

WORKSHOP

REVIVAL

Residents make the workshop workable

By Ellie Starks

If you happened through the East garage in the last few months, you likely saw the light on in the workshop. In February and March, residents Dave VonWald and Pat Poulson took it upon themselves to revamp the workshop.

"I saw it was a total mess. You couldn't find anything," said Dave. "If I'm working here, I want a nice place to work. And for it to be safe for others.

The couple took it upon themselves to give the workshop a makeover. "Pat and I have done six other workshops," Dave said. "We have experience!"

Their goal was for the space to be handy – to be able to see where things are.

The first order of business? Take everything out. Then there were things to be added, moved, and modified.

Repurposing

"There were sagging shelves not safe to stack things on," Pat said. The new shelves are made of old bandwagon materials that Dave got for giveaway.

He moved a counter from the far wall to just inside the door, with plenty of storage space underneath. He donated some carts from his garage at their former residence. He added a top and wheels to some of the lockers to make them in to rolling benches. They painted cabinets.

They found an old aquarium stand in a dumpster, cut it in half, and made a router table with tip-down sides. "We're scroungers!" said Pat. Behind the far bench, Dave built a wall out of an old bed frame.

Dave also fixed some equipment: he added a rubber foot to the belt sander and rewired it. "A lot of these things were here. We just found them and put them up."

And peg board! They knew they wanted a peg board for hanging tools.



New pegboard provides organization



Pat Poulson and Dave VonWald

For Everybody

"We want this to be usable for anybody," they said. "You need nails? Screws? We got 'em." Everything is on wheels so it can be moved it around for use, and then stored again.

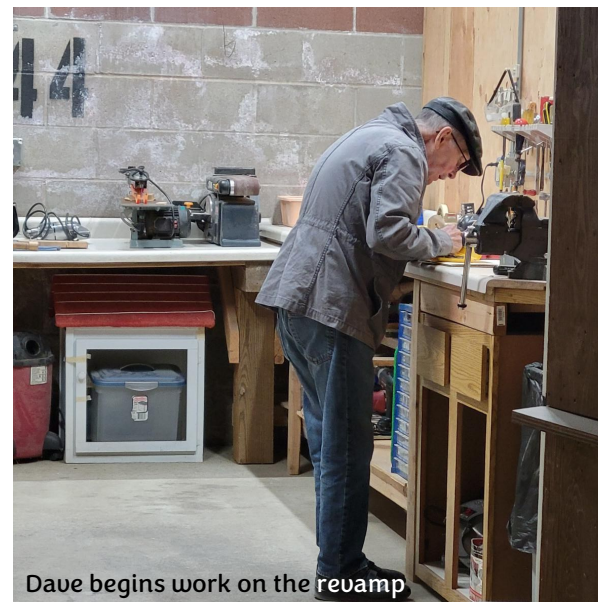
There are two wood vises and two metal vises. Carts have locking wheels. Other residents have been bringing items, too. "We took any doors off because we want people to see what's in there," Pat said.

There are only three rules for using the workshop:

1. You must sign the liability waiver (found in your Welcome Packet or at the front desk).
2. No flammables allowed.
3. Please clean up after yourself.

What's next for Dave and Pat? They won't do projects for people, but they will teach folks how to use the tools. Stop down and check out this space!

Thank you, Dave and Pat, for giving of your time, energy and expertise to improve this important part of Shorewood!



Dave begins work on the revamp