

GRANBY:

Boy Scouts ‘treecycle’ for town residents

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GRANBY— Jam-packing pick-up truck beds all around town, making trips back and forth to Dufresne Park, Granby Boy Scouts spent this past Saturday accumulating a substantial pile of Christmas trees for recycling.

By the end of the morning, dozens of evergreens lay in a heavy stack, symbolizing the end of a holiday season despite remarkably balmy temperatures.

Jan. 9 marked the first ever “Treecycle” program carried out by the Boy Scouts of Troop 306, an initiative the troop hopes to make a staple of its holiday community service efforts in years to come.



Turley Publications staff photo by Tyler W. Leahy

Granby Boy Scouts Troop 306 unloads Christmas trees during the “Treecycle” program they conducted in town on Jan. 9.

“It’s a great program for people that might not have the strength to move a tree on their own,” said 14-year-old Boy Scout Matt

Partelow of Chicopee. “Lots of people have given us generous

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donations, much more than we asked for, but it just feels good to be helping other people that need help with tree removal.”

Partelow also noted that the program is helpful to people hoping not to make a mess in the interior of their car during the tree removal process, or may be under time constraint.

Granby Boy Scouts committee member James Guzman said he thought the first “Treecycle” was an overall success. It was Guzman’s idea to bring the program to Granby. Growing up in California, Guzman participated in yearly Christmas tree recycling programs.

“I’ve wanted to instill this sort of program with Boy Scout Troops in this area – and Granby is an ideal example of a place that could use this service, especially with the closing of the land-

fill in town,” said Guzman.

In the future, Guzman hopes the program will be able to reach a greater audience of residents in town. He also hopes to orchestrate donation of wood chips to local farms, noting that evergreen trees are of particular use to goat farmers. This year, trees were chipped and handled by the Town of Granby Highway Dept.

Troop 306 organized tree pickups through online registration on their website, but on Jan. 9 scoured the streets of Granby, picking up trees they found left outside regardless of registration.

“We tried to broadcast this as well as possible, with flyers around town and by getting the word out in the media, but we certainly hope we can help more people next year,” said Guzman.

A \$5 donation was recommended for tree pickup, but not required. Donations will fund future programs for the Granby Scouts.