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## Smoking ban going into effect for Millville's public housing, officials say

MILLVILLE — Non-smoking or non-smoking? At the 498 public housing units — split across seven properties — operated by the Millville Housing Authority (MHA), smoking will be banned from not only inside the residences but outside on balconies and porches as well. According to Betsy Loyle, director of operations for MHA, the move to a smoke-free environment was encouraged by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, as well as the residents.

"My office would get transfer requests for tenants next to smokers two to three times a month," Loyle said.

The Millville Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a resolution for the smoking ban at its June 23 meeting.

If a resident is caught smoking on the property, according to Paul Dice, executive director, they are first given a verbal warning, then a written warning, then a notice to cease the behavior and then to court for the tenant violating their lease.

The transition to non-smoking will start in October when tenants begin renewing their leases and the stipulations adding the smoking ban will be added to each individual lease over the course of a year until every tenant has agreed to it.

The MHA will help assist anyone with smoking cessation programs.

According to Dice, the ban on smoking will help the MHA with insurance costs, as well as the cost to turn over the property when a tenant leaves.

"If someone has been a heavy smoker, it is an extra cost to clean or paint over the places affected by nicotine," he said.

MHA operates Riverview East, Riverview West, Jaycee Plaza, Ferguson Court, Cedarview Court, Mauriceview Plaza and Holly Berry Court. Tenants include families and seniors.

The smoking ban was first brought to the Resident Advisory Board and then shared with the tenants, through tenant meetings and then shared with the

tenants, through tenant meetings and letters.

[http://www.nj.com/cumberland/index.ssf/2015/06/smoking\\_ban\\_going\\_into\\_effect\\_for\\_millvilles\\_publi.html](http://www.nj.com/cumberland/index.ssf/2015/06/smoking_ban_going_into_effect_for_millvilles_publi.html)