

# NORTHERN NEWS

A FRESH NEW BREEZE

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## Teamwork begets a Tradition in Manchester

The Town Staff and Police Department of Manchester teamed up with the Tree of Friends Foundation (TOFF), representative Darcy Hott and were able to make several needy families very happy. Police Chief John Hess stated that "this was a great experience and a little different from the 'Shop with a Cop' and other toy drive traditions.

The entire Manchester Government, including Mayor Ryan Warner and the Town Council, teamed up with the foundation and working with the elementary, middle and high schools to identify and give needed gifts for over 200 students in the community. Together they identified approximately 30 within the town limits and with the help of staff, police and their family members along with the mayor, council and community members, were able to get toys and much needed clothing to the youngsters; making several families extremely happy.

"What a day, sharing tears of joy, smiles and laughter with the families," said Town Administrator Steve Miller. "We are very proud of our new found tradition and all of us will work hard to make this happen every year. It's great for our police to be part of this positive and cheerful interaction and thank you Tree of Friends Foundation for including us and thanks to the Manchester Fire Department teaming up with TOFF, they had a total success reaching all families in need. Very cool."



This is just one of many loads of goods for families who the Town of Manchester aided for Christmas. (L-R) Laurie Miller, office assistant; Steve Miller, Town Administrator; Tracy Brooks, office receptionist; Police Chief John Hess; Michelle Wilder, office assistant and Kelly Baldwin, Finance Director. Submitted photo.

## Ebb Valley Teachers Take a Tour

A group of teachers from Ebb Valley Elementary, Swiper Rd., Manchester, have been participating in self-directed professional development focusing on neuroscience, memory and learner-engagement.

According to school counselor and the group's leader Lisa Spera, "The group met a few times early in the school year to review current research and decide on the avenues we wanted to pursue. I had some familiarity with the Upside Down Organization's programs/professional development sessions, and wondered if they would do a 'field trip' for educators as a staff development activity."

Coincidentally, the Upside Down Organization was seeking a group of educators to experience the "Brain Path" (an interactive walk-through model of the human brain) and provide feedback to the organization as they seek to write curriculum and create additional staff development and "field trip" experiences for educators, students and parents in the near future.

Ebb Valley teachers visited the Upside Down Organization's Corporate Headquarters in Baltimore, Dec. 10, where they were taken on an interactive tour led by President of UDO, Frank Kros MSW,

JD. After the three-hour "Brain Path" tour, the teachers spent time with Kros and other UDO executives to provide extensive feedback on the entire experience. The teachers also brainstormed with the executive group to identify some possible next steps for their own work with students at their own school and within Carroll County, given the neuroscientific information/strategies gleaned from the workshop and tour.

The teachers are supported in their professional development pursuits in the area of the most effective means of learner-engagement by their administrators, Bob Mitchell and Michelle Becker, as well as Supervisor of Elementary Education Mike Eisenklam.

The teachers who participated in the UDO interactive Brain Path field trip were: Kim Bolander, health teacher; Melanie Lazzelle, first grade; Tess Demidenko, kindergarten; Amy Leckron, kindergarten; Jolitean Downey, second grade; Lisa Duvall, art teacher; Heather Fritz, first grade; Dolly Mersinger, fourth grade; Jody Walter, physical education; Cara Roberts, second grade; Kelley McDonough, fifth grade; Jane Deardorff, pre-kindergarten; and Lisa Spera, school counselor.

## Crossing the Street for a Winner

by Dave Greenwalt

We only had to cross the street from last year's winner to find our star as the home on 3720 Millers Station Rd., Manchester, is the choice as our 2014 Christmas Home Decorating Contest champion. This home is no stranger from our contest having scored a third place just two years ago. Last year's top prize went to the home at 3645 Millers Station Rd. and it is still magnificent.

Our 2014 winning home has red lights strewn over the roof line and blinking white lights. The red lights that adorn the garage with the archway at the top of the driveway makes you think that Santa himself is going to come out of the workshop which has taken over the garage. Blue lighted decorations are on the left side of the roof with a beautiful red and green lighted wreath on the right side of the roof.

This year we highlight neighboring homes in our selections. The cooperation makes a fine example of the Christmas spirit.

The top prize this year is a \$100 gift certificate to Dean's Restaurant, 832 South Main St., Hampstead. Second wins a \$50 gift certificate and third \$25 to one of the area's oldest restaurants. Dean's was established in 1962.

The prizes are courtesy of the *Northern News* and our co-sponsor Bob Ensor of Ensor Realty, Manchester. The selections were a tough call as per usual this year and if we missed your choice we are certain it was due to the lights being off when we passed by.

2. 3093 Laverne Ct., Manchester. This is one of our past winners (2010) and it has gotten even better. The lights and figurines in the front yard are amazing and the front trees have plenty of lights. Even the backyard is lit up as well.

See Winner page 5