

Draft Press Release/ August 27, 2024:

Adele Taylor Civic Award goes to Three Woodbury Residents

The Woodbury Democratic Town Committee, in coordination with the Taylor family, is inaugurating The Adele Taylor Civic Award by announcing this year's honorees: Carol Haskins, Maureen Denver, and Bud Neal.

The Adele Taylor Civic Awards are given annually to Woodbury residents who embody the irrepressible spirit of goodwill and practical optimism that Adele Taylor (1927-2021) brought to her life-long engagement with Woodbury.



Adele Taylor (1927-2021)

In a note to a friend, Adele described her approach: "I'm embroiled in a Woodbury town political controversy – as an agitator - seems to fit my style. Anyway – more later – **I'm off to collect petitions and rattle some cages**". A devoted resident for 71 years, Adele regarded it as her joyful duty to attend, and contribute frequent questions and comments to as many local town meetings as possible. From its founding in 1963, Adele was a staunch supporter of the Flanders Nature Center. Adele played a leadership role in the American Field Service which brought exchange students from around the world to Woodbury. Adele also worked diligently on behalf of the Woodbury Scholarship Fund which helps fund university educations of Woodbury high school students. In fact, Adele was involved in too many local and environmental organizations to name them all.

Eighteen facts about the Adele Taylor Civic Award winners:



Carol Haskins:

1. Carol's favorite saying: "*I know enough to be dangerous.*" In her five years as Executive Director of the Pomperaug Watershed Coalition (PRWC), Carol, 44, has been a fierce protector of inland wetlands.

2. Carol provides wetlands data that, in one recent incident, helped block a major developer with a history of violations from proceeding with plans for a Bethlehem property.
2. Carol began her award-winning work in conservation by serving as trail crew – building bridges with cuts from native trees -- during summers in Vermont. Carol went on to serve as a Watershed Educator and Volunteer Coordinator for an Americorps project in Maine’s Presque Isle region.
3. After earning a B.A. University of Maine BA in 2002, Carol gained a Masters of Science in Environmental Studies from Antioch University in Keene, New Hampshire, in 2008.
4. Carol’s awards include:
 - Northwest Conservation District’s Conservation Educator Award (2013) recognizing Carol’s “years of education and outreach to groups of all ages”.
 - Housatonic Valley Association’s River Conservation Leadership Award recognizing Carol’s “extraordinary contributions to river education and community engagement.”
 - Connecticut Community Foundation Trustee Fund Award (2015) recognizing PRWC’s exceptional innovation and collaboration benefitting communities.
 - Aquarion Water Company’s Environmental Champion Award (2020) in recognition of PRWC’s 20 years of leadership in protecting local water resources
5. Locally, Carol serves on Woodbury’s Stormwater Management Committee and Three Rivers Park Advisory Committee.
6. Carol mentors 2-5 college student interns each summer. They typically take water samples from numerous sources and plant riverside gardens containing bushes and trees that can withstand floods.



Maureen Denver

1. Maureen says: “I try to be open to all new experiences.” Since 2013, Maureen, 77, has been the co-founder and Artistic Director of Community Theatre at Woodbury (CTAW) an all-volunteer, non-profit, and self-supporting program of the Woodbury Parks and Recreation Department.

2. CTAW has produced 27 shows to an audience of 10,000+ local patrons and has raised over \$10,000 to support local community groups, including the Woodbury Food Bank. Maureen's commitment to the Arts and outreach to the community extends to programs she has established to area senior centers and organizations.
3. Maureen earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education and psychology from the University of Massachusetts in 1976 and has taken numerous graduate-level courses since in math, science, education and administration.
4. For 36 years, Maureen has taught math, English, speech, drama studies and run programs for gifted and talented students in five different states: Virginia, Idaho, Texas, Florida and Washington.
5. Prior to making her home in Woodbury 11 years ago, Maureen lived for eight years in Ukraine serving as the Treasurer of the International Women's Club in Kiev. In the wake of the Russian invasion, Maureen says the news from Ukraine has been "heartbreaking".
6. Community Theatre at Woodbury raises \$1500 in scholarship funds annually for the further education of deserving students graduating from Nonnewaug High School.



Bud Neal

1. "If you got the opportunity to help somebody else out, you should do it." At 82, Bud Neal has received awards for saving numerous lives and is still helping people out with a long record of service to our country and our community.
2. Bud joined the infantry division of US Special Operations Command in 1965. Bud began his service as an enlisted man and ended up as an officer. He was called back several times to serve on various missions in Asia (serving as a Green Beret in Vietnam) and the Middle East up until

1990. Bud is the Commander of Woodbury's American Legion and he is the heart and soul of the town's observance of Memorial Day.

3. Bud says: "I like fighting fires." It is no surprise then, but still impressive, to discover that Bud is now in his 63rd year as a volunteer fireman and has served for 12 years as Woodbury's fire chief.

4. Bud arrived in Woodbury as a five-year-old in 1947. Coming from a one-room schoolhouse in Vermont, he adjusted to having several teachers in the Mitchell Elementary School and graduated from Woodbury High School in 1960.

5. Bud is a fully licensed arborist and the owner of the Neal Tree Service, which he started in 1962. He currently serves as Woodbury's Tree Warden.

6. Bud is too busy to make use of either a TV or a computer but he does have time for his two great grandchildren. He enjoys giving youngsters—and the young at heart—soaring rides in the bucket of his bucket truck.

The first annual presentation of The Adele Taylor Civic Awards will be held on Sunday, September 15th at 4 PM at Woodbury Brewing Company (738 Main Street South, Woodbury, CT 06798). Come celebrate the neighbors who make this community so great. Drinks will be available at the cash bar. The DTC will provide pizza.

For more information, contact: silverfoxaward@gmail.com