Thursday, February 23, 2023

An annual report to our community about our community

yourdailyglobe.com

## And then there's Maud's

## St. Maud's offers community workshop in Pence

By P.J. GLISSON news@yourdulyglobe.com

PENCE, Wis. - You've got a great idea, but is it worth buying a bunch of tools and making the space to do it?

That question was posed by Karl Zinsmaster in relation to people who can envision a small construction project, but don't have the means to follow through

Now they do, thanks to Saint Maud's, a community workshop that Zinsmaster opened in Pence, Wisconsin, in May of last year.

Clients of the community workshop can use the space, along with its extensive selection of tools, by paying a daily, monthly or annual fee. A "studio space" also can be rented for exclusive use. In addition, clients may hire Zinsmaster to act as a guide for whatever projects they under-

Zinsmaster shared his journey and his vision with The Globe last week.

After being born and raised in Pence, he moved in 2005 to earn a degree in furniture design at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. He then engaged in an artist's residency at the Parsons School of Design within The New School, a university in New York City.

After his studies, he stayed in the city to work for awhile in design and fabrication before returning to Minneapolis for employment as a designer and creative director.

The previous 15 or so years spent in bigger cities was growing old, and I was ready to invest in



WITHIN A community workshop known as Saint Maud's, Karl Zinsmaster uses a bandsaw to create a "blank" for a wooden spoon. The facility owned by Zinsmaster and his father, Charlie Zinsmaster, is in Pence, Wisconsin. The photo was taken on Feb. 17.

my own community," said Zins- ated as a church for about two family in this region also drew him back.

"I was just kind of burned out, staring at a computer all day and not working with my hands," he said, adding that the COVID-19 pandemic also inspired a lot of questions about his place in corporate America.

Meanwhile, previous Catholic church had come up for sale in Pence, so he and his father, Charlie Zinsmaster, decided to buy it.

'It's always been this cool building that's just been sitting here," continued Karl Zinsmaster of the structure that had not operreduced to blight or snowmobile

He now is pleased that he can apply all of the knowledge he gained in his career to help people here to discover their own hidden talents: 'My primary directive is to

make this type of space or equipment or knowledge accessible to anyone," he said of the shop that still retains the former church's stained-glass windows.

He emphasized that everyone has capabilities, given the chance. to explore them. Everyone can kind of surprise themselves," he assured.

Moreover, he said the process master, who added that his own decades. "I didn't want to see it of creating an item builds "a different level of respect" and might even result in it becoming an heirloom.

> Regarding his prior corporate work, Zinsmaster said, "You're limited by your clients' imagination," whereas now he can encourage creative or even 'weird' explorations.

"We can come up with really fun, strange things," he noted of anyone choosing to use Saint

Clint Wood of Gile is a woodworker and owner of Sundial Craft, and he's been operating out of his own dedicated space at Saint Maud's since it opened

"It's been awesome," said Wood, "It's kind of changed my life, really, having a workshop, being able to work inside in the winter."

Wood, whose business card urges people to "work hard - stay playful, was constructing a bookcase that also will be used as a door.

He added that working at Saint Maud's has opened up connections as well.

"Just the energy of being here is really good for your soul," said Zinsmaster, who added that one of his other studio space renters

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St. Maud's

From page 1 is a hobbyist.

As for lumber to create any desired project, Zinsmaster said, "Depending on your project, it's probably best just to buy your own, bring your own."

But he added that Saint Maud's also can supply such materials at a cut rate or can advise on needed supplies. For small projects, we almost always have some sort of scrap

around," he said.

Zinsmaster also is starting to create opportunities for area youth.

"I do a monthly 4-H woodworking class with nine kids in the class, and that's been working out really great," he said, adding

**PROGRESS** that it's fun for the kids.

Zinsmaster also hopes to start teaching sessions for kids by using a Scandinavian method that teaches them "resilience" and "life

skills." As he explained of the approach, "It's teaching kids how to be functional members of society and well-adjusted people through the craft of woodworking. I'm still working on fundraising a little bit."

Zinsmaster said he is the only "technical" employee of the facility. Although his parents are retired, he said that his father "helps out on an asneeded basis" and that his mom, Carol Zinsmaster, teaches a class in wooden spoon crafting.

He added that his father worked extensively with him to renovate the building and to open the business. One huge project was removing old linoleum and carpeting and then refinishing the wood flooring.

"Right now, I've got 2,000 square feet," said Zinsmaster. There's still another 2,500 square feet that I'll continue to renovate." That includes basement space.

According to the Wisconsin State Historical THE GLOBE . YOURDAILYGLOBE.COM



P.J. Glason/The Globe

SHOWN HERE on Feb. 17, Saint Maud's — a community workshop — is the former St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Pence.

Society, the former St. Anthony's Catholic Church was built in 1934.

There's a story behind the inspiration for the name Saint Maud's.

"The name came from my dog, but her name came from the Patron Saint of Misbehaving Children," said Zinsmaster, who explained that his dog died at the age of 12 just before he bought the property.

Hence, he said, "It seemed fitting to name it in her honor."

Saint Mand's hours are listed as noon to 6 p.m.

Tuesday through Saturday, but Zinsmaster urges anyone wishing to use the facility to call first or to book online at the facility's website, which also has details about pricing and an option to attend Fix-lt Fridays."

Zinsmaster also hopes to participate in some of Ironwood's First Friday events.

Saint Maud's is located at 6699 Hebert St., on the corner of Birch Street, in Pence. For more information, visit saintmauds.com or call 715-391-9798.



WITHIN SAINT Maud's, Proprietor Karl Zinsmaster, at right, discusses the latest project of Clint Wood, at left, who rents a studio space in the facility.



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