Burton Tower renovation Q&A
June 11, 2010

What kind of work is being done at Burton Tower?

Burton Tower will undergo interior and exterior work to repair the building’s stonework, replace metal flashing and repair the metal framework supporting the carillon. A majority of the work being done is on the upper third of the tower.

When will construction begin?

Construction is scheduled to begin in August and should be completed in the summer of 2011.

How much will the project cost?

The project will cost an estimated $1.6 million.

When was the last time work was done on the tower?

Emergency repairs were last made to the tower in 2008 to fix cracking and falling limestone.

Will the construction have any impact on the peregrine falcons?

A phased construction schedule has been proposed to work around the nesting season of the peregrine falcons that have been regularly sighted on Burton Tower.

What has the university done to determine whether or not there is a nest on the tower?

In addition to consulting with local wildlife groups and MDNR, the university hired environmental and wildlife consultants to perform field observations to determine if the falcons are nesting. An egg was discovered in the east gutter. Experts say that it is highly unlikely that the egg is viable due to the unsuitable nesting conditions on the tower. Another survey will be conducted in July before construction begins.

What does a peregrine falcon look like?

The peregrine falcon is relatively large for a falcon, with a wingspan of 41 inches. Its body is stocky, with pointed wings and a short tail. The adult falcon has a slate gray back, white breast, finely barred underparts, a black cap, white cheek patch and distinctive dark, heavy “sideburns”.
**Are the peregrine falcons endangered?**

Peregrine falcons are no longer a federally listed species but are still a state listed species. They remain protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and under the Michigan Endangered Species Act (Part 365, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, P.A. 451 of 1994) as an endangered species.

**What is a typical nesting season for the falcons?**

The typical nesting season for southern Michigan includes: 3-4 eggs laid from late March through mid-April; incubation lasts 33-35 days; fledging (leaving the nesting location) occurs 35-42 days later.

**Has the university considered the use of nest boxes to help redirect the falcons off Burton Tower?**

DNR has asked the university to consider the use of nest boxes on campus. The university is in the process of exploring this but no final decisions have been made at this time.

More information about the falcons that have been spotted at Burton Tower can be found on U-M Department of Zoology's Web site: [http://www.umzz.lsa.umich.edu/birds/peregrine/um-peregrines.html](http://www.umzz.lsa.umich.edu/birds/peregrine/um-peregrines.html).

Additional information about peregrines can be found on the MDNRE Web site: [http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10370_12145_12202-32592---00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10370_12145_12202-32592---00.html)

If you have additional questions about the Burton Tower project and the falcons, please contact us at: BurtonTowerProject@umich.edu.