

## Carus Schoolhouse: Fundraiser set to get transformation started



For the historic Carus Schoolhouse, and those who sought to save it in 2023, having the piece of area history resting in its new home is only part of the journey.

There's more to do and, organizers hope, more people to offer help.

The schoolhouse, formerly located at the corner of Highway 213 and Carus Road, narrowly escaped demolition last summer. Leading the community effort to save the building was The Friends of the Carus Historic Schoolhouse, a local nonprofit devoted to saving and restoring the schoolhouse.

To avoid the wrecking ball, the group had to relocate the building prior to fully raising the funds to cover the costs. The move happened over the summer, which brings the project to the here and now.

“With the schoolhouse safely moved to its new home at Evans Farms just over a mile away, now begins the work to transform this building into a community center for all to enjoy,” said Stefanie Agar, one of the “Friends.”

And that means fundraising. To that end, the group hopes to raise funds for a new foundation and complete the cost of the initial move via a silent and live auction event on Saturday, Feb. 24, at the Stone Creek Golf Club (14603 S. Stoneridge Dr., Oregon City). The event kicks off at 5 p.m.

For more information or to buy tickets, go to the website at [CarusHistoricSchoolhouse.org](https://CarusHistoricSchoolhouse.org).

In all, Agar estimated that the project still needs \$80,000 to finish paying for the move, then expects to need another \$250,000 to \$500,000 to finish the renovations.

## What's happening with the building now?

Foundation plans have been submitted to Clackamas County and “The Friends” are actively working with the county to make any adjustments necessary for its approval.

The foundation for the schoolhouse will be built in two phases. The first phase will remove the steel beams and build a structure that will both support the building until phase two can be implemented while being part of the final foundation structure.

“Our goal for this year’s fundraiser auction is to raise funds to both cover our outstanding moving costs and implement phase one of the foundation,” noted Agar.

## How it all came about

Carus Elementary has been in need of improved parking for years.

With the passage of the bond in May 2020, the Canby School District finally had the funds to make those improvements. The decision was made to either sell the building to someone who could move it or demolish it.

The Friends of the Carus Historic Schoolhouse have been working since fall of 2022 to ensure the building’s safe relocation. This 1926 Craftsman style two-room schoolhouse would eventually be moved to Evans Farms, whose lineage includes Clarence Evans, one of the original builders of the school.

