

Boy Scouts, local volunteers team up to clean up

River Road received a little TLC Saturday

By **PAUL A. JANNACE**
THE SPECTATOR

WILLING — Teaming up with the New York Rural Water Association and the Wellsville Water Department, several Boy Scouts from nearby areas worked to clean up River Road by the Genesee River plain Saturday.

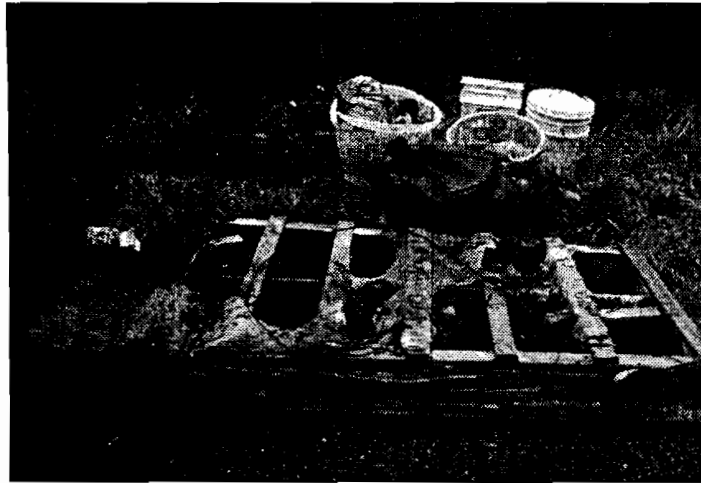
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Three Boy Scout troops from the Allegheny Highlands Council's Seneca District picked up everything from tires, car batteries and dingy mattresses, to rusted car parts and washing machines.

The Boy Scout troops at the event included Troop 705 from Wellsville, Troop 777 from Andover and Troop 736 from Angelica.

There also were a few local Girl Scouts, members of the Exchange Club, which is a Wellsville community service group, and other local volunteers lending a hand.

Josh Bosser, of the New York Rural Water Association, said about two years ago there was a water shed assessment of the Wellsville water supply, and River Road in Willing was branded as one of the potential sources of contamination.



PAUL A. JANNACE

A mattress emerges from a pile of garbage where Boy Scouts from Allegany County teamed up with local officials to clean up the Genesee River plain along River Road in Willing Saturday.

Bosser said this is the first major outreach program done so far, but noted a similar project has been scheduled in Cattaraugus County in the coming weeks.

"We organized this to bring people together to do this," Bosser said.

The Village of Wellsville and private landowners donated equipment to help get the dirty job done, and Allegany County donated trash receptacles. The county also waived all tipping fees for the project, according to Bosser.

Bosser called it a "good community event" and made sure to recognize the Village of Wellsville, Allegany County, the town of Willing and all the people who helped get the project off the ground.

Steve Allen, district commissioner of the Allegheny Highlands Council Seneca District, said there is a nationwide push to clean up parks and beautify areas.

"We felt it was a very worthwhile project for the boys to get involved with," Allen said.

The Boy Scouts at Saturday's event were anywhere from 12-17 years old and earned service hours necessary for rank advancement.

"All of this water ends up at the water intake from the Village of Wellsville, and it pollutes that and gets into our drinking water," Allen said. "It also promotes wildlife that is less clean and promotes sick animals."

In addition to Bosser and Allen, Dana Harris, chief water operator for the Wellsville Water Department, helped coordinate the event. The Willing Fire Department was on hand as well to direct traffic.

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