

FERNS PICKLE BARREL E-News \*\*Issue 07\*\*

The free e-news that gives you the latest lowdown on happenings at Ferns Country Store and musings heard 'round the pickle barrel.

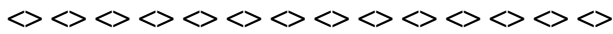
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FERNS COUNTRY STORE

We're right heah in the village center™

Carlisle, Massachusetts

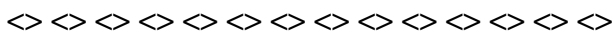
Robin Emerson & Larry Bearfield, Proprietors

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March 12, 2005



Sometimes we forget quiet people can be more important than loud people, because we don't hear them.

-Lester Scruggs

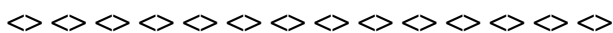


Yet another edition of the Ferns Country Store PICKLE BARREL E-News! You've made our email list along with a host of other curious characters either because you signed up or because we figured you'd be interested. Remember - our E-News is an old-fashioned word document with no heavy graphics because things are simple here at Ferns... just like life used to be. The PICKLE BARREL E-News is published on an irregular schedule dictated by newsworthy news and time for us to send it out (more the later then the former.) Your friends and snowplowguy can sign up by simply sending an email to: [Larry@FernsCountryStore.com](mailto:Larry@FernsCountryStore.com) Want off the list? Send a note and it'll be done. See how easy we are?

Ferns never gives out, sells, rents or trades it's email list. As we always say "What happens at Ferns, stays at Ferns."

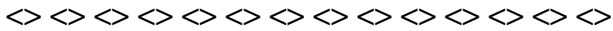
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Spring is coming. We promise. However, as I sit here finishing up this edition of the PICKLE BARREL E-News, outside my office window huge snowflakes are gently drifting to the ground in yet another snowstorm. In fact, the flakes are so huge that they look like white feathers! We're like everyone else, enough already. We're ready for spring. But this IS New England after all and winter will be over when it's over. In the meantime, consider what my old Italian Grandfather used to call these late snows: 'poor man's fertilizer.' There was wisdom in the old ways. Bundle up and c'mon down to the store for a cup of coffee. We're open. Even during these snowstorms.

Larry & Robin



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1. FERNS GOES HI-TECH.... Well, sorta... [www.FernsCountryStore.com](http://www.FernsCountryStore.com) is up and running! But it's not one of those real fancy websites with all sorts of bells, whistles and doodads... we ARE just a country store after all. It IS chock full of stuff you need to know and what we think you need to know. We won't go into details except to say that it DOES contain an answer to one of the most frequently asked questions we receive "So why did you name Ferns 'Ferns'???" The full story is now revealed! Check out the site and let us know what you think. We consider it a work in progress so stay tuned for more. We want to give special credit and thanks to Carlisle native Justin Shay of Breakwall Internet who designed and did all of the things behind the scenes that make a website work. We think he did a fab job!

2. GRAB YOUR MOSQUITO.... Check out the back page of this week's Carlisle Mosquito... In response to the oft asked question "how late are you open" we've provided you with a handy info ad that boldly states our hours and phone number for call ahead ordering. Simply cut out the ad along the dotted lines and stick it to your refrigerator or Family Info Center. As an added bonus, give your budding Rembrandt some crayons and let him/her color the ad... The fern leaf is light green, the background is....

3. GRETA'S HOME.... As you may recall, after a tangle with some unknown animal thug last month, our little grouse friend Greta was treated and cared for by Edie, a MassWildlife Certified Rehab Specialist. We're happy to report that Greta was recently released back into her territory Our lovely neighbor Bridget sent an email reporting: "Greta has been at our house most of this weekend and she was on the back porch again this morning. She seems to be content with the food, water, sun and cover next to the foundation. When I went out to speak to her, she moved away quickly. With reason, she's wary and I guess it's a good thing. She was quite puffed up against the cold so I couldn't really assess her injuries, or the healing thereof. No blood though, feathers coming in, and she can fly. That's all to the good...."

Bridget shot some photos of Greta that I'm hoping to get up on our website soon... along with photos of a local male grouse that has apparently taken a shine to her! In the meantime, we have a photo of her at the store that you can check out.

We also want to offer our appreciation to Edie for her care in nursing Greta back to health. FYI, all MassWildlife Certified Rehab Specialists are volunteers and personally pay for all expenses including cage building and feed costs. While they cannot ask for donations we can ask for them. If you're interested in giving you can send a check to Thoreau Farm, 350 Sudbury Road, Concord, MA 01742... Mention Greta... Thanks!

4. TIME TO GIVE BACK.... As you know, our Town is driven by the involvement of the hundreds of volunteers who generously give their time to our Town Boards, Commissions, youth groups, elder programs, etc. On Monday, Mar 14, 7:00 pm at Town Hall, our annual Town Caucus will convene to accept nominations for elected officials. A number of slots are open ranging from Selectman and Board of Health to the Planning Board. Check out the Mosquito for more info.

As an added bonus, in April, Ferns Country Store will begin our Appreciation Card Program... on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of every month, Elected and Appointed Carlisle Officials will receive 10% off coffee/teas, baked goods, sandwiches/subs & soups! How's them apples? You get the inner satisfaction of giving as well as the inner satisfaction of eating! A true two-fer. It's our way of saying 'thank you for your service.' Stay tuned for more info!

5. FAREWELL TO OUR THIS OLD HOUSE FRIENDS!... It's hard to believe that it's been over a year since TOH came to town... It was about the same time we took over the store so we've shared a fun journey. We want to offer our sincere thanks to the crew for choosing us as their Official Production Catering Company. That they chose to keep their business local was appreciated. Over the past year we served up hundreds of sandwiches, cookies, brownies, sodas and mucho, mucho, mucho lbs of our world-famous Chili, New England Clam Chowder and soups! But most importantly we made some terrific friends! Thank you Bruce, Debbie, David, Norm, Tommy, Roger, Richard, Dino, Beth, Dudley and the rest behind the scenes... And a special thanks to Isa! You guys ROCK!

As for our big debut on the series... we're still on the local production schedule for early April. We'll keep you posted. For your non-Bawstin local listing info:

<http://www.thisoldhouse.com/toh/tvprograms/tvschedule/0,16617,,00.html> The show segment number is 2421.

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6. HELLO WGBH-TV.... Plans are well underway for the Designer Show Open House to be held April 15-May 29 at The House. Volunteers are needed to give tours, staff the retail store, provide ticket sales, etc. Contact Liz Hagyard [elizabeth\\_hagyard@wgbh.org](mailto:elizabeth_hagyard@wgbh.org). We're also hearing rumors that plans are being put into place to have a special Carlisle Day for local residents to tour the house... stay tuned for more!

We're thrilled that WGBH has asked us to provide daily refreshments for the volunteers as well as assist with the stocking of the retail store they plan to have on site!

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7. YOU BE THE JUDGE..... So a Mom stopped in recently and bought five bottles of Vitamin Water for her daughter. As you may know, each of the seven flavors we carry has a different purpose ranging from Stress-B and Power to Relax. Well, per her daughter's instructions, she bought "Focus." When I asked about the five she was buying, she told me that her daughter was taking her freshman CCHS exams and insisted that "Focus" Vitamin Water helped her. Ever the curious one, I asked her to follow up with me on this curiosity. Well, last week Mom and daughter stopped in and Sarah told me that she drank one bottle during each exam and received an A+, A-, A-, B+ and B+ on her exams. Mind-over-matter? A mere fluke? Or an as-yet, undiscovered scientific phenomenon? You be the judge. But as we see it, if a bottle of Vitamin Water may help boost a student's results, what've you got to lose???. Mmmmm, perhaps this would help me deal with my aging brain cells....

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8. EASTER HAM ORDERS... We're taking orders for Easter Hams now... Our fabulous Boar's Head Sweet Slice Hams are lightly smoked, extra lean, boneless (100% meat - NO WASTE) ... And best of all, fully cooked! Hams average 5-6 lbs. or smaller 2-3 pounders can be also ordered up for you. Whole ham special price: \$7.25/lb.... Grab a jar of our Boar's Head Brown Sugar & Spice Glaze.... coat the entire ham... pop it in your oven to heat up and \* voila! \* ... you're a hero! Try it... as always, we back everything we sell with our exclusive Unconditional Satisfaction Guarantee.

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9. BICENNIAL BEAT..... \*\*\*IMAGES OF CARLISLE\*\*\*.... The new photo history book about Carlisle is selling like hotcakes at the store! We're proud to be hosting a book-signing event at the store on Saturday, Mar. 19, 1-3 pm. If you already bought a book, bring it by for an autograph. If you haven't bought one yet, we have copies at the store. SPECIAL NOTE: My good friend and alert reader Lester Scruggs pointed out that our last E-News had the wrong date. Oops.

\*\*\*The Essence of Carlisle\*\*\* an art exhibit featuring 65 Carlisle artists is underway at the Gleason Public Library (which seems to be evolving into our Cultural Arts Center!). The fun part about this show is that it

includes people you'd never think of as artists in their 'free' time... See Police Chief Dave Galvin's phenomenal woodworking... art by Town Administrator Madonna McKenzie... gorgeous jewelry by Post Office Official Mark Harmon... your humble neighbor's stained glass... and \* ahem \* I was pleased to have been invited as well! Wander on over to the Library and check it out! Hint: One of my two pieces is hung next to the Grandfather clock in the lobby.

\*\*\*Bicentennial Bridge Championships\*\*\* will begin the first of three events on Mar. 28 at the Sleeper Community Room. The winning pair will score the highest total number of points in 24 hands. Q's & to enter rovgreen@comcast.net

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10. TOWN CRIER..... The annual Carlisle Boy Scout Troop 135 Bird Seed and Fertilizer sale is underway. Place your orders with the Scouts Mar. 12 & 19 at Ferns or the Transfer Station. Troop 135 provides outstanding programs for our boys and deserves support! ... The Town Health Fair hosted by the Board of Health in conjunction with the Emerson Hospital will be held Mar 19 10:30-12:30 at the Library. Free testing (18+) for a variety of things will be available. For info 978.369.0283... CEF/CSA (I see these initials all the time and I think they stand for Carlisle Education Foundation and Carlisle School Association...) On Saturday, Mar. 19, enjoy their annual cocktails, dinner and auction 6 pm at the Middlesex School. Past auctions have included romantic getaways, exotic trips, Jimmy Buffet tickets, the old Daisy store sign... This year you can bid on working behind the deli at Ferns with Robin where you'll get to invent your own sandwich, name it and we'll carry it as a special for a month! You'll even get your very own Ferns shirt and nametag! How cool is that!

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You're reading the Ferns Pickle Barrel E-News.... Offering a slice of life, a moment to stop and ponder, some stuff that may be interesting and stuff that you may care less about... But it's always news to someone. And remember... follow the Red Road.

We appreciate your business.... 'Til next time... Work Hahd. Play Hahda.™

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