

Woodstock Community Unit School District 200

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Woodstock High School to celebrate Centennial Sept. 25

Current and former Blue Streaks as well as the general public are invited to help Woodstock High School Celebrate its 100th anniversary on Sept. 25.

The South Street building was constructed in 1921, but organizers pushed the celebration into the 2022-23 school year to avoid potential COVID-19 disruptions. A team of current and former staff and students helped organize the events to be held starting at 2 pm at Woodstock High School.

“As a Blue Streak alumnus, the third generation in my family to attend Woodstock High School, and the father of a recent graduate, I know what this school has meant to so many in our community and to those graduates who’ve moved elsewhere. It’s a place that we’re all very proud of,” said Mike Moan, Superintendent of Woodstock Community Unit School District 200.

Over the past two years, volunteers and students have collected and organized a century’s worth of school memorabilia and set aside a dedicated alumni room full of photographs, trophies, yearbooks and other Blue Streaks keepsakes. The Alumni Room will be open for public viewing on Sept. 25.

One of the biggest highlights of the 100th Anniversary event is the celebration of the first recipients of the WHS Distinguished Alumni Award. Matt Boland, assistant principal of WHS, said the award recognizes individuals who’ve exemplified the school’s vision “to be better than we were yesterday; to strive for and expect excellence.”

The awards will be presented to nominees who have demonstrated “significant and noteworthy accomplishments in their chosen careers and/or have made positive contributions to society.”

This year’s WHS Distinguished Alumni include:

- **Sgt. Salvador Carbajal**, Class of 2008, who joined the U.S. Marines upon graduation and was eventually promoted to Gunnery Sergeant. He has been deployed 4 times and has lived in numerous places throughout the world, but he still calls Woodstock home. Carbajal is the primary Marines recruiter in the McHenry County area

- **Bradley Corson**, valedictorian of the Class of 1979, has been a high-ranking executive at ExxonMobil among other ventures in the oil and gas industry all over the world for several decades after graduating from Auburn University in 1983. The former Eagle Scout has been a volunteer and board member dedicating significant time to various non-profits, including the Boy Scouts of America.
- **Nancy (Swartout) Larson**, Class of 1974, toured Europe with a dance troupe upon graduation and became a teacher in Lake Geneva following her graduation from Illinois State University. She later established child care programs for the U.S. Army and won an Army Excellence Award for her efforts. Larson also devoted volunteer time for school supply and food drives as well as a local animal shelter.

In addition to the alumni recognition, there will be performances by the high school band, choir, and orchestra, and visitors may tour the building, which has undergone significant changes over the decades.