



Secure & Prepared

Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management

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Artifacts unearthed during construction of new U of I building

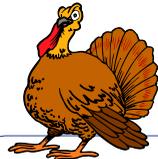
It seemed like a fairly routine project. To demolish two bank buildings and a parking lot in order to create space for the new University of Iowa School of Music. No one expected to find anything unique during excavation. After all, the ground had been previously disturbed and additional fill had been brought in to build the banks during the 1970s and '80s.

In August 2013 the excavators came across the remains of what turned out to be a cistern. Because of a programmatic agreement that was signed for Disaster 1763 (2008 floods) between FEMA, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD), and the State Historic Preserva-



Excavators meticulously scour the earth for artifacts at U of I building site. Photo by Justine Zimmer, HSEMD.

tion Office (SHPO), certain procedures had to be followed. The discovery of the cistern
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Happy THANKSgiving!

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called for a halt in the excavation until the remains had been analyzed by qualified archaeologists for historic significance.

That's when the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) stepped up to the plate. With their office conveniently located a mere three blocks away from the excavation site, a team of archeologists evaluated the contents of the cistern. Although it was determined to not be of significant historic value, after consultation between FEMA Environmental Historic Preservation staff, SHPO, OSA and HSEMD, it was decided that it would be prudent to have an archeologist on site to monitor for further discoveries during excavation.

After several more cisterns were found, the excavation crew "hit the jackpot" with the discovery of a well, two privies (outhouses) and the limestone foundation of a 5-by-9-foot structure.

The new University of Iowa School of Music building will replace the one destroyed in the floods of 2008. Construction is scheduled for completion in May 2016 and will cost roughly \$98 million. Major delays in construction could cause major cost increases. In what could have been a very tense situation, everyone came to the table to do the right thing in an efficient manner. The university, construction company, and state and federal stakehold-

ers came to the mutual decision that proper documentation and immediate removal of the artifacts would be the most prudent way to proceed.

With the team of archaeologists and the construction company working in tandem, what was projected to be a two-week process was completed in less than five days. The collaborative effort often combined the archaeologist's expertise with the equipment and finesse of the construction company's excavators. The sites were excavated, mapped and photographed so they could be virtually reassembled off site. The artifacts removed were tagged and bagged for further analysis back at the State Archeologist's lab. It is essential to the process that the artifacts be meticulously recorded

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Top: The U of I building site. Middle: A well found on the site. Bottom: Limestone foundation of 5-by-9 structure found at the site. Photos by Justine Zimmer, HSEMD.

It's not too late to get your flu shot

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) reports that three strains of flu are circulating in Iowa. Without a flu vaccination, an individual could become ill with the flu three different times. The flu vaccine covers all three strains that have been detected.

"Simply put, the flu vaccine saves lives," said IDPH Medical Director, Dr. Patricia Quinlisk. "We estimate an average of 300,000 Iowans get the flu every year and together, flu and its complication of pneumonia are among the top 10 causes of death in Iowa. The most effective way to prevent influenza illness and death is the yearly flu vaccine."

IDPH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend annual influenza vaccinations for everyone six months of age and older. It's especially important to be vaccinated if you have regular contact with people

more vulnerable to the complications of flu, including babies, children with asthma, and the elderly. IDPH also recommends pregnant women be vaccinated to protect themselves, and to pass on some immunity to their baby.

The flu is a serious respiratory illness caused by viruses. The flu comes on suddenly and symptoms may include fever, headache, tiredness, cough, sore throat, nasal congestion, and body aches. Illness typically lasts two to seven days, and often puts healthy people in bed for days.

Contact your health care provider or local health department to find out where the vaccine is available in your community or use the Flu Vaccine Finder at www.flu.gov.

[Source: Iowa Department of Public Health] Ω



ON THE CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

Thanksgiving Day (28)*
Day after Thanksgiving (29)*

DECEMBER

International Day of Persons with Disability (3)
Christmas Day (25)*

JANUARY

New Year's Day (1)*
National Volunteer Blood Donor Month
National Radon Action Month
Hazardous Materials Awareness Week (19-25)
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (20)*

**State holiday.
HSEMD offices will be closed.*

Artifacts unearthed at U of I construction site

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and diagrammed. In a recent article in the Iowa City Press Citizen, State Archaeologist John Doershuk stated that context is what tells the story. If an item is excavated from a dig site but its context isn't recorded, "you lose the story."

Extraction of the artifacts is just the beginning. The items will need to be cleaned, catalogued, researched and analyzed. Future

plans include an educational public exhibit discussing the early history of Iowa City. A memorandum of agreement will be established by FEMA, HSEMD and the SHPO that will encompass the scope of work to process the artifacts and data and provide funds necessary to complete the project.

[Submitted by Justine Zimmer, Public Assistance lead, HSEMD] Ω

Training opportunities

Emergency Management Program Development

When: Dec. 5-6
8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Where: Polk County EOC
1907 Carpenter Ave.
Des Moines

This course is open to all Iowa county coordinators, and outlines the partnership between the State and locals.

Register at <http://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/training>. For more information, contact: **Susan Green** (susan.green@iowa.gov) or **Beth Lewis** (beth.lewis@iowa.gov) at 515.725.3231, or **AJ Mumm** at 515.286.2107.



ALERT Level I

When: Dec. 7-8
8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Where: Pella

The 16-hour operator-level course includes intense teaching, role-playing and in-depth explanation of the curriculum.

For more information, contact: **Lt. Paul Haase** at 515.725.3231.

HSEEP Refresher Course

When: Jan. 9, 2014
9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Where: Buena Vista County EOC
411 Expansion Blvd.
Storm Lake

This four-hour course will review HSEEP methodology and terminology. You must have prior HSEEP training to attend this course.

Register at <http://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/training>. For more information, contact: **Steve Warren** (steve.warren@iowa.gov) or **Beth Lewis** (beth.lewis@iowa.gov) at 515.725.3231. Ω

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HSEMD MISSION

Lead, coordinate, and support homeland security and emergency management functions in order to establish sustainable communities and ensure economic opportunities for Iowa and its citizens.

Secure & Prepared is published for those involved in the homeland security/emergency management system in the state of Iowa. For more information, contact Stefanie Bond at stefanie.bond@iowa.gov.

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