

## GET A FILL UP OR TUNE UP AT PAPPY'S QUILTING PLACE

By CAROLYN HOLMES

Do you need a fill up or a tune up? Those are familiar words around **Pappy's Quilting Place**, both now and in the building's former life. You see, the property used to be a gas station / convenience store, but now instead for filling your tank with gas and tuning up your car, stop in for a fill up on fabric, books, and notions. Bring in your sewing machine for a tune up, otherwise known as regular cleaning and maintenance.

**Pappy's Quilting Place** has been in business for four years. The business started in the basement of John (Pappy) and Shirley Harrison's home. Prior to owning the quilting shop Pappy owned Harrison's Welding & Fabricating, Inc. For 34 year he was a welder, designing and building machinery.

Transforming the former gas station into a quilt shop was a family affair. Rolling up their sleeves and getting right into the task they did all the work themselves. The shop opened in what is the main part of the building today. Later they expanded to the mechanic's garage out back. This now houses the HandiQuilter long arm quilting machines.

Another expansion took place in June 2008 when an old beauty shop on the property was given a face lift from the floor up.

Pappy's had just received their 8' x 8' Appalachian Quilt Trail wooden "quilt block." Pappy, Shirley, and staff were in the process of deciding what to do to the floor in the old beauty shop, which is now their classroom. Why not carry the quilt block design inside to the classroom floor as well as outside on the front of the building? Taping off individual strips on the concrete floor they stained the concrete, strip by strip. The tape was pulled up and more tape put down to stain again. Finally a high gloss coat was placed over the top. That process started on June 10th. Nine days later Shop Hop rolled around and **Pappy's Quilting Place** had a beautiful copy of their quilt block in the Log Cabin pattern adding class to the classroom.

**Pappy's Quilting Place** is a fun and friendly place to visit. The staff consists of Pappy, who traded his welder in to become a long arm quilter and quilting teacher. Shirley pieces tops, does anything else that needs to be done (sounds like a Mom to me) and helps run the shop. She is great for knowing where just about any piece of fabric in the shop can be found. Their oldest daughter, Tina McCarter, also does whatever needs to be done and runs the long arm quilter, as well. Tina's husband, Rick, also helps run the shop and cleans and maintains sewing machines. Besides all of this, he is a police officer at UT. Pappy and Shirley's granddaughter, Stephanie works part time in the shop, helping with computer inventory and the online portion of the business. They all make your visit enjoyable and are very helpful. On a recent visit they proudly showed off a project they were making from a pattern in **The Country Register**.

Quilting is a passion at Pappy's. They will quilt for you or teach you how and you can do it yourself. **Pappy's Quilting Place** is open seven days a week, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Drop by to fill up on materials for your next project. The last time they counted



they had over 4,000 bolts of fabric. You'll be glad you made the trip. They are located at 3426 Sevierville Rd in Maryville, Tennessee. When you stop in tell them you read about them in **The Country Register**. If you can't stop in be sure to visit their web site at [www.pappysquilting.com](http://www.pappysquilting.com). Read their blog at <http://pappysquilting.blogspot.com/>

