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New energy-efficient housing complex to hold open house

By: JAMES TINLEY , Press staff

MIDDLETOWN - A newly opened housing community is hoping its energy-efficient homes will prove to be a profitable niche in the slumping housing market.

An open house of Bartlett Hollow, at 401 Newfield St., opens Friday, showing off new homes designed to couple aesthetics and attractive design with energy-efficient construction - and in the process raise money for Middlesex Habitat for Humanity.

The Bartlett Hollow houses are all Energy Star-certified and designed to keep energy costs down with a geothermal heating system, a 1.8-kilowatt solar array and energy-efficient construction materials and techniques.

The heating system simply moves heat from the earth to the buildings interior in the winter and pumps heat from the interior to the earth in the summer, eliminating the need for oil heat and reducing energy costs.

The construction of the homes also takes care to have highly effective insulation and even low-E argon filled windows that help the house from losing heat in winter and cool air in the summer.

Bartlett Hollow, constructed by Summit Residential LLC, based in Fairfield, has also been named by the Home Builder's Association of Connecticut's Showcase Home of the Year.

The showcase, running from Friday to Sunday, will be used to raise funds for Middlesex Habitat for Humanity.

Cindy Craig, president of Middlesex Habitat for Humanity, said that the money raised from open houses at Barlett Hollow will be used to complete the home currently under construction on Pearl Street and any additional funds will go into Habitat's newly-created land acquisition fund.

"We are proud of our work over the 10 years, but the need for more affordable housing is growing. In fact, 60 percent of Connecticut residents cannot afford a mortgage for an average-priced house," Craig said,

The open house begins on Friday at 5 p.m. and ends at 8 p.m. The event also runs Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For tickets or more information call Habitat for Humanity at (860) 343-9179.

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