



February 3, 2011
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SHERIFF KOUTOUJIAN'S INMATE WORK CREW CLEARS BOYS & GIRLS CLUB / POLICE STATION ROOF AND GROUNDS

On Thursday, February 3, 2011, the Middlesex Sheriff's Office Community Work Program arrived at the Assabet Valley Boys & Girls Club in Maynard for a snow removal roof project. The crew spent the day removing the snow from the flat roof and grounds. This service, provided at no cost to the town or organization, saved an estimated \$2,000 in labor costs.

Also today an inmate work crew visited the Billerica Police Department to shovel snow off of the flat roof at that location. The crew will return to the Police Department at 8 Good Street on Friday morning. Crews also spent today clearing snow from fire hydrants in Billerica and Lowell. Saturday and Sunday inmate work crews will be removing snow from schools in Tewksbury and Reading.

"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 Maynard a are attached.

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