**FL set to benefit from yet another grant**

By Dennis Mansfield

Contributing Writer

FIFE LAKE – Just weeks after getting good news about receiving one grant, officials with the Village of Fife Lake are celebrating the announcement the village will receive yet another grant to bolster future infrastructure projects.

In early October, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that Fife Like would receive a combined $6.5 million in loans and grants to upgrade the village’s 30-year-old water and sewer system.

And, just recently, Village President Lisa Leedy said Fife Lake will also receive $170,000 grant through a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality’s Storm Water, Asset Management & Wastewater, or SAW, program.

According to information provided by Leedy, the SAW program provides grant funding for the development of plans to identify and manage storm water and/or wastewater assets, storm water treatment management plans, planning and design of sewage, storm water or nonpoint source pollution reduction projects, and the testing and demonstration of innovative water quality improvement projects.

“This grant gives us the opportunity to get ahead of the storm water challenges that currently wash out many of our roads due to our hilly terrain,” Leedy said. “Our roads will last longer, so we are not kicking the can down the road to our children and grandchildren to deal with more poor roads due to lack of planning for their longevity.”

Along with a local 10 percent in-kind match, the grant awarded to Fife Lake will help the   
community establish an asset management plan for their storm water system. This plan will not only make future road projects less costly, but will lay out the plan to ensure the storm water doesn't deteriorate the roads the way it has in the past, according to Leedy.  
  
Fife Lake officials are currently working with Fleis & Vandenbrink Engineering, a Traverse City-based engineering, surveying and planning firm, to build the village’s asset management plan. Fleis & Vandenbrink was the firm selected for the Fife Lake Area Utility Authority's SAW and USDA projects.

“Thanks to a state program, the Village of Fife Lake will be able to properly establish an asset management plan for the village's storm water runoff,” Leedy said.   
  
For more information on the SAW program, visit [www.michigan.gov/deq](http://www.michigan.gov/deq).