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Lake communities receive NOPEC grants

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Five Lake County communities will receive grants as part of the continuing effort to increase energy efficiency in Northeast Ohio.

The grants, totaling \$609,150, come from FirstEnergy Corp. as part of an agreement reached with the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council last year.

The communities to receive grants are Mentor, Madison Village, Mentor-on-the-Lake, Timberlake Village and Grand River Village.

Mentor will receive \$450,000 to replace the radio system used by city safety forces.

Madison Village will receive \$50,000 for a new heating system, water heater, new windows and garage improvements at its village hall.

Mentor-on-the-Lake's share is worth \$14,995 and will be used to replace the interior lighting system at its city hall complex and the service garage.

The city hall complex also houses the police and fire stations.

The new lighting will save up to \$7,000 annually, said Director of Administration and Finance Kip Molenaar.

The city already upgraded the windows and doors in its service department building and city hall complex with a previous grant, which will save up to \$5,000 per year, he said.

Timberlake will obtain \$44,155 for energy efficient windows at village hall. Grand River will receive \$50,000 for an energy efficient roof and windows at its village hall.

Fiscal Officer Rosemary Hakola said the village needed the improvements for the old building.

Lake County Commissioner Dan Troy, who serves as the county's representative on the NOPEC board of directors, said he hopes to see every community take advantage of this "one-time money."

There are only two rounds of grants left, he said.

The communities have until the end of February to use the funds.