



SPOTLIGHT ON...the Woodshop

Editor's note: this is the first in a series of articles highlighting the many park activities available to residents)

One of the greatest assets of Trails End Park is its woodworking shop. Few other mobile home parks in the Valley can boast of having a woodshop comparable to ours. Located on the east end of the Main Hall, the shop occupies several hundred square feet and boasts three 4 by 8 foot tables that can accommodate several projects at any given time. The shop has a large quantity of professional woodworking tools including a large table saw, planer, joiners, routers, nailers, several belt and drum sanders and band saws, and numerous other hand and precision power tools. All you need to bring are your ideas and materials. The shop is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and is always staffed with a knowledgeable shop monitor to guide you with advice and help in using the tools.

The shop is do-it-yourself oriented. Shop monitors do not do the work. Rather they assist in solving problems, monitoring safety, and educating and assisting users in how to work with materials and use the tools properly. If you don't know how to use a tool, the shop monitor will provide instruction and help you with your project until you can do it yourself safely and properly.

The shop isn't just for park residents who have a personal project they want to complete. Many activities and facilities in the park owe thanks to the woodshop for things that have been built, modified, upgraded, or maintained. Anything in the park that's made with wood has been affected in some degree by the woodshop. Some examples include:



- The "noodle dispenser" at the pool
- Animated Trails End logo sign visible at the park entrance
- Table lamps and furniture built and donated to park raffles and silent auctions
- Decorative landscaping solar lamp holders
- Various shelves and utensil holders in kitchen area
- New poker tables for the Card Hall
- Birdhouse reconstruction and rehabilitations

Despite all these great things the woodshop does and has done, it still remains a sort of mystery to some residents. Last year, the

woodshop was noted prominently during the Meet & Greet with demonstrations by various shop users showing products produced for the park. While there is no Meet & Greet scheduled for this year, the shop continues to support a variety of projects and efforts within the park. How the shop operates is strictly above board. It is run and governed by the provisions and rules of the Trails End Club constitution. Some call it a "club" when referring to the shop but the woodshop is not an actual club (the Constitution prohibits it). It is a part of the entire Trails End Club and as such is open for use by ANYONE in the park. And contrary to an often surfacing rumor, the woodshop is not a mancave. Many women have used the shop to build doll furniture, magazine racks, toilet paper roll holders, landscaping solar light ornaments, etc., etc. Everyone is encouraged to use the shop as much as possible. There is no cost to residents to use the facility and as mentioned before, no charge for consumables such as fasteners, glue or even scrap wood. The only requirement is that users sign in on a liability release statement form.

Want to know what (and why) is going on? Got something in mind you'd like to build? Stop in the shop for a visit. Get to know what's available. Ask what we're doing. Get to know the folks and discuss your ideas with a knowledgeable shop monitor who can help you get started on that dream project of yours.