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Master's Manna Marks 20 Years of Feeding Hope and Fighting Hunger

Master's Manna Food Pantry in Wallingford, is celebrating its 20th anniversary, marking two decades of providing nutritious food, dignity, and support to families facing food insecurity. What began in 2006 as a small volunteer effort has grown into a vital community resource serving the greater Wallingford/Meriden area. In 2025 there were over 26,000 shopping visits to the pantry.

"This milestone belongs to every volunteer, donor, and neighbor who has supported us and we are grateful for their support," said Jeannette Bronsord, Board Chair. "For 20 years, our mission has been simple: ensure no one in our community goes hungry."

The pantry will commemorate the 20th anniversary with events throughout 2026, celebrating its history and impact to the community starting with a **Wine and Cheese event** in collaboration with Gouveia Vineyard and Caseus Provisions on **Thurs., March 12** at **5:30pm.** Information can be found at the website "mastersmanna.org" and the Masters Manna Inc. Food Pantry Resource Center Facebook page.

Master's Manna Inc. Food Pantry & Resource Center is a nonprofit 501-c-3 corporation dedicated to ending the causes and effects of food insecurity.

Wallingford Garden Club Annual Plant Sale







Pictured Top: Garden Treasures with Karla Renaud & Sue Behrensl. **Middle:** Peg Murphy w/perennials, and hanging baskets from Beaumonts Farm. **Bottom:** Shirley Lagerstrom w/painting and TY to Billy Beaumont, and cashiers CV, and OB.

Wallingford Garden Club will hold the Annual Plant Sale on Sunday, May 17, 2026 from 10:00 to 1:00 at the Wallingford Park and Recreation Department, 6 Fairfield Boulevard off of Barnes Rd.

The chair person for this event is Donna Joyce. There will be plants from members' gardens: perennials, herbs, shrubs, trees, houseplants as well as garden treasurers, and new this year: Decorated Memorial Day Boxes for sale.

There will be available members to answer gardening questions. If you have any plants, tubers, bulbs to share please contact Wallingford Garden Club at PO Box 770, Wallingford CT 06492 or email at info@wallingfordgardenclub.com. For more information, please call 203-269-2653.

Wallingford Garden Club is a member of The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, New England Garden Clubs, Inc and National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Photos by Betty Wilson

Wallingford Garden Club March Meeting Features "Bees"





Pictured Above: Bumblebee on flower, and Honeybee on coreopsis. **Right:** Dr. Caleb Bryant CAES.

Wallingford Garden Club will hold the March 2026 meeting on the 10th. The program will be held at the First Congregational Church, 23 South Main Street.

The program is on 'Bees' with presenter Dr. Caleb Bryant from CAES at 11:00. His program is on his research regarding bumblebees: foraging and climate change. Dr. Bryant is Agricultural Post Doctorate Research Scientist at Conn Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven.

Following the program will be a BYO lunch with dessert and coffee/tea available by the Club. A WGC business will follow. Open to the public. $5 donation is welcome.

Parking is available off Center St and/or beyond in Town Hall public parking area. For more information, please call 203-269-2653. Website: wallingfordgardenclub.com.

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Photos from website

Legislature Urged to Protect Employees from Wage Theft on Taxpayer-Funded Projects

State Senator Jorge Cabrera **(D-Hamden)** and state Comptroller Sean Scanlon were joined by labor representatives in support of Senate Bill 268, "An Act Authorizing the Comptroller to Withhold Payment for Violations of the Prevailing Wage Statutes," which is designed to improve accountability among contractors and protect workers on state-funded projects.

Under the bill, the comptroller would be notified by the Department of Labor when a state contractor is under investigation for wage law violations. At the comptroller's discretion, state payments to the project could be halted 10 business days after a notice is received and remain halted until the investigation is completed, and any penalties or settlements are finalized.

S.B. 268 received its public hearing today before the Labor and Public Employees Committee.

"This should be a bipartisan bill," said Sen. Cabrera, who is Senate Vice-Chair of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. "We're talking about middle-class working people who are being robbed of their salaries. This is taxpayer money being misspent by criminal contractors. This is about accountability and the rule of law and helping working people. There's no reason for this bill not to pass this session."

"Connecticut workers deserve to be paid fairly and treated with dignity," said Comptroller Scanlon. "If a state contractor is short-changing workers, we shouldn't be sending taxpayer dollars to those projects. I strongly urge the legislature to pass this bill to stop payments until any issue is investigated and resolved to ensure fair labor practices are followed, and public funds are protected."

Several labor organizations spoke in support of the bill.

"Too often, wage theft is treated as just another cost of doing business," said Joe Toner, Executive Director of the Connecticut State Building Trades Council. "Responsible, law-abiding contractors should not have to compete against employers who cheat their workers and undercut the law. Taxpayers shouldn't be footing the bill for that behavior either. This legislation strengthens our ability to deter future violations and ensures public funds are only supporting companies that play by the rules."

Veterans Honor Guard Seeking Volunteers

The Veterans Honor Guard of Meriden is looking for Honorable Discharged Veterans, male or female, to volunteer in Veterans Burials. It is a great way to honor your fallen brother or sister by giving them the honor they deserve.

So, if you can spend a few hours to volunteer, please contact Clark Doehr at (203) 223-3338 or Ray Bednarz at 860-690-5833.

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WANTED: Collector buying old photographs from the 1800's on glass, tin or paper, of people, places or things; (203) 915-7662 •

Wallingford Land Trust Annual Meeting "Enhancing Native Meadows For Wildlife"



Wallingford: "Enhancing Native Meadows for Wildlife," a presentation by Wildlife Biologist Peter Picone, will be featured at the Wallingford Land Trust's annual meeting on Wednesday, March 18, 6:30 PM, at the Wallingford Parks & Rec building. Business to be conducted includes the nomination and election of the Board of Directors. Refreshments will be served, including apizza, cookies, and beverages. For more information and to RSVP: www.wallingfordlandtrust.org