

2023 Eugene Policelli Service Award Recipients

| Recipient | Description |
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| <p>Virginia “Ginny” Macro <i>Citizen’s Award</i></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. 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. 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. 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. 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> |
| <p>William “Bill” Marshall <i>Citizen’s Award</i></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. 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. 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 invasive plant species. This project is enthusiastically supported by the community, with over 1000 hours of work by over 230 community volunteers since 2018, through 39 work parties to address invasive plant species throughout the town. The project has served to inform the public by hosting educational booths at town events, as well as supported numerous Scouts to earn Merit Badges, and has seen participation by the SWHS Environmental Club. As an initial founding member of the South Windsor Soccer Club, Bill coached boys recreational and travel soccer teams. He served as Referee Director, developing the listing of state certified referees and assigning them to in-town games. His dedication to coaching and mentoring young athletes helped to instill a sense of discipline, teamwork, and community among our youth. The club now has over 1,000 youth participating.</p> |
| <p>Steven Wagner <i>Citizen’s Award</i></p> | <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. 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</p> |

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| | <p>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. 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> |
| <p>Amanda Bengtson <i>Student Award</i></p> | <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. 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. 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. Amanda also assists at the local Veterans Association and walks dogs for residents in the community when she has time.</p> |
| <p>Sai Chimbili <i>Student Award</i></p> | <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. 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. 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> |
| <p>Trinayaan Hariharan <i>Student Award</i></p> | <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. 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. He has also been very involved on the Robotics Team. He has helped mentor nine different Robotics teams in and out of South Windsor. 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> |