

Education foundation looks for public input

By **ROB GLIDDEN**
STAFF WRITER

The newly-formed Southington Education Foundation is inviting the public to give input on their first major initiatives.

During a planned event on October 16 at the Aqua Turf Club, the group is inviting Southington residents to "become fans of the foundation."

The group came together earlier this year, selecting an executive board and announcing their mission to provide new and innovative education opportunities to the students of Southington.

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Executive Board Member

question we're putting forward."

The group's mission is not to assist the schools

with their annual budget concerns, but to gather private donations towards major education initiatives that normally don't find their way into the budget.

Teachers and principals will be able to submit proposals to Superintendent Dr. Joseph Erardi, who will evaluate the plan to see if it meshes with the school system's curriculum.

If approved, they are forwarded the foundation's members for consideration.

Similar foundations have emerged all over the state, and Erardi is credited as the "catalyst" for this group's formation.

He said he has since stepped back and allowed the new members to work.

"I thought it was an important initiative given the economy we're in,"

Erardi said. "I also got the sense that Southington was the type of place where there would be a lot of support if the public knew it could help kids."

The group is planning to organize numerous fundraisers to gather the philanthropic dollars need-

ed to achieve these goals.

For the near future, however, the October event is at the forefront.

Tony Sheffy, president of the executive board, said the event was a "kickoff" and would communicate the group's mission to the general public.

"Ever since I was a kid, I've been really focused on imagination," Sheffy said. "The idea of helping to create additional programs that could spark kids' imaginations really drew me in. I hope that we are able to create programs that instill a love of learning."



ROB GLIDDEN

Solar panels were recently attached to the roof of the Florian building on 51 North Main Street. The building is home to several offices in addition to the Branford Hall Career Institute.

Calendar House Notes

The following events are taking place at the Calendar House in the coming weeks:

An annual treat, the Pig Roast will be held Thursday Aug. 27 at 5:30 p.m.. Herbie III will be on the carving board leading a menu including vegetable fried rice, fresh fruit platter, coleslaw, applesauce, dinner roll & butter, coffee, bottled water, tea and dessert. All for \$17, including entertainment provided by our favorite DJ, Jerry Limmer.

Tickets on sale from Wed. July 29 thru Fri. Aug 21 or until sold out.

Enjoy our Chicken Dinner at noon on Thursday Sept.17 with "finger-lick' good" roasted chicken; tossed salad; carrots; cole slaw; baked potatoes; roll; beverage & dessert. Games and entertainment! Tickets: \$10. On sale Thurs. Aug. 28 to Fri. Sept.11 or sold out!

Next Membership Meeting to be held on Thurs. Sept 24 at 1 p.m. (No August meeting).

Post-meeting program:

Observe or participate in HealthNet's Senior Stars Contest! Bob Mel will host a Calendar House Talent Showcase! It's never too late to allow your voice to be enjoyed by others. Solos, duets, trios and groups urged to compete. Voting will be done by ballots right here!

Up to two contestants plus one alternate will move on to the Regional. Final voting will be done on "YOU TUBE" Championship competition to be held in late fall 2009. Sign Up with Sharyn Murphy.

Coffee and cake served in celebration of our members with birthdays in July, August and September.

Southington SeniorNet Learning Center's starts its fall 2009 session of computer classes on Sep. 8.

Registration: Aug. 3 at 9:00 a.m. in the Perry Room. Doors open at 8:30 am. SeniorNet Learning Center is open to SeniorNet members Monday mornings from 9 to 12, Weds and Thurs from 1 to

3 p.m.

SeniorNet Clubs meet Wednesdays at 1 p.m. Genealogy: Aug.5; Financial Club: Aug.12; Digital Photography: Aug.19; Computer Club: Aug. 26.

Take a 5-day break this fall at the popular Rocking Horse Resort, Highland, NY Bus departs from Calendar House at 9:45 a.m. on

See CALENDAR HOUSE, page 10

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