

Year	Award	Recipient	Description
2023	Citizen Award	<p align="center">Virginia “Ginny” Macro</p>	<p>During her time in town, Virginia “Ginny” Macro, has made a significant contribution to the lives of townspeople, families and students. Her volunteer service for the Historical Society, Friends of Wood Memorial Library and Historic District Commission have left an indelible mark on our community.</p> <p>While serving on the Historical Society for 37 years, including as its Chair for three years, Ginny was instrumental in creating a guided history of South Windsor to celebrate the Historical Society’s 40th anniversary, enhancing the community’s appreciation of the rich history of our town and the people who helped shape it.</p> <p>Ginny also worked with the Friends of Wood Memorial Library, which, secured a grant to create the Nowashee Village, visited by the district’s third grade students every year.</p> <p>During her service on the town Historic District Commission, Ginny’s efforts have contributed significantly in ensuring that the town’s historic landmarks were properly documented and made available to the community.</p> <p>Ginny’s passion for history, literature and learning has surely inspired countless others to explore the world of books and cultivate a love for reading, learning, and volunteering.</p>
2023	Citizen Award	<p align="center">William “Bill” Marshall</p>	<p>Since moving to South Windsor in 1985, Bill has been a driving force in multiple community initiatives, and has made significant contributions to several important projects that have positively impacted our town.</p> <p>Bill has been an active member of the South Windsor Food Alliance whose mission is to increase awareness of the health and environmental benefits of eating locally grown foods. The Alliance established school yard vegetable gardens and organized the South Windsor Farmers Market.</p> <p>Bill has also been involved in several projects that aim to enrich the lives of South Windsor residents. He volunteered at the Varney Farm Foodshare program, which provides nutritious food to families in need. He worked in conjunction with the South Windsor Boundless Playground Committee in the creation of a Sensory Garden to provide for a learning experience for children of all abilities. He was also a key figure in the development of the Child Development Center Children’s Garden and Nature’s Classroom Project, which teaches children about the importance of environmental conservation and sustainable living. In addition, Bill founded the South Windsor Invasive Plant Working Group. Spearheading the effort, in partnership with several town departments and volunteers to remove, control and provide community education regarding</p>

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2023	Citizen Award	Steven Wagner	<p>A long-time resident of South Windsor, Steven Wagner has dedicated countless hours to serve our community, providing selfless service, over a span of 22 years, to the Town Council, Zoning Board of Appeals, Inland Wetlands Commission, Planning and Zoning Commission, Water Pollution Control Authority, South Windsor Walk and Wheel Ways, and the Energy Committee. Steve's insights were pivotal on each of our four new elementary schools in his roles on several of the town's governing authorities related to construction. Service on these committees is of the utmost importance to the Town of South Windsor and his work in ensuring the town's vision is upheld, is a testament to his outstanding commitment to our town.</p> <p>Steve's hands-on work teaching bicycle safety to our young fourth grade students is greatly appreciated. Since 2007, Steve has been a volunteer with the South Windsor Walk and Wheel Ways, a subcommittee of the town's Parks and Recreation Commission. This program aims to teach children the importance of physical activity, health, and safety while riding a bike.</p> <p>Serving as the Chairperson for the South Windsor Energy Committee from its inception until 2021, Steve was instrumental in assisting the town achieve its goal of 100% renewable electricity sources in town facilities by 2023. Notably, his work to promote three virtual net metering solar projects as well as the installation of solar on four of the district's schools, has provided significant savings and will reduce energy consumption, promote clean energy and help to preserve our environment for future generations.</p>
2023	Student Award	Amanda Bengtson	<p>Amanda has an intrinsic desire to give back to her community. She is a volunteer in the Fire Explorers program, partaking in many EMT training courses and spending many hours at the fire department.</p> <p>She holds a part time job at an assisted living center, where she takes on a leadership role, in addition to her duties as a server and Bingo caller.</p>

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			<p>Amanda is an extremely active member of the South Windsor for the Kids organization and she has worked diligently and with a full commitment to all endeavors for this organization highlighted by Huskython Dance Marathon and volleyball tournament.</p> <p>Amanda also assists at the local Veterans Association and walks dogs for residents in the community when she has time.</p>
2023	Student Award	Sai Chimbili	<p>Sai has come up with many methods to combine his abilities in the STEM areas with his efforts to help others. He co-founded an online tutoring program at the height of COVID and he is a mentor for youth in technological and computer science areas.</p> <p>Sai was a software engineering intern for the South Windsor mayor's office and he has held a research position at UConn in the biology lab.</p> <p>Sai is one of the co-founders of the Computer Science Club at SWHS. Sai has also had great success as a member of the Model United Nations club and he is a state certified soccer referee. He is also on the board for the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving of South Windsor to help discuss the needs of the community.</p>
2023	Student Award	Trinayaan Hariharan	<p>Trinayaan is a hardworking, determined, mature, and strong leader. He is always polite and respectful in his conversations with others and always has a glowing smile on his face. He is a high achiever who has consistently exceeded expectations in his classes. Trinayaan is also a natural leader who is always willing to help others and make a positive impact on his community.</p> <p>He was one of the founding members of a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization called STRYVE Learning. This organization has reached more than 4,000 students over the past two summers, offering free, live online courses in math, science, business and technology.</p> <p>He has also been very involved on the Robotics Team. He has helped mentor nine different Robotics teams in and out of South Windsor.</p> <p>Trinayaan has plans to start his own tech company focused on artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), and data science. He is passionate about these technologies and believes that they have the potential to make a positive impact on the world.</p>
2018	Citizen Award	Ginny Hole	<p>With a concern about safe passage through town Ginny approached the Parks & Recreation Commission to point out the need for more ways in which bicycles and pedestrians could safely travel through town. She then became the founding member and chairperson of South Windsor Walk and Wheel Ways (SWW&WW), an official sub-committee of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Under her direction the group has participated in Connecticut Trails Day, Full Moon</p>

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			<p>Walks, park clean-up events, Bike to Work Day and a variety of bicycle clinics. She wrote several grants to enable a 6.2 mile trail, which begins in South Windsor and ends in East Windsor, to be created. Ginny was also instrumental in helping to establish the Grade 4 Bicycle Safety education program. She provided bicycling expertise during curriculum development and organized a large number of adult volunteers to support the Physical Education teachers during the yearly experience. Ginny became a League of American Bicyclist Certified Instructor to help teach the program as well. She worked tirelessly to encourage the purchase of a fleet of bicycles for use for the grade 4 students. To date more than 1600 students have completed the program and have learned invaluable lifelong skills.</p> <p>For twenty-five years Ginny has been a member and past President of the South Windsor Community Women’s Club. She ran the long-standing Arts & Crafts Fair on the South Windsor green, was active on the club’s Education committee, served on the Sunshine committee and was involved in many fundraising events.</p> <p>Ginny also served the Boy Scout Troop 390 as a troop leader, committee member, secretary and outdoor event leader. During these years she worked on the creation of several trails in town. Most importantly she worked diligently to teach the scouts about the value of serving their community and instilled values about making ethical choices.</p>
2018	Citizen Award	Jay Samsel	<p>Jay began volunteering for the South Windsor Fire Department as an Explorer in Post 838 and rose to the position of Lieutenant. Jay then served as a firefighter and spent 8 years in the Rescue Squad. He then became captain of Company 1 with responsibilities in Operations and Tower 1. He served on the Social Committee for one year as vice-president and one year as president. Jay currently holds the position of Captain of Facilities. He volunteered to work with an Eagle Scout to help rebuild the memorial garden at the fire headquarters. Jay’s service to the Fire Department spans 34 years and during these years has served as liaison from the fire department to civic organizations. He received the President’s Award which is given to a member who exemplifies the brotherhood and social aspect of Fire Services.</p> <p>Jay has also volunteered for South Windsor sports teams. He served as assistant and head coach for softball and head coach for soccer. He also coached T-ball, Little League and Senior League. Before Parks & Recreation became responsible for the town fields, Jay would voluntarily rake the diamond area of the fields before practices and games.</p> <p>Jay often serves as the liaison to numerous organizations in town. In this role, he has participated in many events in support of Special Olympics and the Monday Night Social Club. He has helped with the Touch a Truck event, the Penguin Plunge and Haunted Torch Walk. Besides his invaluable gift of time he has also provided sponsorship for events.</p>

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			<p>Besides serving on the Board of the Directors for the Wapping Cemetery Association, Jay acted as liaison between the association and American Legion Post 138 for the Wreaths Across America program. He paved the way for the program to work seamlessly with respect for the Veterans and the cemetery association. Additionally, Jay helps transport half of the more than 1000 wreaths and then assists the Boy Scouts and community volunteers lay the wreaths on the graves of our local Veterans.</p>
2018	Citizen Award	<p>Lincoln "Linc" H. Streeter</p>	<p>Linc has had a lifetime of service to the South Windsor community. He served on the Town Council as a member, deputy mayor and mayor. He served on the citizen action committee that prevented the low-level radiation dump from coming to South Windsor. He also served as Secretary of the Capital Region Council of Governments (CCROG) which helped bring programs to South Windsor that otherwise would be cost-prohibitive.</p> <p>Linc was a founding member of the South Windsor Community Foundation. The foundation provides funding and fiduciary responsibilities for the South Windsor community. He was responsible for developing roles and responsibilities for the executive board and also for identifying membership on the Board of Directors and the committee. He worked tirelessly to educate businesses and town officials of the objectives of the foundation. Through his work, the foundation has been able to provide support for educational programs and community enhancements.</p> <p>As a member of the US Air Force Captain (Ret.), Linc served our country in the Vietnam War. He is a member of the Korean, Vietnam and Saudi Wars Chapter 1 (VKVSW). Linc is also a member of the American Legion and has served as an honor guard, participated in Memorial Day and Veteran's Day services and assemblies and has spoken with students in Civics classes and at elementary schools programs. As a member of the Patriotic commission he attends all Veteran's services. Linc has also served as a mentor helping with job placements and support groups for Veterans.</p> <p>As a midget football coach, Linc had the opportunity to not only introduce young players to the game but more importantly impart the benefit of hard work and teamwork as well as the importance of not only winning but losing graciously.</p> <p>Linc served as a trustee of the ECHN Community Healthcare Foundation. The foundation is a non-profit charitable giving program that raises funds to improve medical treatment for those without insurance.</p> <p>Since 1978, Linc has been a member of the South Windsor Rotary Club and is committed to the "service above self" work of the club. He served the club as president from 1990-1991. As a member he is active in the club's bi-annual auction which is a fundraiser that provides finances for scholarships for SWHS students, funding for community programs such as Kevin's Kourt at the</p>

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			<p>Boundless Playground and lighting of the baseball fields behind the community center. Linc also spearheaded a golf tournament fundraiser to assist a young father who suffered from a medical emergency. The profits from the tournament helped to purchase a van equipped for the needs of this young father.</p> <p>The town of South Windsor is indebted to Linc Streeter for his selfless service.</p>
2018	Student Award	<p>Hannah Elizabeth Abernethy</p>	<p>Hannah began volunteering long before high school through Wapping Community Church. As a senior youth member she is known as someone who is hard working, organized and welcoming to new members. She has volunteered on mission trips which have exposed her to the needs of people not only at home but in other states as well. Hannah has worked in soup kitchens in Boston and through an organization called “Cradles to Crayons” helped to organize toys which were donated to children. In a small town in Virginia, she helped with the building and painting of houses for women who were affected by domestic violence. In South Dakota she worked with an organization called “Simply Smiles” for which she planned a summer camp, helped build a greenhouse and a sidewalk for the playground.</p> <p>Hannah was a member of Interact, an international student service club sponsored by the South Windsor Rotary club. Interact supports community organizations by volunteering for local events. While a member, she volunteered for an elementary school carnival, Wood Memorial Library’s Gingerbread Festival and the Kid’s Fair sponsored by the South Windsor Community Women’s Club.</p> <p>Throughout high school, Hannah was a member and now serves as co-president of the Anti-Bullying Club. She worked to have the club collaborate with Interact on anti-bullying efforts. The club was responsible for creating “cards of kindness” which were given to fellow students as well as creating a YouTube video on the subject of anti-bullying.</p>
			<p>Katelyn is often described as a person who cares deeply about what she volunteers for and it is evident in everything she does.</p> <p>Katelyn is actively involved in the Bobcat Pride Organization at South Windsor High School and now serves as co-president. This group works on events and activities that help to unify both school and community and promote a positive school culture.</p> <p>For four years, Katelyn served as a member and leader of the Students against Destruction Decisions organization. In her role, she worked on a variety of activities that help send important messages about making safe decisions. As an invested member of SADD, she was involved in anti-bullying awareness, the Prom Promise, and decorating liquor store bags with safe decision messages.</p>

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2018	Student Award	Katelyn Renee Hunter	<p>As a member of the Community Ambassador Transition Squad, Katelyn planned and ran 5 late arrivals for freshman which helped them to adjust to South Windsor High School. She also planned and helped implement freshman orientation and ran activities on PSAT day for freshman. For five years, Katelyn helped with the in-house lacrosse program for students in grades K-2. Within a short time she became leader of the student coaches. Her leadership role had her setting the practice plan, running practices and organizing the work of the other student coaches. Additionally she was responsible for helping students understand the life skills necessary to play a team sport which includes fairness and good sportsmanship. For South Windsor's Girls Lacrosse Katelyn helped coordinate Lax Jam, a jamboree hosted by South Windsor. This event has players participating from 10 local towns and Katelyn coordinated the schedule for referees for the elementary and middle school girl's teams.</p> <p>Katelyn was one of two student leaders who organized the South Windsor for the Kids club. The club's purpose is to fundraise for the Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Katelyn was involved in planning and implementing 4-5 fundraising events per month as well as the annual Dance Marathon. A remarkable total of more than \$11,900 was donated to CCMC from the group's yearlong efforts.</p>
2018	Student Award	Rachel Violette	<p>Rachel has a well-developed ability to organize and lead and she brings those skills to all of her volunteer endeavors.</p> <p>As President of the National Honor Society, Rachel helps facilitate every event that is associated with NHS. Each member is required to attend 4 community service events and create a long term service project. In her role, she oversees all thirteen committee service projects. Some of the group work of NHS included volunteering at the MACC soup kitchen, helping at the Haunted Torch Walk, and tutoring students - just to name a few.</p> <p>As a senior, Rachel is a member of the Rho Kappa Honor Society. For four years, she has been in the Model United Nations Club and this year served as the Committee Chairperson for the UNICEF: Right to Education committee. She has volunteered at the freshmen mock United Nations simulation and because of her experience she is able to help younger students follow parliamentary procedure and engage in insightful conversations between delegations.</p> <p>Rachel is passionate about her work on the Students against Destructive Decisions club. She has helped with the annual SADD Makes You Happy Day which has members of the club doing simple acts to spread positive messages to both staff and students.</p> <p>As a member of Interact she was on the Pennies for Patients committee. She also volunteered in the classroom at an elementary school helping both the teacher and her students.</p> <p>Rachel is serving as this year's co-president of the South Windsor for the Kids club. Whether</p>

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			planning a dodgeball tournament or restaurant community night, she is involved in all of the details necessary to hold a successful event. Her leadership has inspired more students to be involved than any other year as well as a great number of teachers to help with events. She has reached out to the community and after they learned about the work of the club welcomed the opportunity to make donations to events. All of the fundraising from this club is donated to the Connecticut Children's Medical Center and this year's donation was more than \$11,900.