



February 4, 2011
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SHERIFF KOUTOUJIAN'S INMATE WORK CREW CLEARS POLICE STATION ROOF AND GROUNDS

On Thursday, February 3, and Friday, February 4 the Middlesex Sheriff's Office Community Work Program worked at the Billerica Police Department and around Billerica removing snow from fire hydrants and from the Police Department's flat roof. This service, provided at no cost to the town, saved more than \$10,000 in labor costs.

On Saturday and Sunday inmate work crews will be removing snow from schools in Tewksbury, Boxborough, Winchester and Reading.

Sheriff Peter Koutoujian visited the Billerica Police Station today with Police Chief Dan Rosa.

"This winter, with so many towns battling frozen streets and frozen coffers, the Middlesex Sheriff's Office is helping dig out on both fronts by providing innovative and cost-effective public safety resources," said Middlesex Sheriff Peter Koutoujian. "Recent roof collapses across the region have highlighted the need to protect the structural integrity of public buildings from this season's heavy snow fall. Strong community partnerships help address unique public safety situations with unique public safety solutions."

The inmate work crews are part of the Middlesex Sheriff's Office Community Work Program, which provides free labor via non-violent inmates to public buildings and organizations. Under the supervision of correctional officers, the program teaches inmates the value of a hard days work while saving taxpayer money. Inmates involved in the program are from the minimum security facility at the Middlesex House of Correction in Billerica. They go through a rigorous screening process and caseworker review to ensure communities the safest, most trustworthy workers available. All inmates classified as eligible for this program are nearing the end of their sentence. Work projects do not displace any public or private employees, nor do they interfere with union or the public bidding processes.

On average, the Community Work Program saves Middlesex County communities a combined \$1 million a year.

Photos of Inmates shoveling in Billerica are attached.

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