



# Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET ~ SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

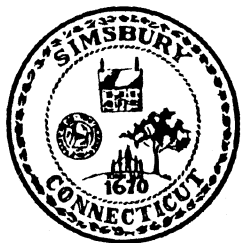
**Hometown Hero Selection Committee  
Monday, May 1, 2023  
Probate Court Conference Room, Town Hall  
6:00 p.m.**

## **REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

### Call to Order

1. Housekeeping Items
  - a) Selection of Chair
  - b) 2024 Meeting Date (5/6/24) and Awards Ceremony (5/29/24)
2. Discussion on Hometown Hero Nominations
3. Determine Hometown Hero Award Recipient(s)
4. 2023 Ceremony (5/22/23)
5. Minutes of May 2, 2022

### Adjournment



# Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET ~ SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Maria E. Capriola - Town Manager

To: Trish Munroe, Town Clerk

Cc: Thomas Fitzgerald, Acting Deputy Town Manager  
Hometown Hero Selection Committee

From: Maria E. Capriola, Town Manager

Date: May 1, 2023

Re: Hometown Hero Selection Committee - 2024 Regular Meeting Schedule

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At their meeting on May 1, 2023 the Hometown Hero Selection Committee agreed by consensus to establish a regular meeting schedule for 2024 as follows:

Monday, May 6, 2024 at 6pm

The meetings will be held virtually or in a location to be determined. Meetings will be properly noticed in accordance with FOIA requirements.



# Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

## **Guidelines for the Hometown Hero Program**

Adopted by Board of Selectmen

November 13, 1996

Amended February 23, 1998

**Amended March 26, 2018**

### **1. Background Information**

The Program was initiated in 1986 by Governor William O'Neill as part of the 350th Anniversary of the founding of Connecticut. Any municipality could designate residents as "Hometown Heroes" for any deed or service that made the community a better place in which to live. State certificates were presented to the 42 individuals and 4 organizations on May 12, 1986. The following year, First Selectwoman Margaret Shanks continued the program with certificates developed for Simsbury, naming 48 designates. It has been continued since, with Hometown Heroes recognized at a ceremony during the month of May as May 12<sup>th</sup> is the date of Simsbury's birth.

### **2. Criteria for Selection**

- A. A person(s) who is a resident, or who is active in the Simsbury community, or who lived in Simsbury during the time period that is under consideration.
- B. Person(s) who has demonstrated selfless and altruistic behavior which contributes significantly to the betterment of our Town.
- C. That such deed or action performed inures primarily to the Town of Simsbury, although not necessarily exclusively; and that.
- D. Any individual or group that has been nominated to the Hometown Hero Award Committee (henceforth "Committee") shall be duly considered with the following exceptions:
  - The hero shall not be a member of Town staff, nor a sitting elected or appointed official. Nor shall the hero have benefited economically from his/her endeavors on behalf of the Town.
- E. There will be no quotas or automatic selections by the Committee. Recognizing the premise that an abundance of awards will dilute the significance of the award, the Committee is duly charged to use its discretion in the number to be awarded.

### 3. **The Selection Process**

- A. Written nominations will be requested and received during a thirty (30) day period typically occurring in whole or part during the months of March and/or April.
- B. The Selection Committee shall review the names nominated for the Hometown Hero Award. The Committee shall make selection and approve the list of award recipients no later than two weeks prior to the scheduled ceremony.
- C. The Town Manager's Office shall notify all award recipients of the time and place of the award ceremony.
- D. The Town Manager's Office shall complete arrangements for the ceremony such as scheduling, publicity, and refreshments.
- E. The names of award recipients will be engraved on the Hometown Heroes plaque displayed in Town Hall.

### 4. **The Selection Committee**

The Selection Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen on a biennial basis. The Selection Committee shall consist of the First Selectman, a Board of Selectmen member of the opposite party, a member of the Historical Society, a business leader, a previous hometown hero, and a member of a veterans or service organization, with the goal of non-partisanship in mind.

The membership of the Committee shall be recommended by the First Selectman and the Town Manager to the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen is the appointing authority.

Staff assistance to the Selection Committee shall include reasonable requests deemed necessary by the Committee.

## Manager Town

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**From:** Simsbury CT via Simsbury CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 3, 2023 11:07 AM  
**To:** Manager Town  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program

Submitted on Monday, April 3, 2023 - 11:07am

Submitted by anonymous user: 2601:182:680:2f00:b5e7:e417:cbff:5852

Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: Alvin schwapp

Nominee's Address: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Phone Number: ([REDACTED])

Nominee's Email Address: [REDACTED]

Description of Nominee: Alvin (Al) is an amazing neighbor for all of us on Adams rd and Lincoln lane or for anyone in simsbury. He always goes above and beyond to help anyone who needs any help. He helps without asking for help. He goes and introduced himself and introduces new neighbors to everyone on the street and shares his contact if they want anything. He helps by taking care of any lawn mowing or snow blowing for example. Anyone stuck in car for whatever reasons he helps them. He basically helps anyone without asking for help. When there were thefts in our area, he took it upon himself to guard all of us for weeks doing night rounds all by himself. When electric power goes off he invites everyone to his home bcos he has generator. We can go on listing his selfless help to all the people in our area and also to everyone in simsbury. He is an epitome of how a human being should be.

Nominee's Status During Period Under Consideration: Active In Simsbury Community

Name of Person Completing Form: Prashant sathyamangalam

Phone Number (or other contact information) of Person Completing Form: [REDACTED]

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.simsbury-ct.gov/node/91963/submission/30316>

## Manager Town

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**From:** Simsbury CT via Simsbury CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 24, 2023 11:43 AM  
**To:** Manager Town  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program

Submitted on Monday, April 24, 2023 - 11:42am

Submitted by anonymous user: 2601:182:67f:2930:997f:40cb:15d5:a338

Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: Bob Braunlich

Nominee's Address: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Email Address: [REDACTED]

Description of Nominee:

Bob Braunlich has been a resident of Simsbury since 2009, and in that time has selflessly devoted hundreds and hundreds of volunteer hours to enrich our Simsbury Community. Bob is a devoted volunteer at the Simsbury Food Pantry, Simsbury Community Television, and First Church (see more about these volunteer contributions below). Above all, anyone who has had the pleasure of knowing and volunteering with Bob knows that he is unfailingly positive and kind, even when times are challenging. We are fortunate to have such a bright light in our community. (Amber Abbuhl, Deputy First Selectman)

Bob has been a dedicated volunteer at Simsbury Food Pantry since early in the COVID pandemic. He was vital in the organization and sorting of the mountains of food donated during the pandemic. He was side by side with us during distributions during the shut-down. Now, post pandemic, Bob has been a familiar and friendly face at each Cheese Day, helping clients load their vehicles and collecting shopping carts in the snow, rain and sun. He's made an effort to get to know each of our clients and they look forward to seeing him on Cheese Day. Bob is always willing to help our department and his dedication is super appreciated! (Rachel Loveland, Simsbury Social Services)

Bob is a friendly, kind, and devoted member of the Simsbury Community.

Local High School Sports coverage wouldn't be what it is without Bob Braunlich.

In his time volunteering at SCM, Bob has helped improve the quality of local sports content and train community volunteers. (Patrick Fallon, Simsbury Community Television)

Bob's skills as a camera operator have been invaluable to First Church, especially during the pandemic when our Church was closed to indoor service for many months. Thanks to Bob's skills as a camera operator at ESPN, First Church was able to pivot and start live-streaming our services, which we have continued to do even after the pandemic. This makes our services inclusive and welcoming to people near and far. Bob's unfailing good nature, his willingness to pitch in and help wherever needed, and his wiliness to extend the hand of friendship and a listening ear to all makes our community better every day. (per discussion with Rev Kevin Weikel, First Church)

Nominee's Status During Period Under Consideration: Simsbury Resident

Name of Person Completing Form: Amber Abbuhl (with input from others as noted in write up)

Phone Number (or other contact information) of Person Completing Form: [REDACTED]

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.simsbury-ct.gov/node/91963/submission/30556>

## Manager Town

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**From:** Simsbury CT via Simsbury CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 3, 2023 2:37 PM  
**To:** Manager Town  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program

Submitted on Monday, April 3, 2023 - 2:37pm  
Submitted by anonymous user: 32.220.216.9  
Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: Brad Griswold

Nominee's Address: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Email Address: [REDACTED]

Description of Nominee: Brad is the long-time President of the Simsbury Airport Board, whose members are 100% volunteers for this non-profit (Simsbury Airport Assn.). All of the funding for the airport comes from efforts of solid management by the Board, consideration of prospective sublet-ers, and events, particularly the Fly-In held each September which brings 10,000 people, 75 aircraft, over 400 classic cars and 20 food trucks to Simsbury. While Brad is very busy with his traveling career with ESPN, he also is the first line of contact for the airport, the person who tirelessly deals with all of the operators on the field, hangar owners, visiting aircraft, the local flight school, the local maintenance shop, and putting together the Fly-In. It's a 24/7 proposition and Brad does it well and selflessly and continually, maintaining an excellent rapport with everyone from the youth interested in learning to fly to the EMS staff who serve the airport. We are incredibly fortunate to have this sharp and kind volunteer at the head of our organization!

Nominee's Status During Period Under Consideration: Active In Simsbury Community

Name of Person Completing Form: Jill Nulsen

Phone Number (or other contact information) of Person Completing Form: [REDACTED]

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.simsbury-ct.gov/node/91963/submission/30331>

## Manager Town

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**From:** Simsbury CT via Simsbury CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 6, 2023 6:18 PM  
**To:** Manager Town  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program

Submitted on Thursday, April 6, 2023 - 6:17pm

Submitted by anonymous user: 2601:182:680:36ba:c0c1:ebc1:1d11:7944

Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: Christine (Chris) Boswell

Nominee's Address: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Email Address: [REDACTED]

Description of Nominee:

Chris has been the Captain of The Simsbury Farms "B" paddle team for sooo many years. She has been instructing adult pickleball lessons and organizing pickleball tournaments at Simsbury Farms for the last 2 years at no cost to the Simsbury Culture, Parks and Recreation Department. More than a 150 people have participated in her extremely popular pickleball programs.

Chris has served on the Simsbury Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission for the last 2 years.

Over the years, Chris annually organized a charitable golf tournament at Simsbury Farms for her late husband. Through the money raised at these events she has donated a gazebo by the Simsbury Farms Tennis Courts, patio lighting for the Simsbury Farms Golf Course Restaurant Patio, new windscreens for the Simsbury Farms Platform Tennis Courts and portable lines to allow for Pickleball Play at the Simsbury Farms Courts. She more than deserves to be honored as a Hometown Hero!

Nominee's Status During Period Under Consideration: Simsbury Resident

Name of Person Completing Form: Ann (Annie) Wallack

Phone Number (or other contact information) of Person Completing Form: [REDACTED]

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.simsbury-ct.gov/node/91963/submission/30391>



## Manager Town

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**From:** Simsbury CT via Simsbury CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 18, 2023 1:31 PM  
**To:** Manager Town  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program

Submitted on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 - 1:30pm

Submitted by anonymous user: 2600:1000:b150:61b9:787a:3bc8:e8c4:f307

Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: Dennis Michaud

Nominee's Address: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Email Address: [REDACTED]

Description of Nominee: Dennis has been helping maintain and keep Paw Meadow Dog Park for many, many years. He has volunteered countless hours of clean up and assistance. Dennis has to move out of Simsbury on June 1st. We would like to recognize him for his dedication to the dog park, and the Town of Simsbury, by being a valuable, volunteer resource, selflessly caring for the dog park and its visitors.

Nominee's Status During Period Under Consideration: Simsbury Resident

Name of Person Completing Form: Nikki Perry

Phone Number (or other contact information) of Person Completing Form: [REDACTED]

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.simsbury-ct.gov/node/91963/submission/30496>

## Manager Town

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**From:** Simsbury CT via Simsbury CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 3, 2023 2:22 PM  
**To:** Manager Town  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program

Submitted on Monday, April 3, 2023 - 2:21pm  
Submitted by anonymous user: 32.221.44.214  
Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: Diana Yeisley

Nominee's Address: [REDACTED] ury

Nominee's Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Email Address: [REDACTED]

Description of Nominee: Diana is a big part of the community. She always patronizes local businesses and promotes and recommends them to others. She is the chair of the Aging and Disability committee, making inroads and providing services to our disadvantaged population. And finally, as president of the Theatre Guild of Simsbury, she produces plays and musicals that bring culture and tourism to our town. Diana Yeisley is, in my mind, synonymous with Simsbury, and does so much for the people who live here.

Nominee's Status During Period Under Consideration: Simsbury Resident

Name of Person Completing Form: Jessica McKenna

Phone Number (or other contact information) of Person Completing Form: [REDACTED]

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.simsbury-ct.gov/node/91963/submission/30326>



# Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

## Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program – 2023

Please return to the Town Manager’s Office, 933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT 06070 - no later than 6:00 pm on Monday, April 24, 2023. Forms may also be emailed to [townmanager@simsbury-ct.gov](mailto:townmanager@simsbury-ct.gov). To complete a form online, visit <http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/hometownhero>.

### Criteria for Selection

(Adopted by the Board of Selectmen, November 13, 1996; Amended February 23, 1998 & March 26, 2018)

- A. A person(s) who is a resident, or who is active in the Simsbury community, or who lived in Simsbury during the time period that is under consideration;
- B. Person(s) who has/have demonstrated selfless and altruistic behavior which contributes significantly to the betterment of our Town;
- C. That such deed or action performed inures primarily to the Town of Simsbury, although not necessarily exclusively; and that
- D. Any individual or group that has been nominated to the Hometown Hero Award Committee (henceforth ‘Committee’) shall be duly considered with the following exceptions: The Hero shall not be a member of Town staff, nor a sitting elected or appointed official. Nor shall the Hero have benefited economically from his/her endeavors on behalf of the Town.

Name of Nominee: Friends of the Simsbury Public Library

Nominee’s Address: PO Box 282, Simsbury, CT 06070

Nominee’s Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Nominee’s Email Address: [REDACTED]

Please describe the Nominee’s act/deed and/or behavior which contributes/contributed to the Town of Simsbury and attach to this form:

Please see attached.

**Check one of the following regarding the Nominee’s status during time period under consideration:**

- Simsbury Resident       Active in Simsbury Community       Lived in Simsbury at time

Name & Phone Number of Person completing form or (Contact Information for Person completing form)

Lisa Karim Lkarim@simsburylibrary.info [REDACTED]

Telephone (860) 658-3200  
Facsimile (860) 658-9467

[www.simsbury-ct.gov](http://www.simsbury-ct.gov)  
An Equal Opportunity Employer

8:30 - 7:00 Mondays  
8:30 - 4:30 Tuesday through Thursday  
8:30 - 1:00 Friday

The Friends of the Simsbury Public Library have provided the Simsbury Public Library continuous support, financially, through programming, advocacy and volunteer hours, since 1971. Most active in 2007, the Friends of the Simsbury Public Library raised over \$2 million to be put toward the renovation of the original 1985 library building. To date, the Friends of the Library volunteers have spent countless hours sorting through donated books and working at their Annual Giant Used Book Sales held each September which, over the years, have raised over \$1 million in support of the Library, its programs and services. The Friends' financial support has provided such things as the StoryWalk, 3D printers, the Friends Cafe', children's programming, the monthly Music Coffeehouse events, technology in the Teen Space, the Mango Language Learning database, as well as a plethora of other special projects and offerings. Moreover, the Friends of the Library provide multiple author visit programs for the community throughout the year, culminating each spring with their always sold out Annual Author Luncheon at Hopmeadow Country Club. Most especially, however, the Friends of the Simsbury Public Library provide weekly delivery of Library materials to the homebound of the community through their Books to Your Door program. The Simsbury Public Library is a valuable asset to the Town made that much more spectacular thanks to the dedication and overwhelming work and support of the Friends of the Simsbury Public Library. The Friends of the Simsbury Public Library is a group truly deserving of the Hometown Hero Award.

## Manager Town

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**From:** Simsbury CT via Simsbury CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 10, 2023 11:47 AM  
**To:** Manager Town  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program

Submitted on Monday, April 10, 2023 - 11:47am  
Submitted by anonymous user: 76.24.235.52  
Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: Michele Jenks

Nominee's Address: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Email Address:

Description of Nominee: Michele has been involved in the Simsbury community for years, notably as a member of Simsbury Beautification. She has managed Schultz Park and the West Street island for many years. Schultz Park in particular is quite large and she spends significant time to keep it beautiful - planting flowers, weeding, trimming, creating new beds, mulching, picking up trash, picking up branches, bringing yard waste to the dump; just to name a few of the tasks it takes to maintain the park. There is no shed at the park so she brings her own equipment to do all of this work. Schultz Park is a beautiful, historic property in town. This is truly a labor of love that all residents and visitors of Simsbury benefit from.

Nominee's Status During Period Under Consideration: Simsbury Resident

Name of Person Completing Form: Katie Mai

Phone Number (or other contact information) of Person Completing Form: [REDACTED]

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.simsbury-ct.gov/node/91963/submission/30431>



# Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

**Hometown Hero Selection Committee**  
**Regular Meeting**  
Monday, May 2, 2022

**MINUTES - DRAFT**

Members Present: TJ Donahue, Melissa Brett, Amber Abbuhl, Eric Wellman, Leonard Lanza,

Staff Present: Maria Capriola, Thomas Fitzgerald

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM.

**1) Housekeeping Items**

- a) Selection of Chair: Mr. Lanza nominated Mr. Wellman as Chair of the Hometown Hero Selection Committee. Ms. Brett seconded the motion, all were in favor.
- b) Mr. Wellman asked the Committee about establishing May 1, 2023 as their regularly scheduled meeting date for 2023, hearing no concerns the 2023 Hometown Hero Selection Committee's regular meeting was set for May 1, 2023 with a tentative date for the awards ceremony of May 22, 2023.

**2) Discussion on Hometown Hero Nominations**

The Committee discussed all of the nominations in detail.

**3) Determine Hometown Hero Award Recipient(s)**

Mr. Lanza recommended the group write thank you letters or do proclamations to the business owners that were nominated. The group agreed their actions were admirable but that they felt that in the spirit of the award there shouldn't be an economical benefit to a recipient.

The group also discussed a proclamation being awarded for the two nominees who were young volunteers at the book sale. The group felt the award recognizes work to the community over an extended period of time. The group is very thankful the Kelley's volunteering to the Simsbury community and will work with the First Selectman to recommend they receive a thank you for their volunteer efforts.

Mr. Lanza moved to recognize Marianne O'Neil as a Hometown Hero Recipient, Ms. Abbuhl seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Mr. Donahue recused himself from the meeting.

Mr. Wellman moved to recognize Jay Willerup as a Hometown Hero Recipient, Mr. Lanza seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Mr. Donahue rejoined the meeting.

Mr. Lanza moved to recognize Gerry Wetjen as a Hometown Hero Recipient, Ms. Brett seconded. All were in favor.

Ms. Abbuhl moved to recognize Margaret Kennedy as a Hometown Hero Recipient, Ms. Brett seconded. All were in favor.

#### **4) 2022 Ceremony**

Mr. Fitzgerald informed the group that the ceremony is on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00pm. Staff will work to notify the award recipients as well as the people who nominated them.

The group discussed ways to increase advertising the nomination process next year. Some items discussed were printing advertisements for the Senior Center, Library and the Simsbury Farms Recreation Complex.

#### **5) Minutes**

The minutes of May 3, 2021 were approved as presented by consensus.

Mr. Lanza moved, Ms. Brett seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:34 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Thomas Fitzgerald  
Management Specialist  
Town of Simsbury