

Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET ~ SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Hometown Hero Selection Committee
Monday, May 6, 2024
Main Meeting Room, Town Hall
6:00 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Call to Order

1. Minutes of March 4, 2024
2. Discussion on Hometown Hero Nominations
3. Determine Hometown Hero Award Recipient(s)
4. 2024 Ceremony Date
5. 2025 Meeting Calendar

Adjournment



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Hometown Hero Selection Committee Regular Meeting

Monday, March 4, 2024

MINUTES

Members Present: TJ Donahue, Melissa Brett, Wendy Mackstutis, Heather Goetz, Elaine Lang,

Staff Present: Thomas Fitzgerald

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

1) Housekeeping Items

- a) Selection of Chair: Mr. Donahue nominated Ms. Mackstutis as Chair of the Hometown Hero Selection Committee. Ms. Goetz seconded the motion, all were in favor.

2) Review of Existing Hometown Hero Policy & Nomination Form and Discussion of any Potential Edits

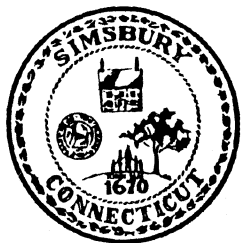
The Committee discussed the revisions that the Committee asked to consider at their May 2023 meeting. After discussion amongst group members Ms. Lang made a motion to amend the guidelines as presented by Mr. Donahue. Ms. Goetz seconded the motion and all were in favor.

3) Minutes

Mr. Donahue motioned to approve the minutes of May 1, 2023. Ms. Brett seconded the motion. Mr. Donahue and Ms. Brett voted in favor. Ms. Mackstutis, Ms. Goetz and Ms. Lang abstained. The minutes were approved.

Ms. Brett moved, Mr. Donahue seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Thomas Fitzgerald
Deputy Town Manager
Town of Simsbury



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

Amended March 25, 2024

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 12th 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. That the acts and services which are recognized have a real and perceived benefit to the Town of Simsbury; and that
- C. Individuals or groups that have been nominated for the Hometown Hero Award shall be duly considered with the following exception:
A nominee may not be a member of Town staff, nor a sitting elected official, or have benefited economically from his/her endeavors on behalf of the Town. Provided however that no nominee shall be excluded from consideration when the qualities and activities under consideration are outside the scope of their official duties.
- D. There will be no quotas or automatic selections by the Committee and the Committee shall use discretion to protect the special significance of the award when considering large numbers of nominees.

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.

Fitzgerald Tom

From: Simsbury CT via Simsbury CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 5:25 PM
To: Manager Town
Subject: Form submission from: Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program

Submitted on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 - 5:24pm

Submitted by anonymous user: 2601:182:67f:5f20:a807:2d61:35ed:ec05

Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: Mark Orenstein

Nominee's Address: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Email Address: [REDACTED]

Description of Nominee: Mark Orenstein has been instrumental in providing expertise , service and training to Simsbury Community Media (SCM) staff and programs. This has provided Simsbury residents with the information they need to be informed participants in our democracy.

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

Name of Person Completing Form: Susan Eblen

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/34671>

Fitzgerald Tom

From: Simsbury CT via Simsbury CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 2:55 PM
To: Manager Town
Subject: Form submission from: Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program

Submitted on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 - 2:55pm
Submitted by anonymous user: 73.218.0.178
Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: Mark Orenstein

Nominee's Address: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Email Address: [REDACTED]

Description of Nominee:

Mark Orenstein is a good friend, colleague, and my own personal hero. I believe he deserves this recognition from Town due to his unyielding commitment to improve the community for every single person. Mark has devoted many days of his life inside Town Hall, the Public Library, SCM Studio, Historical Society, and many other places, improving the facilities, specifically with networking and technology, to better serve the community he's so loyal to. Honestly, Mark has done so many good deeds, that it's hard to only give just one example.

In my time of knowing Mark, not only has he been a reliable camera person, covering various Board Meetings and Town events (fun fact, Mark recorded last years Home Town Hero award for rebroadcast on SCM!), but a passionate teacher, eager to pass on the knowledge with kindness and compassion. (You know you ask a good question when he starts grinning ear to ear).

In my time of knowing Mark, he has made various improvements to the live-streaming infrastructure located in Town Hall. Making it easier for volunteers to learn equipment and live-stream Town meetings. This includes networking improvements, robotic cameras, over-head ceiling microphones, wireless microphones, computers, and more. When SCTV didn't have the funding for a broadcast playback system, Mark setup various Raspberry Pi computers to continue the SCTV broadcast, even though we didn't have the funding at the time to replace the broken playback system. Mark's Raspberry Pi solution cost \$100. For reference a new broadcast system costs in the ball park of \$20,000. This was such an accomplishment that it was featured in a 2017 issue of "Valley Life", with a picture of Mark proudly in front of his Raspberry Pi broadcast system that he invented for us. We eventually managed to get a grant to replace the Raspberry Pi system with a modern playback system. Mark was instrumental and making this happen. Mark regularly reviews grant packets for SCM and the library to make sure that the technology needs of the organizations are met and are budgeted fairly. I'm sure the person reading this knows who Mark Orenstein is and chances are he's impacted your life in one way or another.

Mark has mentored me throughout my time in Simsbury, and in that time, not only has he taught me the life skills I need to know to reliably carry out my duties as Station Manager of SCM, but he's taught me important life lessons that I'll carry with me for the rest of my life.

Please consider Mark Orenstein for the Simsbury Hometown Hero.

Mark is my hero and he should be yours, too.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nominee's Status During Period Under Consideration: Simsbury Resident

Name of Person Completing Form: Patrick T. Fallon

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

Fitzgerald Tom

From: Simsbury CT via Simsbury CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 6, 2024 1:36 PM
To: Manager Town
Subject: Form submission from: Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program

Submitted on Saturday, April 6, 2024 - 1:36pm
Submitted by anonymous user: 2601:182:800:7880:89e0:a744:860f:74f8
Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: Mark Orenstein

Nominee's Address: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Email Address: [REDACTED]

Description of Nominee:

Hi,

I would like to nominate Mark Orenstein for hometown hero. I know Mark from volunteering at Simsbury Community Media. Mark's dedication and high level of technical expertise has helped make Simsbury Community Media what it is today. He has built the infrastructure to allow broadcasting of Town Meetings and Community Events from the Town Hall and the Library out to cable and internet channels. He is continually making improvements and refinements to the systems to make them more efficient, as well as providing a service to the community by recording many events and meetings himself. And he is always willing to work with us volunteers so that we can confidently record various town events on our own. Although his term is now completed, Mark spent many years on the board of Simsbury Public Library. He also provides technical advice and assistance to his place of worship, the Emek Shalom synagogue here in town.

Thanks,
Dave

Nominee's Status During Period Under Consideration: Simsbury Resident

Name of Person Completing Form: David Lescoe

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/34741>

Fitzgerald Tom

From: Simsbury CT via Simsbury CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 10:17 AM
To: Manager Town
Subject: Form submission from: Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program

Submitted on Monday, April 29, 2024 - 10:16am
Submitted by anonymous user: 32.221.119.209
Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: Mark Orenstein

Nominee's Address: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Email Address: [REDACTED]

Description of Nominee: Mark Orenstein deserves to be named a "Hometown Hero" due to all his volunteer work within our town. He has great knowledge of computers and the internet. He puts that knowledge to use working with several groups- Simsbury Community Media (SCM), The Simsbury Historical Society, Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation and our Simsbury library. Mark served on the Library board and was instrumental in helping the library set up their internet system. I know Mark primarily through his work with SCM. He keeps the airing of our shows running smoothly on the servers we use and also finds solutions for SCM's coverage of town meetings live to the internet and the SCM channel. He (along with Patrick Fallon) have developed a straight-forward technical system that allows SCM volunteers to produce coverage of these meetings. Video and audio clarity give the citizens of Simsbury the opportunity to see their government at work and the understand the many issues going on in our community. Mark always helps the volunteers understand and get comfortable with the various equipment and methods to televise. He approaches that with patience and explains things on a level that all can understand. He then follows up with hands-on demonstration and makes himself available by phone for any last minute problems. Mark is the reason so many of our meeting coverage telecasts go smoothly. I also appreciate that Mark observes every show that SCM undertakes. He is constantly asking questions and pitching ideas to make things better. Mark is a unique guy and we are lucky to have him working with us. I therefore nominate Mark Orenstein as a Simsbury Hometown Hero without reservation.

Nominee's Status During Period Under Consideration: Simsbury Resident

Name of Person Completing Form: Bob Braunlich

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/35011>

Fitzgerald Tom

From: Simsbury CT via Simsbury CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 11:13 AM
To: Manager Town
Subject: Form submission from: Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program

Submitted on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 - 11:13am
Submitted by anonymous user: 32.221.154.0
Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: Mark Orenstein

Nominee's Address: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Email Address: [REDACTED]

Description of Nominee:

Mark Orenstein has volunteered his technical skills with Simsbury Community Media (SCM) for years. What does he do, you might ask? As a volunteer for SCM, the best way I can explain is he finds solutions to the multitude of invisible technical problems that occur when something changes and suddenly things don't work the same. Most of us get frustrated with technology when that happens, Mark figures it out.

Why is he a hometown hero? First, he is an excellent example of a lifelong learner. Most of what he fixes wasn't around five years ago. Second, he mentors volunteers and helps them to be the best that they can be based on their level of skills and knowledge. Third, when the Pandemic hit, he was there to figure out how to keep Simsbury's important Civic meetings on air. This is just the latest way he supported the residents of Simsbury, who may not be able to attend a meeting due to busy schedules or challenges that make it difficult to attend in person.

Nominee's Status During Period Under Consideration: Simsbury Resident

Name of Person Completing Form: Anitra Powers

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/34701>

Fitzgerald Tom

From: Simsbury CT via Simsbury CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 11:04 AM
To: Manager Town
Subject: Form submission from: Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program

Submitted on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 - 11:03am

Submitted by anonymous user: 2601:182:801:d0a0:f5d8:8cce:dd06:7a20

Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: Robert E Roberts

Nominee's Address: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Email Address: [REDACTED]

Description of Nominee:

Bob has been a lifelong resident of Weatogue until his fairly recent move to Seabury in Bloomfield.

- Active roles in VFW and American Legion in leadership positions for a period greater than 25 years and remains active to date in the local American Legion administration.
- Simsbury Parade committee for 25 years or so, as Chairperson to arranging and marching in the Color Guard, to helping to arrange for special guest speakers.
- Led the effort on many occasions for the temporary installation of lighting in the center of town where our local Boy Scouts seasonally sell Christmas trees and pumpkins
- Coordinated and assisted with the now permanent lighting of our Pinchot Sycamore.
- Teamed up with the Town on the design and installation of the utility poles in center of town where our Town's announcement banners are hung over Hopmeadow Street and has personally hung many of the banners in earlier years for the Town as a CL&P volunteer.
(the electric utility work was mainly performed on his own time however he worked with Connecticut Light & Power to arrange for equipment and materials (now Eversource) when required.
- Is an active member serving on the American Legion's scholarship committee for awards to Simsbury High School students and gave out awards on Awards Night
- For many years, presented American Legion Awards to Boy Scouts who earned their Eagle Scout Award.
- Continues to arrange and participate in yearly Wreaths Across America remembrance work efforts.
- Organizes Veteran supported color guards for Town Ceremonies.
- Volunteers for Symphony in Simsbury.

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

Name of Person Completing Form: Kenneth C Busick

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/34696>

Fitzgerald Tom

From: Simsbury CT via Simsbury CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 1:55 PM
To: Manager Town
Subject: Form submission from: Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program

Submitted on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 - 1:54pm
Submitted by anonymous user: 192.234.2.90
Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: Jennifer Caulfield

Nominee's Address: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Email Address: [REDACTED]

Description of Nominee:

Jenna Caulfield's investment in the Simsbury community dates to the mid-2000s when she started volunteering with the Simsbury Farmers Market that ran for many years near Big Sky on Hopmeadow. She developed relationships with leaders of that initiative and Simsbury's Main Street Partnership that continue to pay dividends today.

Her desire to make a difference in the community grew and diversified in subsequent years. Her near-constant involvement in Latimer Lane Elementary since 2013 included three years as co-president of the PTO and involvement in myriad committees and initiatives that improved the experiences of the school's children, teachers, fellow parents, and administrators. She was selected by the Board of Education as one of a select group of parent volunteers to offer counsel during the COVID pandemic, during which she helped ensure parental feedback was considered, emerging issues during a very difficult time received fair consideration by educational and governmental leaders, and that the community was kept informed throughout.

In 2019, Jenna applied to join the Simsbury Police Commission and has served as the "unaffiliated" member of that critical volunteer organization ever since, including multiple years as the chairperson. She developed a keen understanding of policing needs and issues, as well as town business practices such as budgeting and other legislative undertakings. Her investment in learning the ins and outs of her role was only eclipsed by her building of relationships with the people across town operations, including and most importantly the police department. She did all of this without fanfare and with ample goodwill from those with whom she interacted.

This year, Jenna added "poll worker" to her list of community contributions, as she joined the Simsbury operation for Connecticut's primary day on April 2 and will do so again for the general election in November. She also joined friends over the last year in working to support the "Journey Home" charity that helps disadvantaged families find or improve their living arrangements.

She is often recognized by town officials, residents, and friends for, as one person put it, "giving her full heart to every endeavor she undertakes" and for being "an excellent and patient resource for all things municipal and police related."

Jenna Caulfield is truly deserving of being one of Simsbury's "Hometown Heroes."

Jenna inspires her family - including her three children - sense of purpose and community

Nominee's Status During Period Under Consideration: Simsbury Resident

Name of Person Completing Form: Patrick Caulfield

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

Fitzgerald Tom

From: Simsbury CT via Simsbury CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 4:04 PM
To: Manager Town
Subject: Form submission from: Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program

Submitted on Wednesday, March 27, 2024 - 4:04pm
Submitted by anonymous user: 2601:182:67f:ab0:acc5:452d:5e51:d71c
Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: James Martocchio

Nominee's Address: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Email Address: [REDACTED]

Description of Nominee: Jim Martocchio contributes to the fabric of Simsbury in so many ways. His music studio does so much more than provide music instruction to students of all ages. Jim has created a tight-knit, sub-community where students of all kinds can learn music, be in bands and connect with like-minded peers. It's a judgement free zone, filled with love and kindness. In the summer, his camps provide free concerts on Hopmeadow Street on Friday. And he also hosts a number of holiday and other events that share and spread music in our community. Jim is a kind, compassionate person who works hard to make sure that all the students in his studio are learning more than just music. They're learning about team work, resilience and responsibility. Jim reflects his qualities on the teachers he employs, creating a loving and supportive studio. My son was unable to take music lessons in public school due to some scheduling conflicts with his program. Jim consulted with us, found him a piano teacher and has nurtured my son's music education. Jim is invested in his students, and he's invested in Simsbury. Please consider this nomination for Hometown Hero. There's no one more deserving.

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

Name of Person Completing Form: Noel Bodenbug

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/34626>



TOWN OF
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[Home](#) > [Government](#) > [Town Manager's Office & Human Resources](#) > [Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program](#) > [Webform results](#) > Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program

Submission information

Form: [Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program](#) [1]

Submitted by Anonymous (not verified)

March 27, 2024 - 4:04pm

2601:182:67f:ab0:acc5:452d:5e51:d71c

Name of Nominee:

James Martocchio

Nominee's Address:

[REDACTED]

Nominee's Phone Number:

[REDACTED]

Nominee's Email Address:

[REDACTED]

Description of Nominee:

Jim Martocchio contributes to the fabric of Simsbury in so many ways. His music studio does so much more than provide music instruction to students of all ages. Jim has created a tight-knit, sub-community where students of all kinds can learn music, be in bands and connect with like-minded peers. It's a judgement free zone, filled with love and kindness. In the summer, his camps provide free concerts on Hopmeadow Street on Friday. And he also hosts a number of holiday and other events that share and spread music in our community. Jim is a kind, compassionate person who works hard to make sure that all the students in his studio are learning more than just music. They're learning about team work, resilience and responsibility. Jim reflects his qualities on the teachers he employs, creating a loving and supportive studio. My son was unable to take music lessons in public school due to some scheduling conflicts with his program. Jim consulted with us, found him a piano teacher and has nurtured my son's music education. Jim is invested in his students, and he's invested in Simsbury. Please consider this nomination for Hometown Hero. There's no one more deserving.

Nominee's Status During Period Under Consideration

Active In Simsbury Community

Name of Person Completing Form

Noel Bodenbug

Phone Number (or other contact information) of Person Completing Form

[REDACTED]

Source URL: <https://www.simsbury-ct.gov/node/91963/submission/34626>

Links

[1] <https://www.simsbury-ct.gov/town-managers-office-human-resources/webforms/nomination-form-for-hometown-hero-program>

Fitzgerald Tom

From: Simsbury CT via Simsbury CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 11:46 PM
To: Manager Town
Subject: Form submission from: Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program

Submitted on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 - 11:46pm
Submitted by anonymous user: 32.215.230.155
Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: Sean Askham

Nominee's Address: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Email Address: [REDACTED]

Description of Nominee: Sean served on the board of selectmen for ten years, the planning board, and was chair of the Simsbury Republican Party as well. He was an integral member of the board of selectmen, and worked with both parties to ensure that the town came first.

Nominee's Status During Period Under Consideration: Simsbury Resident

Name of Person Completing Form: Jacquelyn Leopold

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/34711>

Fitzgerald Tom

From: Simsbury CT via Simsbury CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2024 8:14 AM
To: Manager Town
Subject: Form submission from: Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program

Submitted on Thursday, April 11, 2024 - 8:13am
Submitted by anonymous user: 24.147.26.27
Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: Alan Needham

Nominee's Address: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Email Address: [REDACTED]

Description of Nominee:

The Simsbury Loan Locker is a local source for durable medical equipment to meet the growing needs for those in our community who are experiencing a temporary or permanent disability. Over 3300 transactions have been serviced by the Simsbury Loan Locker's all-volunteer team since its start in early 2020. The captain of this team, and our nominee for Hometown Hero, is Alan Needham.

The Simsbury Loan Locker was the idea of Alan Needham several years ago. Alan engaged the appropriate collaborators, including the Aging and Disability Commission, the Simsbury/Granby Rotary, and a cadre of Town resources, to make the Loan Locker a reality. Alan secured space, recruited volunteers, and created protocols to make wheelchairs, walkers, canes, knee scooters, bed rails, and more, available for temporary use, free of charge. This reduces the costs and anxiety of someone facing surgery or recovering from injury. It also supports disabled clients who have equipment that needs repair or have just learned of their need for new devices. It also promotes re-use of equipment that might otherwise be discarded.

Alan oversees the organizational and every day, year-round, operations of the Loan Locker. His congenial style draws in volunteers who are essential for this service to clients who are at their most vulnerable and challenged due to their physical limitations or those of a loved one.

Alan has been involved in the Simsbury community for decades. The Loan Locker is only his most recent gift from which residents of Simsbury, and surrounding towns, benefit. Thank you, Alan!

Nominee's Status During Period Under Consideration: Lived in Simsbury at time

Name of Person Completing Form: Jean Miles & Margaret Haldeman

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/34791>

Fitzgerald Tom

From: Simsbury CT via Simsbury CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 1:11 PM
To: Manager Town
Subject: Form submission from: Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program

Submitted on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 - 1:10pm
Submitted by anonymous user: 64.251.59.18
Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: Alan Needham

Nominee's Address: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Email Address: [REDACTED]

Description of Nominee:

The Simsbury Loan Locker, which to date has served more than 3300 people, is the brainchild of Alan Needham. Alan and his wife Johanna provided end of life care to her mother Evelyn in their home in 2018, requiring the purchase and rental of a large amount of durable medical equipment.

That experience inspired Alan to establish an organization that would help members of the community share items like wheelchairs, walkers, bed rails and shower chairs that often sit unused in closets and basements after they are used. Collaborating with town staff, Alan secured space and donations, recruited volunteers and developed a system for residents to donate and borrow equipment.

Since the Loan Locker opened its doors to the public in 2019, Alan has coordinated a team of volunteers who receive, sanitize, inventory and distribute needed items. And though he and Johanna now live just across the town line in Avon, Alan donates many hours of his time each week managing inquiries from Simsbury residents and coordinating with volunteers to respond to requests for equipment.

He is the 2021 recipient of the Paul Harris Award for Civic Achievement from the Simsbury-Granby Rotary Club, and he continues community outreach to promote Loan Locker services.

In addition to his work with the Loan Locker, Alan previously served as an elected official on the Simsbury Planning Commission for more than a decade. He is the proud grandfather to his grandsons Emmet and Jacob, father to John and Allyson, and husband to the amazing Johanna.

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

Name of Person Completing Form: Karen Cortes

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/34856>

Fitzgerald Tom

From: Simsbury CT via Simsbury CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2024 8:56 AM
To: Manager Town
Subject: Form submission from: Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program

Submitted on Thursday, April 11, 2024 - 8:56am

Submitted by anonymous user: 2601:182:680:8370:19f1:f24e:671f:1eaf

Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: Polly Rice

Nominee's Address: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Email Address: [REDACTED]

Description of Nominee:

Look around the town of Simsbury and you'll see Polly Rice in so many places. Polly is my nomination for the 2024 Hometown Hero. A lifelong resident of Simsbury, Polly was raised here and raised her family here. Polly is an asset to our community. On any day, she is busy delivering meals to residents as a volunteer for Meals on Wheels.

After that, she speeds over to the Second Chance Shop, working a shift, or helping advertise the shop on Facebook, or even zooming to a jeweler to have donations appraised. The Second Chance Shop supports the Village for Children and Families, and Polly is a Board Member and an invaluable member of the team.

You'll see Polly at Cheese Day in town, handing our food from the Simsbury Food Pantry. Polly donates her time and offers a friendly face for those in need.

On another day, Polly will be busy volunteering at the Simsbury Historical Society. The Simsbury Historical relies heavily on volunteers to run their Museum Store and facilitate the many programs offered. Polly is always willing to chip in, be it Scarecrow Day, Tavern Nights, or Sled Painting Days.

The week isn't over yet and Polly is on the move. As a Breast Cancer survivor, and a graduate of the Livestrong Program at the Farmington Valley YMCA, she's busy attending a Livestrong Survivor Event. Sharing her story and motivating others along their cancer journeys. Behind the scenes she is a champion for the Breast Cancer cause, supporting and encouraging women in town faced with cancer diagnosis.

Polly Rice is the definition of a Hometown Hero. Her dedication to the town she has lived in her entire life shines through in everything she does. Polly is proud to live in the Town of Simsbury and uses her many talents to enhance our wonderful town.

Nominee's Status During Period Under Consideration: Simsbury Resident

Name of Person Completing Form: Mary-Lyn Alonzo

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/34796>

Fitzgerald Tom

From: Simsbury CT via Simsbury CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2024 10:22 AM
To: Manager Town
Subject: Form submission from: Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program

Submitted on Sunday, April 14, 2024 - 10:21am

Submitted by anonymous user: 2601:182:801:10b0:8068:8d41:83ad:fa7

Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: Linda Schofield

Nominee's Address: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Email Address: [REDACTED]

Description of Nominee:

Linda has always volunteered to help our community - giving back and making a meaningful contribution. Her record of service is remarkable and an inspiration to many. She has committed to helping people, the environment, and our town - all to keep Simsbury a great place to live, retire and work.

She has worked successfully to assure Simsbury's excellent quality of life and educational school system while ensuring Simsbury remains competitive with neighboring towns in terms of the tax burden. She exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism and participation - taking on leadership roles and helping out when needed like, working at the library book sale, setting up for PAC events, cooking meals for the ABC house, and so much more.

Her service to the community includes:

Former State Representative (6 years)

Board of Finance - (Vice Chair) (10 years)

Charter Review (1 year)

Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center former Board Member (10 years)

McClean Board

Founded and organized Linda's Litter Lugging Day (6 years)

Founded and organized Simsbury's Try-Simsbury Triathlon

ABC House member and volunteer

Recent author - Discovering America by RV: History, Science, People and Humility

Thank you for your consideration

Nominee's Status During Period Under Consideration: Simsbury Resident

Name of Person Completing Form: Lisa Heavner

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/34826>

Fitzgerald Tom

From: Simsbury CT via Simsbury CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 20, 2024 2:35 PM
To: Manager Town
Subject: Form submission from: Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program

Submitted on Saturday, April 20, 2024 - 2:35pm

Submitted by anonymous user: 2601:182:680:2f70:1d44:e41:e6a9:9278

Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: David R. Ryan

Nominee's Address: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Email Address: [REDACTED]

Description of Nominee: Dave Ryan and Family moved to Simsbury in 1976 and have been active in Town since the day they moved in. *He began contributing to the Quality of Life immediately through his coaching of his son on youth baseball and ice hockey teams and assisting his daughter in horseback riding competitions. *He soon moved on to community service in Government and politics and otherwise serving his community in a myriad of ways: -he became a member of the Democratic Town Committee in 1999 -serving as Chair from 2004-2008 -and remains very active through today. - He has held a number of positions in Town Government for more than 20 years in such positions as a working member of:the Economic Development Committee - 2001; the Simsbury Planning Commission - 2001-2005; the Board of Selectman 2005-07; and the Simsbury Zoning Board 2009-2023 serving as Chair 2016-2023. He was also the Treasurer of the non-profit Auer Farm in Bloomfield from 2005-2008, Chaired the town's PAC committee in 2008-09 and has been a key member of the independent Simsbury Performing Arts Center Board of Directors ever since. Dave Ryan and his wife Gail have been and still are model citizens of the Town of Simsbury; Dave is a true Hometown hero and deserves recognition through this award!

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

Name of Person Completing Form: Mike Long

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/34896>

Fitzgerald Tom

From: Simsbury CT via Simsbury CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 3:57 PM
To: Manager Town
Subject: Form submission from: Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program

Submitted on Thursday, April 25, 2024 - 3:57pm
Submitted by anonymous user: 73.186.123.9
Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: Chris Boswell

Nominee's Address: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Email Address: [REDACTED]

Description of Nominee:

From Brynn Brown,

To whom it may concern, I proudly and wholeheartedly nominate Christine Boswell for Simsbury Hometown Hero 2024.

Chris is an absolute asset to the town of Simsbury. Below I have listed just some of the several things she has done for the benefit of our entire town.

Chris serves on the Simsbury Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission, which is a volunteer position, for the past several years. She has been instrumental in helping to guide policy and procedures for the department.

At no cost to the Recreation Department, Chris has donated her time and expertise to instruct adult pickleball lessons at the Farms for the past three years. Through her own initiative, she has taken the lessons further by organizing pickleball tournaments, which require a lot of time and attention to plan. Close to 175 people have taken part in her extremely popular program. In fact, all lessons she will be instructing are full at this time.

Chris has demonstrated her great leadership abilities as captain of the women's hockey team, Mother Ducks. She has also served as captain to the Simsbury Farms paddle B team.

For years now Chris has organized an annual charitable golf tournament at Simsbury Farms in the name of her late husband, Brian Koscher. Through the money raised at the tournaments, she has funded the following:

The planning and construction of a gazebo which sits near the tennis/pickle and paddle courts at Simsbury Farms. In addition to providing some needed seating in that part of the complex, the gazebo provides great protection from the elements.

The lighting on the patio of the Simsbury Farms golf course restaurant.

Chris has funded the replacement of all the wind screens for both paddle tennis courts.

Chris funded the placement of an outdoor, automated external defibrillator (AED) at Simsbury Farms. The AED enclosure is located near the tennis/pickle and paddle courts. She understands the importance of having immediate access to this life saving device after losing her husband to sudden cardiac arrest while he was playing hockey and an AED was not available.

In addition to her monetary contributions to the town, Chris has shown to be a person of great character who will lend a hand anywhere she's needed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nominee's Status During Period Under Consideration: Simsbury Resident

Name of Person Completing Form: Brynn Brown

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/34956>

Fitzgerald Tom

From: Simsbury CT via Simsbury CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 5:19 PM
To: Manager Town
Subject: Form submission from: Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program

Submitted on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 - 5:18pm
Submitted by anonymous user: 2a09:bac3:6a41:197d::28a:65
Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: Michael Furey

Nominee's Address: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Email Address:

Description of Nominee: Mike can often be seen on the sidelines coaching not only his children's games but at Simsbury High. Mike is the kind of person who goes out of his way to help anyone out. He is member of the community and his father was a hometown hero before he passed away. Mike went all through the Simsbury school system and came back after college to settle down. He is a guidance counselor in Canton.

Nominee's Status During Period Under Consideration: Simsbury Resident

Name of Person Completing Form: Nicole Katzman

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/34931>

Fitzgerald Tom

From: Simsbury CT via Simsbury CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 2:01 AM
To: Manager Town
Subject: Form submission from: Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program

Submitted on Friday, April 26, 2024 - 2:00am

Submitted by anonymous user: 2601:182:801:a7a0:64ab:a9e7:f29c:8a46

Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: John Nagy

Nominee's Address: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Email Address: [REDACTED]

Description of Nominee: A highly-respected lifelong Simsbury resident, currently Tariffville, John is the kind of tireless outreaching neighbor, leader, supportive friend we are grateful for. As past president & founder of the TVA, he spearheaded Green & Gazebo projects. Coordinated efforts to save Tariffville School from closure. Continues to advocate for the recognition and health of the River & Gorge, works with SHS to promote & educate about Village history, proactive supporter of the bike/ped trail connection, liason w/the Chamber, participant in focus groups & town meetings. With strong convictions, he is calm & soft spoken. People listen!

Nominee's Status During Period Under Consideration: Simsbury Resident

Name of Person Completing Form: Sheree L Landerman, President of Tariffville Village Association

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/34971>

Fitzgerald Tom

From: Simsbury CT via Simsbury CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 10:06 AM
To: Manager Town
Subject: Form submission from: Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program

Submitted on Monday, April 29, 2024 - 10:06am

Submitted by anonymous user: 162.136.192.1

Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: Colleen Murphy Hilliard

Nominee's Address: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Email Address: [REDACTED]

Description of Nominee:

There is (once again!) a new generation of parents in our hometown of Simsbury that are taking their darling babies to swimming classes. The parents know the teacher, and they sure do know the warm-up exercise, because they themselves were once the baby kick-kick-kicking their feet in the swim class with Miss Colleen. "Up and Down, and Up and Down" is a playfully said routine that has started countless Parent/Child Swimming classes instructed by Colleen Murphy Hilliard. Colleen began her lifelong love of teaching others to swim at 16 years old when she was a Swim Team coach for her peers and other young swimmers. Since that time, over the past 70 years, "Miss Colleen" as she is fondly known by her students, has made an impact on Simsbury and the surrounding communities and literally thousands of people.

Colleen has been a Simsbury resident for almost 50 years, and during each of those years has been providing a loving and vital service to the members of our community in our very special town. In addition to teaching swimming throughout the year, every year, Colleen is also a licensed marriage and family therapist. Her focus and reach has evolved to bring guidance, coaching, therapy, and parenting techniques to a new level. Her Parent/Child swim lessons allows parents to share their own love of water with their children while providing an environment of learning, setting boundaries, playing, and growing together. Generations of Simsbury families – the parents who learned from Miss Colleen - now walk excitedly in their bathing suits with their young child in tow to learn from her as well. Her soft manner, wonderful wit, and ability to provide lessons in parenting each week is unmatched. She also teaches adults to swim - those with trauma, those building strength for a triathlon, those with disabilities, those working on their stroke. She has patience and kindness and makes a difference, and she's not hesitant to get her face wet to demonstrate bubble blowing!


She is also an inventor – creating the Amo Swim Belt™, a floatation device that allows swimmers of any age to adjust as they learn, supporting them as they gain strength and confidence along the way. Many of you know Colleen's signature blue foam rectangles attached to a belt, as numerous local recreation departments and pools purchased them for their ongoing use. Many children call these a "backpack" – which gives them confidence to swim on their own.

Currently, Colleen can be found at the YMCA, offering 9 classes a week with her beloved husband "Mr Bob", but her reach extends broad and deep within the Farmington Valley. Colleen has been instrumental in many individuals journey in life. She can be found outside of the pool providing therapy, from youth to elderly, on a weekly basis. She worked for The Bridge Family Center for years, providing various programs to countless children, parents, and families and partnering with multiple school systems. She has worked in local towns with specialties including: Parenting a Teenager, Grief groups for school age children, Divorce groups for school age children, and teenage parents, to name a few.

Colleen has been featured on PM Magazine filmed at Simsbury Farms, the YMCA brochure, and is a wonderful Mother, Sister, Cousin, Grandmother, Friend, Teacher, Therapist, and soon to be Great Grandmother. She has impacted hundreds of families in and around Simsbury, fostering and promoting the family values this community was founded on. It is for this reason we believe she should be considered for the next Simsbury Hometown Hero.

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

Name of Person Completing Form: Carrie Kopper

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

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.simsbury-ct.gov/node/91963/submission/35006>

Fitzgerald Tom

From: Simsbury CT via Simsbury CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 10:31 AM
To: Manager Town
Subject: Form submission from: Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program

Submitted on Monday, April 29, 2024 - 10:30am
Submitted by anonymous user: 96.237.117.103
Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: Dr. Janice J. Johnston

Nominee's Address: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Email Address: [REDACTED]

Description of Nominee:

Dr. Janice Johnston moved to Simsbury in the early 1970's. At that time, there were no other female physicians in the town, and she joined a practice with the outlook to improve the lives of area children. Over the next forty years, she would help grow this practice and she would touch many lives. She has always had a warm demeanor and to this day cares about the lives of others, especially when they aren't feeling well.

When someone couldn't pay for medical treatment, she provided it free of charge. When someone needed a doctor in their home, she would make a house call. I grew up in this environment and know that her goal was always to help others, even before she helped herself. Her wisdom and quick-thinking have saved numerous lives over the years, many of which were young children.

When we walk around Fitzgerald's today, especially during holiday time when people are visiting Simsbury, she almost always has someone approach her and thank her for helping or saving them when they were younger.

Nowadays, in retirement, she has attained a certificate as a Master Gardener and has been dedicated to decorating the Old Drake Hill Flower Bridge. She helps throughout the year to make the bridge beautiful, so that residents and guests can enjoy one of the town's greatest monuments. She has also been involved with decorating the Simsbury Historical Society as well as the Simsbury United Methodist Church with flowers. In addition, she supports multiple nonprofit organizations that try to better the lives of children.

I am very happy to submit this application for Dr. Johnston to get this award, as she is very deserving of it, being the first female pediatrician in Simsbury, and paving the way for other women in the medical field. If you know Dr. Johnston, you know how much she loves Simsbury and what a wonderful and warm person she is. I would love to see her honored for her many years of service to Simsbury and all who have lived here for the past fifty years.

Nominee's Status During Period Under Consideration: Simsbury Resident

Name of Person Completing Form: Jay L. Johnston

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/35016>



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program – 2024

Please return to the Town Manager’s Office, 933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT 06070 - no later than 6:00 pm on Monday, April 29, 2024. Forms may also be emailed to 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, & March 25, 2024)

- 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. That the acts and services which are recognized have a real and perceived benefit to the Town of Simsbury; and that
- C. Individuals or groups that have been nominated for the Hometown Hero Award shall be duly considered with the following exception:

A nominee may not be a member of Town staff, nor a sitting elected official, or have benefited economically from his/her endeavors on behalf of the Town. Provided however that no nominee shall be excluded from consideration when the qualities and activities under consideration are outside the scope of their official duties.

Name of Nominee: Lisa Johnson

Nominee’s Address: [REDACTED]

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:

Lisa runs the local non-profit Honor Connor. She has been active in the community with several local out reach events and education seminars. Her focus is to Stop the Stigma around Mental Health, Addiction and Suicide and to provide Hope and Healing to those who have lost someone to suicide. She runs a monthly webinar called "Hold onto Hope" for those who have lost a family member or friend to suicide and to those who want to come along side and support someone who has lost someone to suicide. She is Mom and Grandma and has raised her 3 children in Simsbury. She makes an impact every day. She provides resources and has written several Blogs and has been interviewed as an expert on the subject of suicide loss. She lost her son Connor to suicide in 2016.

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)

Scott Johnson - 8 [REDACTED]

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

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



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program – 2024

Please return to the Town Manager’s Office, 933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT 06070 - no later than 6:00 pm on Monday, April 29, 2024. Forms may also be emailed to 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, & March 25, 2024)

- 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. That the acts and services which are recognized have a real and perceived benefit to the Town of Simsbury; and that
- C. Individuals or groups that have been nominated for the Hometown Hero Award shall be duly considered with the following exception:

A nominee may not be a member of Town staff, nor a sitting elected official, or have benefited economically from his/her endeavors on behalf of the Town. Provided however that no nominee shall be excluded from consideration when the qualities and activities under consideration are outside the scope of their official duties.

Name of Nominee: Gregory Golinski

Nominee’s Address: [REDACTED]

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:

Greg has been the volunteer president of the Friends of the Simsbury Public Library for multiple years. He runs the meetings in a kind and thoughtful manner as is expected but he also shows up at activities the organization put on. He heads up one of the Great Decision discussion groups, is a constant and very helpful participant for the book collection for the annual book sale and is always available for questions or assistance in any aspect of The Friends! He listens and is easy to work with. For the amount of time that he puts in, I feel he is long overdue for this type of honor.

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)

Annie Wallack [REDACTED]

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

www.simsbury-ct.gov
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8:30 - 4:30 Tuesday through Thursday
8:30 - 1:00 Friday

Fitzgerald Tom

From: Simsbury CT via Simsbury CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 1:01 PM
To: Manager Town
Subject: Form submission from: Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program

Submitted on Wednesday, April 10, 2024 - 1:00pm

Submitted by anonymous user: 2601:182:67f:4c30:bd8a:e1ae:f510:1e09

Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: Cheryl Cook

Nominee's Address: unsure

Nominee's Phone Number: unsure

Nominee's Email Address: [REDACTED]

Description of Nominee: Cheryl Cook, along with Nicole Kodak (who I have also nominated) has been instrumental in bringing the town's DEI efforts to life. Her volunteer work, passion, and expertise are unmatched. This town is better off, more inclusive, and geared more towards equity because of her efforts.

Nominee's Status During Period Under Consideration: Simsbury Resident

Name of Person Completing Form: Alex Reger

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/34771>

Fitzgerald Tom

From: Simsbury CT via Simsbury CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 12:26 PM
To: Manager Town
Subject: Form submission from: Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program

Submitted on Friday, April 19, 2024 - 12:26pm
Submitted by anonymous user: 2601:182:880:8b0:58d8:3e89:e15b:f975
Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: Cheryl Cook

Nominee's Address: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Email Address: [REDACTED]

Description of Nominee: Cheryl serves as co-chair of the Simsbury Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council of which I am a member. She is also chairperson of the Simsbury Housing Authority. In that role, she is a tireless advocate for affordable housing for the elderly and disabled.. As co-chair of the DEI Council, she has provided leadership, along with Nicole Kodak, her co-chair, in planning many activities aimed at educating residents about topics relating to diversity including forums on affordable housing, racism, disability awareness, human trafficking. Cheryl is very dedicated to serving the town of Simsbury and has been for many years. She deserves to be named a hometown hero

Nominee's Status During Period Under Consideration: Simsbury Resident

Name of Person Completing Form: Sara Batchelder

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/34886>

Fitzgerald Tom

From: Simsbury CT via Simsbury CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2024 11:40 AM
To: Manager Town
Subject: Form submission from: Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program

Submitted on Thursday, April 18, 2024 - 11:39am

Submitted by anonymous user: 2603:3005:5801:4800:f896:45c6:3343:be29

Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: Nicole Kodak & Cheryl Cook

Nominee's Address: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Email Address: [REDACTED]

Description of Nominee: Nicole and Cheryl currently serve as the Chairs of the Simsbury DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) Council. They have been instrumentally involved in this group since its founding, working tirelessly to push on issues of inclusion and to bring forward voices of underrepresented populations in Simsbury. Without their leadership and their constant attention, this work would have been sidelined long ago. They keep track of the multi-layered work going on across the council. Nicole has been the force behind Simsbury's first Juneteenth celebration. Cheryl has been at the center of the emerging and much more informed housing conversations we're having as a Town. There's too much to list and more that we don't even see that they are doing behind the scenes. Their commitment to this work and the sacrifice of time they both give to ensure it's ongoing momentum is beyond admirable.

Nominee's Status During Period Under Consideration: Simsbury Resident

Name of Person Completing Form: Rebekah Hatch

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/34871>

Fitzgerald Tom

From: Simsbury CT via Simsbury CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 8:40 PM
To: Manager Town
Subject: Form submission from: Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program

Submitted on Thursday, April 25, 2024 - 8:40pm
Submitted by anonymous user: 12.184.54.235
Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: Nicole Kodak and Cheryl Cook

Nominee's Address: Simsbury

Nominee's Phone Number: Nicole: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Email Address: Nicole: [REDACTED]

Description of Nominee: As co-chairs of the Simsbury Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Council since 2019, Nicole Kodak and Cheryl Cook have contributed many hours of volunteer support, reached out to residents and town departments, and coordinated significant efforts to make Simsbury a more welcoming community for all. To increase conversation and connection in town, they have produced multiple events each year, like the Simsbury Let's Talk series, the annual Juneteenth celebration and the Human Library program. To help the town identify key priorities for housing, Nicole and Cheryl led an 18-month process that engaged residents with diverse perspectives, educated the community on key concepts and options, and produced an actionable set of recommendations for town leaders based on the voices of Simsbury residents. Together, their vision, leadership and commitment has made an impact that will benefit Simsbury residents for many years to come.

Nominee's Status During Period Under Consideration: Simsbury Resident

Name of Person Completing Form: Rick Brush

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/34966>

Fitzgerald Tom

From: Simsbury CT via Simsbury CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 12:59 PM
To: Manager Town
Subject: Form submission from: Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program

Submitted on Wednesday, April 10, 2024 - 12:59pm

Submitted by anonymous user: 2601:182:67f:4c30:bd8a:e1ae:f510:1e09

Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: Nicole Kodak

Nominee's Address: Unsure

Nominee's Phone Number: unsure

Nominee's Email Address: [REDACTED]

Description of Nominee: Nicole Kodak, along with Cheryl Cook, have single handedly brought Simsbury DEI initiatives to life. She is the principal organizer behind the wildly successful Juneteenth event, and countless other events such as the Human Library. Her dedication, countless volunteer hours, and relentless passion make her an excellent Hometown Hero. This town is more inclusive and better off for her efforts.

Nominee's Status During Period Under Consideration: Simsbury Resident

Name of Person Completing Form: Alex Reger

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/34766>

Fitzgerald Tom

From: Simsbury CT via Simsbury CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 11:59 AM
To: Manager Town
Subject: Form submission from: Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program

Submitted on Friday, April 19, 2024 - 11:59am
Submitted by anonymous user: 2601:182:880:8b0:58d8:3e89:e15b:f975
Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: Nicole kodak

Nominee's Address: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Email Address: [REDACTED]

Description of Nominee: Nicole is a co-chair of the Simsbury Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council and has been since its inception in 2019. As a member of that council, I have appreciated her leadership as well as that of her co-chair, Cheryl Cook. She has worked tirelessly to plan programs that educate others on various issues. During COVID, we hosted a series of zoom events covering topics such as affordable housing ethnic studies, gender issues, human trafficking, people with special needs, and several other topics. She has a talent for engaging a variety of people and promoting Simsbury as a welcoming place.. She planned last year's Juneteenth celebration and has partnered with several other towns in planning this year's event. She has been an advocate for affordable housing and helped plan several events in town which engaged local residents in seeking solutions. She has also provided leadership, expertise, and personal connections in organizing the five-part series on the Historical Awareness of Race. Her efforts have definitely made Simsbury a better place to live and she deserves to be named a hometown hero.

Nominee's Status During Period Under Consideration: Simsbury Resident

Name of Person Completing Form: Sara Batchelder

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/34881>

Fitzgerald Tom

From: Simsbury CT via Simsbury CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Sent: Friday, April 5, 2024 7:45 PM
To: Manager Town
Subject: Form submission from: Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program

Submitted on Friday, April 5, 2024 - 7:44pm
Submitted by anonymous user: 68.66.118.3
Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: Kris Barnett

Nominee's Address: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Email Address: [REDACTED]

Description of Nominee:

Squadron Line School, 2004: Led PTO's complete rebuilding of the large playground along Hoskins Rd

Boy Scout Troop 76, 2011: Led 90th Anniversary Celebration

Town of Simsbury, 2013 - 2017: Member and Vice Chairman of Economic Development Commission

Town of Simsbury, 2019 - 2021: Co-Chairman of 350th Anniversary Celebration

First Church of Christ, 2018 - 2019: Member, Board of Trustees

First Church of Christ, 2019 - 2020: Co-Chairman of Capital Campaign

First Church of Christ, 2020 - 2022: Co-Chairman of \$4m renovation of church building and grounds

Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center, 2022 - Present: Board Member and Chairman of its Capital Campaign (Note: SMPAC is a distinct 501c3 and not part of Town of Simsbury)

Miscellaneous, 2020: Coordinated ordering and delivery of 1,000 "Thank You" signs for front line workers during COVID

Nominee's Status During Period Under Consideration: Simsbury Resident

Name of Person Completing Form: Scott Barnett

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/34731>



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program – 2024

Please return to the Town Manager’s Office, 933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT 06070 - no later than 6:00 pm on Monday, April 29, 2024. Forms may also be emailed to 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, & March 25, 2024)

- 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. That the acts and services which are recognized have a real and perceived benefit to the Town of Simsbury; and that
- C. Individuals or groups that have been nominated for the Hometown Hero Award shall be duly considered with the following exception:

A nominee may not be a member of Town staff, nor a sitting elected official, or have benefited economically from his/her endeavors on behalf of the Town. Provided however that no nominee shall be excluded from consideration when the qualities and activities under consideration are outside the scope of their official duties.

Name of Nominee: Kris Barnett

Nominee’s Address: [REDACTED]

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:

Squadron Line School, 2004: Led PTO’s complete rebuilding of the large playground along Hoskins Rd
 Boy Scout Troop 76, 2011: Led 90th Anniversary Celebration
 Town of Simsbury, 2013 - 2017: Member and Vice Chairman of Economic Development Commission
 Town of Simsbury, 2019 - 2021: Co-Chairman of 350th Anniversary Celebration
 First Church of Christ, 2018 - 2019: Member, Board of Trustees
 First Church of Christ, 2019 - 2020: Co-Chairman of Capital Campaign
 First Church of Christ, 2020 - 2022: Co-Chairman of \$4m renovation of church building and grounds
 Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center, 2022 - Present: Board Member and Chairman of its Capital Campaign (Note: SMPAC is a distinct 501c3 and not part of Town of Simsbury)
 Miscellaneous, 2020: Coordinated ordering and delivery of 1,000 “ Thank You” signs for front line workers during COVID

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)
Scott Barnett, [REDACTED]

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

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



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

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Criteria for Selection

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- C. Individuals or groups that have been nominated for the Hometown Hero Award shall be duly considered with the following exception:

A nominee may not be a member of Town staff, nor a sitting elected official, or have benefited economically from his/her endeavors on behalf of the Town. Provided however that no nominee shall be excluded from consideration when the qualities and activities under consideration are outside the scope of their official duties.

Name of Nominee: GLORIA Rossetti

Nominee's Address: [REDACTED]

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:

[Empty box for describing the nominee's act/deed and/or behavior]

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

- Simsbury Resident
- ^{SINCE 1949} Active in Simsbury Community
- Lived in Simsbury at time

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

George R. MATT SIMSBURY [REDACTED]

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

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An Equal Opportunity Employer

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

Dear George

I hope this is the information that you were looking for. This is from the age of 14 believe it or not.

Mary Clair Shea asked me to choreograph for St. Mary's Minstrel shows and that was the start of it even though I started Dancing at the age of 3. St. Mary's eventually turned into the Simsbury theater Guild. I also choreographed for the Simsbury theater for youth and many church events in Simsbury as well as Hartford, Granby and many Catholic schools and convents.

In Simsbury I brought several car loads of students to perform each year for all the convalescent hospitals as well as Sand Hill. There they didn't have any relatives, so I had each student adopt a patient and remember them on their special birthday and holidays. Brad Davis actually recognized the Studio for that with an award. We performed for all the town of Simsbury special events starting with Octoberfest and Septemberfest as well as the current Simsbury Celebrates. Bob and I worked closely for the town's 100 year celebration and my name is in a capsule buried at the Historical society to be opened 100 years from that date. John E. Ellsworth and I had a dance together.

I was president of the Simsbury Junior Achievement and had a successful business which we called Tycoon enterprise and I was asked to speak at the Simsbury Rotary club. I believe at the time they said that I was the only female to attend their meeting.

I then became President of the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce and enjoyed the interaction with the town officials.

A fun and fond memory My Father owned Rossetti paving and I was the last person to pave the Drake hill bridge., now known as the flower bridge. Russell Shaw presented me with an award as well as the Governor and standing in my office from the State of Connecticut is a certificate from the General Assembly official Citation.

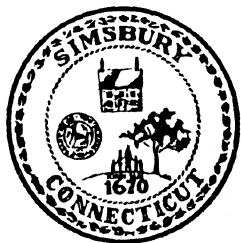
I want to add that I never did a show without mentioning and Thanking my Dear parents Andrew and Mary Rossetti for believing in me and giving me the opportunity to Dance my way through life. My greatest accomplishment was On April 13 , 1978 when Bob and I were blessed with our son Robertson Joseph-andrew Michaud. He is my number one priority along with my three grandchildren.

Thank you George I hope this is sufficient.

God bless you for all you have given to the town of Simsbury also.

Simsbury is a lovely Town filled with Lovely people Thank God.

Sincerely Gloria



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET ~ SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Marc Nelson - Town Manager

To: Trish Munroe, Town Clerk

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

From: Marc Nelson, Town Manager

Date: May 6, 2024

Re: Hometown Hero Selection Committee - **2025** Regular Meeting Schedule

At their meeting on May 6, 2024 the Hometown Hero Selection Committee agreed by consensus to establish a regular meeting schedule for 2025 as follows:

Monday, May 5, 2025 at 6:00 PM

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