

# Septic grants still available locally

BY RILEY MORNINGSTAR  
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Grant money to replace and repair failing septic systems for those in the Lake Keowee watershed is still available.

A news release from the Lake Keowee Source Water Protection Team said 12 homeowners have received grant funding covering approximate-

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ly 70 percent of costs to repair aging septic systems after the program launched earlier this year. Qualified homeowners can get up

SEE SEPTIC, PAGE A6



SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

Grant funding is still available for some homeowners to repair or replace aging septic systems.

# SEPTIC: Resident talks about benefits of grant program

FROM PAGE A1

to 80 percent of the total cost to replace or repair home septic systems, the nonprofit's release said, and \$1 million in funding has been provided by Duke Energy. More money is also available for systems on the Cane and Little Cane Creek watersheds through the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control.

LKSWPT chairwoman Scottie Ferguson said the grants work to find and fix failing septic systems that impact the boundaries of any Duke project.

"Water quality in Lake Jocassee and Lake Keowee has been excellent from the beginning," she said. "We want to make sure it remains that way for generations to come. This grant program provides measurable benefits to homeowners and helps protect water quality."

## RESIDENT TALKS PROGRAM'S BENEFITS

John Eagar, who lives in the Indian Oaks development in Seneca, received funding earlier

this year and volunteered to join the nonprofit cause to promote the program.

"It's such a worthy cause that can help so many other homeowners with older, failing septic systems like mine. We need to get the word out that these funds are available," he said. "The application was straightforward and easy to complete."

Eagar said he noticed vegetation over a portion of his drain field was "dark green, even during extremely dry weather," which led to a septic repair contractor telling him the field needed to be replaced.

The LKSWPT was created during the relicensing process for the Keowee-Toxaway Hydroelectric Project. Officers representing LKSWPT are members of the Friends of Lake Keowee Society, Seneca Light and Water, Greenville Water, Oconee County, Pickens County, Advocates for Quality Development and Upstate Forever.

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