem is that we will have to figure how that will work with Ferguson and Cedarview."

"Those are spread-out complexes, and residents would have to either all leave their units or we would have to drive or walk door-to-door."

Community Food Bank of New Jersey distributes 23 million pounds of groceries a year, serving 1,656 other non-profit organizations, according to its Web site.

It is a member of Feeding America, the country's largest network of food banks, and the New Jersey Federation of Food Banks.

*Editor's note: Police on Tuesday were unable to provide information on bail amounts, or whether some of the accused were taken to the county jail or released on summonses.*

\* Gabriel M. Smith, 23, of Bridgeton, was arrested early Tuesday at the North High Street Wendy's restaurant on the charge of obstruction of justice.

\* Alonzo Forman, 38, of Millville, was arrested Monday on a contempt warrant.

\* George Gould Jr., 40, of West Broad Street, was arrested Monday afternoon at ShopRite on the charge of shoplifting, accused of attempting to steal \$158 worth of razors from the store. He was released on his own recognizance.

\* Two Millville Memorial High School students were charged with disorderly conduct after police were dispatched to the East Broad Street school Monday morning on a report of a fight.

The fight occurred in the school's cafeteria at about 11:40 a.m.

Both students were released to their guardians.