



Rick Staly, Sheriff

FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

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UPDATE: FCSO PAUSES EXCAVATION at TOSCANA CONSTRUCTION SITE

Today, FCSO, FDLE and the ME's Office temporarily paused further excavation of human remains at the Toscana construction site. FCSO and our partners have been working to recover human remains that were discovered by construction workers. A number of skeletal bones and fragments have been recovered.

FCSO detectives have been consulting with the University of South Florida (USF), Anthropology Department. USF has extensive experience and specialized equipment in conducting large scale excavations. In 2014 USF led the excavation of bodies at Florida's infamous Arthur G. Dozier School for Boys. A team from USF along with specialized equipment is anticipated to arrive on Tuesday, July 26, 2022 to assist.

"Because of the size of the construction site, the number of large piles and the amount of dirt that has been moved around throughout the site we needed specialized equipment and a faster process," said Sheriff Rick Staly. "USF developed specialized equipment and experience during the excavation at the boy's school and offered to assist. Their equipment should greatly speed up the process and ensure no remains are missed."

During this temporary pause, FCSO deputies will remain on-site 24-hours a day to secure the area and FCSO equipment. The public is reminded this area is considered a crime scene and anyone trying to enter the site will be arrested for a felony.

ORIGINAL NEWS RELEASE BELOW:

HUMAN REMAINS UNEARTHED

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Sheriff Staly, Detectives, FCSO ERT and CSI and FDLE CSI on scene sifting for additional remains

On Monday, July 18, 2022, at approximately 4:43 PM, Eden’s Site Development called the Flagler County Sheriff’s Office in reference to a human bone that was located while excavating new residential building sites in the Toscana Community on Old Kings Road.

FCSO Community Policing Division and Investigators photographed the bone and sent it to the Medical Examiner’s Office, which believed the bone to be a human bone. Deputies responded to the scene and additional skeletal remains were located in the freshly excavated area. The Medical Examiner responded and collected the skeletal remains and indicated the remains were human.

The investigation continued today by members of the FCSO Investigative Services Division, CSI, Emergency Response Team (ERT) and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. We are still early in the investigation as we work to identify and determine a cause of death.

“We are going to remain on scene until we are able to determine the identity of the person and exactly what happened.” Sheriff Rick Staly said. “At this time we won’t know how these remains got there or if this was a homicide, natural death or suicide. We will do everything we can to identify the remains and bring closure to a family.”

Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

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