

Spotlight: The Carver Events Center

There has been a school in Carver almost since the beginning. In 1894, there was a one-room schoolhouse typical of many small Western communities. That was quickly replaced and by 1909 a larger structure welcomed a growing student body. But the town continued to grow, so yet another school needed to be built.

Today's Carver School building — the third school to be established in Carver — offers a fine example of classical revival architecture, a common style for public buildings in the early years of the 20th century. Built in 1936, the Carver School's two classrooms offered instruction for the elementary grades until 1956, when it was absorbed by the Clackamas School District. As Carver grew, local students began to bus to other school locations for part of their grade school journey.

Eventually, the school district decided the building no longer met students' needs and sold the building in 1985 to alumni citizens wanting to use the building as a Community Center. From



1985 until 2009, it was used variously as a charter school, an arts school, and even a set for the Grimm TV show when it filmed in the area.

With time, with flood damage, and as the roof went unrepaired, the building and grounds fell into disuse.

In 2016, the Carver School was purchased by the current owners. Following a full renovation,

The history of the classic school building has been carefully preserved, as former education spaces meet new needs today.



the building re-opened and has a new life now as the Carver Event Center.

Today, the property offers a diversity of settings for weddings, corporate meetings or retreats, reunions, and other special occasions, for both small and large groups. Outdoor events are hosted on the grounds, with everything from a green lawn to a rock garden. Handicap access is available for those with mobility issues.

Inside, the hallways where students used to run are now lined by class photos from years past, highlighting the change in school fashions over many years. The large classrooms and oversize



chalkboards still welcome folks to gather for assemblies or creativity. The gym — once a backdrop for class photos when it wasn't being used for recreation — now serves as the largest ballroom, dining venue and dance floor. The stage still sits to one side, and is wired for sound and projectors for DJs and playlists.

The basement houses a catering kitchen (foods are cooked elsewhere but kept warm, plated and served from here), and lounge areas for brides and grooms to relax and prepare before their big day, or for breakout meeting areas for business events.

