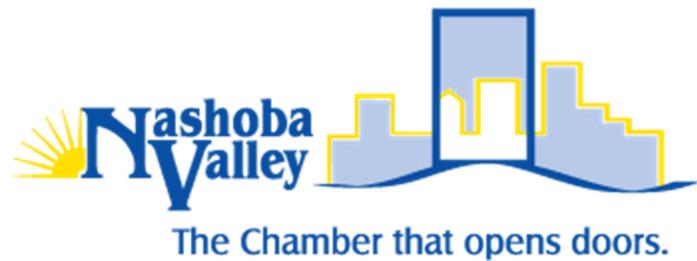


Center Receives 2012 Roy L. Jeannotte Award for Outstanding Organization

The Devens Eco-Efficiency Center is the proud recipient of the Roy L. Jeannotte Award for Outstanding Organization from the Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce for making "a substantial contribution to the lasting enhancement of the Nashoba Valley Region by demonstrating exceptional leadership and community involvement."



The award was presented at the Nashoba Valley 15th Annual Community Service and Leadership Awards Banquet on November 7, 2012 at the Devens Common Conference Center.



Devens Eco-Efficiency Center Director Dona Neely accepting the award at the banquet on behalf of the Center.

Local Coverage in the Lowell Sun:

Chamber honors community volunteers and firms that give back

By M.E. Jones, Correspondent

11/12/2012

DEVENS -- The Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce awarded its 15th Annual Community Service and Leadership Awards Nov. 7, spotlighting the extraordinary contributions of three community volunteers and two area businesses.

Two Awards, Five Honorees



Earl Carter, of Groton, Loret Schur of Sterling and Sue Casserly of Pepperell received the Robert W. Lewis Award for Outstanding Citizen or Volunteer. The award is given to "individuals who have advanced the community through their contributions of talent, time and efforts."

The Roy L. Jeannotte Award for Outstanding Company/Organization goes to "a company or organization that has made a substantial contribution to the lasting enhancement of the Nashoba Valley Region by demonstrating exceptional leadership and community involvement." Two awards were given this year, to Devens Eco-Efficiency Center and its Executive Director Dona Neely and to Phoenix Park's Eric Shapiro.

In his opening remarks, Jim Adams, of Rollstone Bank and Trust and NVCC's chairman of the board, said the award recipients were nominated by their peers and met the definition of volunteerism that is "so important to a community."

William Marshall, President of North Middlesex Savings Bank emceed. It would be the last official action as an NVCC member for Marshall, who is retiring this year.

Marshall sketched the genesis of the awards, one of which was named for "the legendary Roy Jeannotte," the late, longtime

Shirley and Ayer businessman whose "legacy lives on through the R.L. Jeannotte Foundation," he said.

[Roy L. Jeannotte Award Recipients](#)

DEVENS ECO-EFFICIENCY CENTER/DONA NEELY

"I am privileged to work on projects I believe in," said company Executive Director Dona Neely, whose list of award citations includes championing the creation of the Devens Regional Household Hazardous Products Collection Center.

The non-profit firm's stated mission is to "help area businesses and organizations reduce their environmental impacts and operating costs by providing education, enabling collaboration and offering technical assistance." To that end, the Center's community outreach credits include hosting monthly round table and quarterly compliance meetings and offering walk-through evaluations to businesses, "in an effort to find opportunities to conserve resources and eliminate waste."

Neely and her staff also teach students at the Parker Charter School in Devens how to "green their school" via recycling. The kids even collect food scraps and feed them to worms in the garden, where they plant and harvest veggies for school lunches.

The center has facilitated creation of several corporate recycling programs as well and helps area businesses and food service companies achieve "zero waste" goals, including composting efforts as part of the Great American Grill Composting Program.

Another initiative "near and dear" to Neely is the "Great Exchange Program," she said. The program repurposes unwanted stuff, as in one operation's trash is another's treasure. The philosophy fuels the practice, resulting in many tons of materials diverted from local landfills to new uses. In addition, participating in the program saved 37 area businesses and municipalities \$25,000 last year, diverting 450 tons of material.

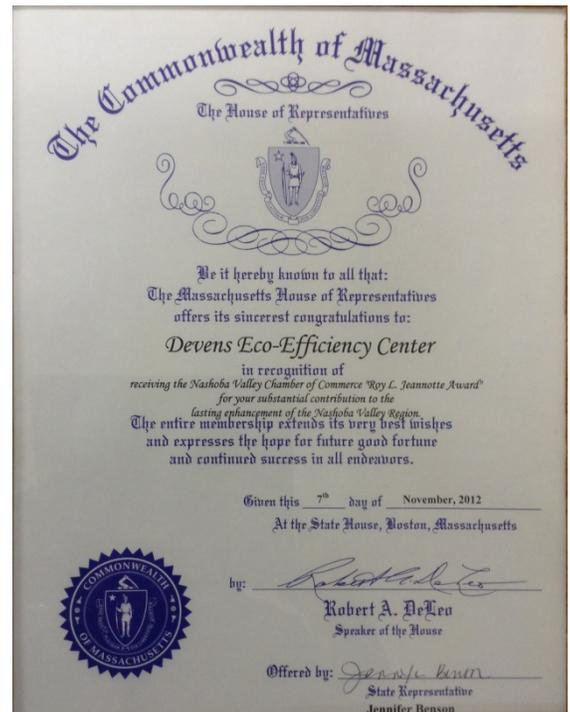
The center's annual Earth Day event attracts hundreds to its exhibit each year and many of those ideas came from Neely, a self-described "environmentalist at heart." The Center has received commendations, including from the EPA and Audubon Society. And now, this award. "Nobody has more fun playing with trash than I do," Neely said.

She credited her staff for knowing "when to stand in front...beside or behind me," in her efforts to grow the business and save the planet. "If everybody could hug a tree tomorrow, the world would be a better place," Neely said.

Wrapping up the program, Dick Conway said the award recipients had done "so much in so many ways," and influenced others to do the same. The pay it forward principal makes a community strong, he said. "Being a volunteer is a great thing." Bill Marshall agreed. "It's a labor of love for me," he said, noting the "extremely effective efforts of the men for whom the awards were named.



Official citations from both the State Senate and House of Representatives were presented to the Devens Eco-Efficiency Center for its leadership and community involvement.



Read full article at: http://www.lowellsun.com/webextras/ci_21984452/chamber-honors-community-volunteers-and-firms-that-give