

Wilton Citizen of the Year Award 2022

Sandy Lafleur

Presented by Kermit Williams at the Wilton Town Meeting

Almost every year, we choose someone as citizen of the year. It's a chance to recognize their contributions to the town, to appreciate their commitment. Rarely has the citizen of the year done more things for Wilton than this year's choice.

Some of her work is helping Wilton be greener. She is one of the coordinators of the Wilton Community Garden on Carnival Hill. She was an organizer for the once and future Souhegan Sustainability Fair, held right here in the high school. She is leading the effort to reopen the Still Good Shed at the Recycling Center. She picks up mountains of trash from Wilton's roadways, and raises money for good causes while doing it.

Some of her work is bringing people together. She is the coordinator for the Wilton Collaborative Space, which provides literally hundreds of opportunities for residents to learn something new, be entertained, or interact with each other. She helped with the long-running documentary film series at the Town Hall Theater, finding speakers to lead a discussion afterward. She and the community center group make stone soup every year in the downtown park. If you don't know what that is, make sure to attend. It's a great experience.

And some of her best work is music. She has played the dulcimer for many years, and you might have seen and heard her work all over the region. She coordinates the Wilton Folk Café, calls contra dances, and organizes concerts and open mike nights at the Wilton collaborative space.

She has taken training as an end-of-life doula helps people through that difficult time. She helped Wilton establish a place for 'green burials', where your impact on the environment is minimized.

I've probably missed a bunch of things, but even reading all this makes me tired. I don't know how she does it all. Let's all give our appreciation to Sandy Lafleur for everything she does, and recognize her as our 2022 citizen of the year!