Special Ford Mustang available via raffle

By Sarah Gonet Standard-Times correspondent

NEW BEDFORD – Any car enthusiast will tell you that the 2009 Shelby GT500KR Limited Edition Mustang is a pretty special automobile.

Only 1,000 of them were made, each worth more than \$125,000.

And Ashley Ford is about to raffle off one of them – number 122, to be exact.

"This is exciting news for Mustang enthusiasts," said Paul Neary, general manager of Ashley Ford, which has been in business since 1963. "You can possibly win a piece of history and a chance to own the most collectible car of the era, the 40th anniversary 'King of the Road edition."

No more than 675 tickets will be sold at \$250 each with 10 percent of the proceeds from the raffle going to support the Veterans Transitions House, which provides beds and care to homeless veterans.

If not enough tickets are sold, the full ticket price will be refunded or purchasers can decide to get a partial refund and still make a contribution to the Veterans Transitions House.

"They do a lot to help our local vets which is a cause I feel close to," said Mr. Neary, whose own son is currently serving with the Marine Corps in Iraq.

"This is a great opportunity because everyone has a shot at an amazing car and you're also supporting a great organization."

"Ford has a generations – old commitment to our nation's veterans and works with national and local veterans organization to ensure that these heroes receive the quality of care and treatment they deserve," said Ellen Hall, spokesperson for Ford Motor company.

"Veterans are cared for at the local level first, and so FMC holds these local organizations in the highest esteem."

Tickets can be purchased via Paypal, by telephone at (800) 395-1342 or by stopping by Ashley Ford at 395 Mt. Pleasant St. The Shelby GT500KR is currently on display in the dealership showroom.

With a 540-hp, 5.4-liter supercharged V-8 engine and a Ford Racing Power Upgrade Pack, the exterior design of the Shelby GT500KR was inspired from the classic Shelby KR Mustangs and features a unique carbon composite hood and wheels.

Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The drawing will be held on Feb. 18.