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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **SHERIFF'S OFFICE INMATE LABOR PROGRAM ASSISTS HOWELL TOWNSHIP**

**Howell Township:** The Monmouth County Sheriff's Office Inmate Labor Program was in full operation in Howell Township to assist with landscaping and debris cleanup at the Howell Township Municipal Complex. During the week of April 13, five inmates were transported to Howell Township from the Monmouth County Correctional Institutional where they trimmed hedges, mulched and cleared branches from the area. The Monmouth County Sheriff's Office Inmate Labor Program offers much needed assistance to towns and helps lessen financial burdens they face due to budget constraints.

"I'm glad the sheriff's office is able to provide such a valuable resource to municipalities through our Inmate Labor Program," said Sheriff Shaun Golden. "The use of inmate labor to assist with the cleanup of our communities and storm damage recovery is a cost savings example of shared services."

Offenders incarcerated for minor offenses with records of good behavior are eligible to be a part of the program. Inmates who enroll in the program participate in work projects as an alternative to spending their time in jail.

Last year, 1300 hours were dedicated to working on a range of projects through the Inmate Labor Program.

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The sheriff's office transports and provides the security of the inmate labor crews. Requests for inmate labor teams are made to the program coordinator, Medora Morris, and are evaluated in terms of the needs and feasibility of the project.

"This program not only helps the towns save money on labor but also assists the work crew in giving back to society," said Sheriff Golden.

"This is a great example of government agencies working together," said Deputy Mayor Rob Nicastro, Howell Township. "I commend the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office for maintaining this much needed program."

Past inmate labor projects have included cleanup from storm damage recovery, carpentry, painting, working with parks and public works departments and the restoration of historic sites including a Civil War era cemetery.

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