

## **Rutland Business Journal Spotlight On New Business**

Published February 1, 2009

### **Green Mountain Yarn & Fibers**

Green Mountain Yarn & Fibers opened in late November on Woodstock Avenue in Rutland.

The 1,200-square-foot shop has a brick floor and exposed beams with lots of natural light and comfortable places where individual knitters or groups can bring their knitting projects and receive assistance from experts. The inventory includes hand-knitting supplies as well as specialty yarns and natural fibers.

Its owners are Kathleen Wanner and Mary Jeanne Packer, who have worked together for nearly a decade in various capacities including at Ghostwriters, a communications and marketing company in Poultney that represents clients who sustain local communities.

Wanner said Green Mountain Yarns & Fibers fills a void left when Mrs. Lamb's Yarn Shop closed a few years ago.

"There was no place to buy specialty yarns," said Wanner, noting knitters were traveling to other points to get the yarns they wanted. "We kept expecting someone to open up another business and when that didn't happen, Mary Jeanne and I decided that we would."

The impetus was a fiber tour on the Aran Islands in October. There, they visited women who still do hand knits, saw works of fiber artists and explored a museum of country living.

"We said it's do or don't when we got back. The response has been amazing. Even before we opened the door we heard people talking on the street about the new yarn store."

Packer also owns Finger Lakes Fibers in the Finger Lakes region of New York, which gives the Rutland shop access to hard-to-find inventory.

The store manager is Elaine Martel, who also raises sheep, spins and knits. Sandy Troutman, a long-time knitter, will teach evening classes that began in January. There are also two part-time staffers.

"Knitters are coming: they're bringing their projects and sitting around the table to visit and knit, and they're thanking us for opening the shop." Wanner said.

*Green Mountain Yarn & Fibers is located at 259 Woodstock Ave.,*

*Rutland, VT 05701. Its hours are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, and noon to 5:00 p.m. Sunday. The telephone number is (802) 775-7800. The Web site is [www.greenmountainfibers.com](http://www.greenmountainfibers.com).*