

Speed cameras coming to more Conn. roads

But not every town wants them

By **Shaniece Holmes-Brown**
STAFF WRITER

Cities and towns across Connecticut have wrestled with the decision over whether to add speed cameras on local roadways. The

idea is that the technology can slow traffic and create a new revenue source, but for those living in town and driving through, it can be a pain point.

The decision for Michael Pelton, the first selectman of the town of Portland,

More inside:

Speed cams to be activated in some highway work zones in Connecticut, beginning June 1. **A2**

was not a tough one.

“On a very personal level, we had a tragic road death on our Main Street

that killed a longtime firefighter, and while speed may not have been a direct factor, it was a reminder that we can do better,” he said.

The firefighter died after being hit by a pickup truck in December 2024. Pelton was one of 91 municipal leaders across the state that **Cameras continues on A4**



H John Voorhees III/Hearst Connecticut Media file photo
A speed camera in the town of Washington in Connecticut last June.



Bridgeport Mayor Joseph P. Ganim.

H John Voorhees III/Connecticut Post

Ganim’s salary set to top \$207K

Sparking debate over raises

By **Brian Lockhart**
STAFF WRITER

BRIDGEPORT — On paper, this coming July 1 will be a good day for Mayor Joe Ganim’s bank account.

According to the just-passed, 2026-27 municipal budget, when the city’s new fiscal year begins in a month and a half, the annual salary for the long-time Democratic leader of Connecticut’s largest municipality jumps \$31,145, from \$175,949 to \$207,094.

That is a nearly 18% increase and makes him the state’s third highest-paid chief elected municipal official behind Stamford’s — scheduled to rise \$218,193 in that second-largest city’s new budget — and state capital Hartford’s — \$208,058.

But, contrary to appearances, it is not happening all at once. Technically the budget document is catching up. The mayor’s pay has already been rising significantly over several months. So the bulk of this coming summer’s apparent \$31,145 hike is already in place.

“If we’re looking apples to apples — what’s he making now, what’s he going to make — the answer is \$6,000 more,” explained Thomas Gaudett, the mayor’s chief administrative officer.

Ganim declined comment. Meanwhile one City Council member, Maria Pereira, claims some of the mayor’s salary increases violate state law. She has posted about the \$31,000 figure on social media, prompting some angry reactions.

Much of Ganim’s rise in pay can be traced to a vote the all-Democrat-

ic City Council took in April 2024 to boost the salary for that position from \$161,018 to \$184,000.

“We approved it two year years ago,” said Councilman Ernie Newton, a co-chair of the legislative body’s budget committee. “He’s just now taking advantage of it. It ain’t like we gave it to him this year. ... Everybody’s yelling and screaming about something that happened two years ago.”

How does that work? The base earnings for Bridgeport’s mayor and other top, non-union Bridgeport employees can, per municipal ordinance, be updated at the council’s discretion. They are listed on what is referred to as the unaffiliated employee salary table.

According to interviews, documents and meeting minutes, in early 2024 the council agreed to tweak that table to increase the amount the head of Bridgeport’s law department **Ganim continues on A17**

Shelton aldermen approve budget

By **Brian Gioiele**
STAFF WRITER

SHELTON — The Board of Aldermen unanimously approved next year’s \$147.7 million budget — including the addition of \$2.1 million to the school budget — and cutting the mill rate by about 17%.

The board went against Mayor Mark Lauretti’s proposed budget, which offered no additional money for the school system over the \$80.8 million it received during the present year, drawing the ire of school supporters saying Lauretti annually underfunds education. **Budget continues on A4**

Most seniors are baby boomers

And most baby boomers are seniors.

Under 60 60 to 64 65 to 78 79 and older

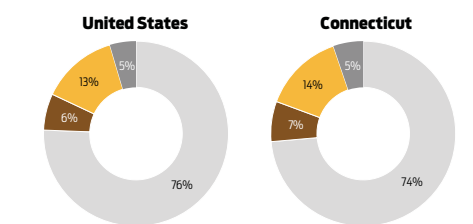


Chart: Philip Bump / Hearst Connecticut Media - Source: Census Bureau

‘Bucket-list boom’ coming to a town near you



Philip Bump
COMMENTARY

Flipping through the Hartford yellow pages in 1943, city residents would find a small section for baby products, a section no bigger than the “For Victory: Buy war bonds and stamps” ad right next to it. The listings included a handful of numbers for baby carriage manufacturers and carriage repair businesses. Parents looking for baby clothes had to skip ahead to “childrens’ & infants’ wear,” giving them 16 businesses from which to choose. If they needed diapers, jumping

Bump continues on A17



Brian Lockhart/Hearst Connecticut Media
The buildings at 110-118 Congress St. in downtown Bridgeport where a Meriden man is proposing to construct a 22-story apartment tower.

Unknown developer proposes what could become Bridgeport’s tallest building

By **Brian Lockhart**
STAFF WRITER

BRIDGEPORT — “This is going to be the tallest building in Bridgeport,” boasted Jonathan Gonzalez of his 22-story residential tower application filed with the zoning department. “I’m probably going to

build a taller one after this.”

The proposed downtown structure, featuring 305 “mostly market rate” units and commercial space at Congress and Main streets, would best that neighborhood’s landmark M&T Bank edifice — formerly the headquarters of People’s

United — by four floors.

But is the 38-year-old Meriden resident for real or spinning a tall tale?

Reached by phone this week, Gonzalez said he understands any skepticism “1000%.”

He offered a limited resume: former bail bondsman who recently helped launch a nonprofit for ex-

offenders. He also admitted he does not have much of a redevelopment track record and would not yet reveal the identities of partners he claimed do.

Still, Gonzalez paid the \$36,905 application fee necessary for his ambitious plans to be re- **Building continues on A8**

