



January 31, 2011
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SHERIFF KOUTOUJIAN'S INMATE WORK CREW CLEARS SCHOOL ROOF, SAVES TOWN MONEY

On Saturday, January 29, 2011 at 8:30am, the Middlesex Sheriff's Office Community Work Program arrived at 139 Pleasant Street in Tewksbury, MA for a snow removal roof project for the Tewksbury School Department. The crew spent two days removing the snow from the flat roofs of 4 town schools. This service, provided at no cost to the town, saved an estimated \$15,000 - \$19,000 in labor costs to the town of Tewksbury.

Starting Monday, January 31, 2011, the Community Work Program will be at Dracut Housing Authority, where they will remove snow from low level apartment roofs and will shovel the grounds, saving an estimated \$4,000-\$5,000. The project will last approximately one week.

“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 like the ones with Tewksbury and Dracut 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 a school roof in Tewksbury are attached.

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