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Glendale "thrilled" with gift of generators

Contributed By Jenny Callison | freelance contributor

This fall, the region's experience with Hurricane Ike illustrated the saying that "It's an ill wind that blows nobody any good." The high winds that cut power to thousands in Cincinnati taught a valuable lesson: the importance of having back-up power for public buildings.

The Village of Glendale recently learned that a private organization, which wishes to remain anonymous, donated funds that will purchase three generators: one for the town hall and fire department, one for the police department, and one for the village office. During a power outage, these units will be powered by the buildings' natural gas and will allow normal operations to continue. Combined cost for the new equipment is \$23,941. Village administrator Walter Cordes estimates that installation will be complete by the end of January 2009.

"We are thrilled," Cordes said. "In a typical year, we might have seven or eight power outages, but they last no more than a day. This year's storm showed us that we need to be prepared for more severe power losses."

During the wind storm September 14 and its aftermath, only Glendale's maintenance facilities had a whole-building generator. Residents who had lost power came by the plant to charge cell phones, operate personal medical equipment, and address other power-related needs.

"During this year's hurricane, we learned how a long-term power outage affects our residents and our employees' ability to provide services in a time of need," said Mayor Joseph Hubbard. "This improvement is welcomed."