CONNECTICUT POST

CTPOST.COM • SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2026 • SINCE 1883 • $4.00

Retired detective tops city's payroll

Mayor Joe Ganim ranked 100th on the list

By Brian Lockhart
STAFF WRITER

BRIDGEPORT — The thin blue line is nearly unbroken atop the list of what all municipal employees earned in calendar year 2025.

Of the first 100 staffers out of nearly 4,900 full- and part-timers, all are police officers save for two firefighters and a smattering of civilians, including Mayor Joe Ganim and interim Public Schools Superintendent Royce Avery.

The fact members of the force earn more than most on the local government's and school district's combined payrolls is no shock, but rather a modern norm greatly attributable to the five- or six-figure overtime amounts many of the men and women in blue receive.

Besides base salary, gross pay includes any overtime, side jobs or other earnings. Side jobs, also called extra-duty or outside work, are optional assignments like directing traffic or providing security at private events that first responders – usually police – can do outside of regular work hours. Side jobs are not funded by the town — whoever hires the officer pays the bill. Other earnings include such things as stipends, like when a teacher also works as a coach or program director.

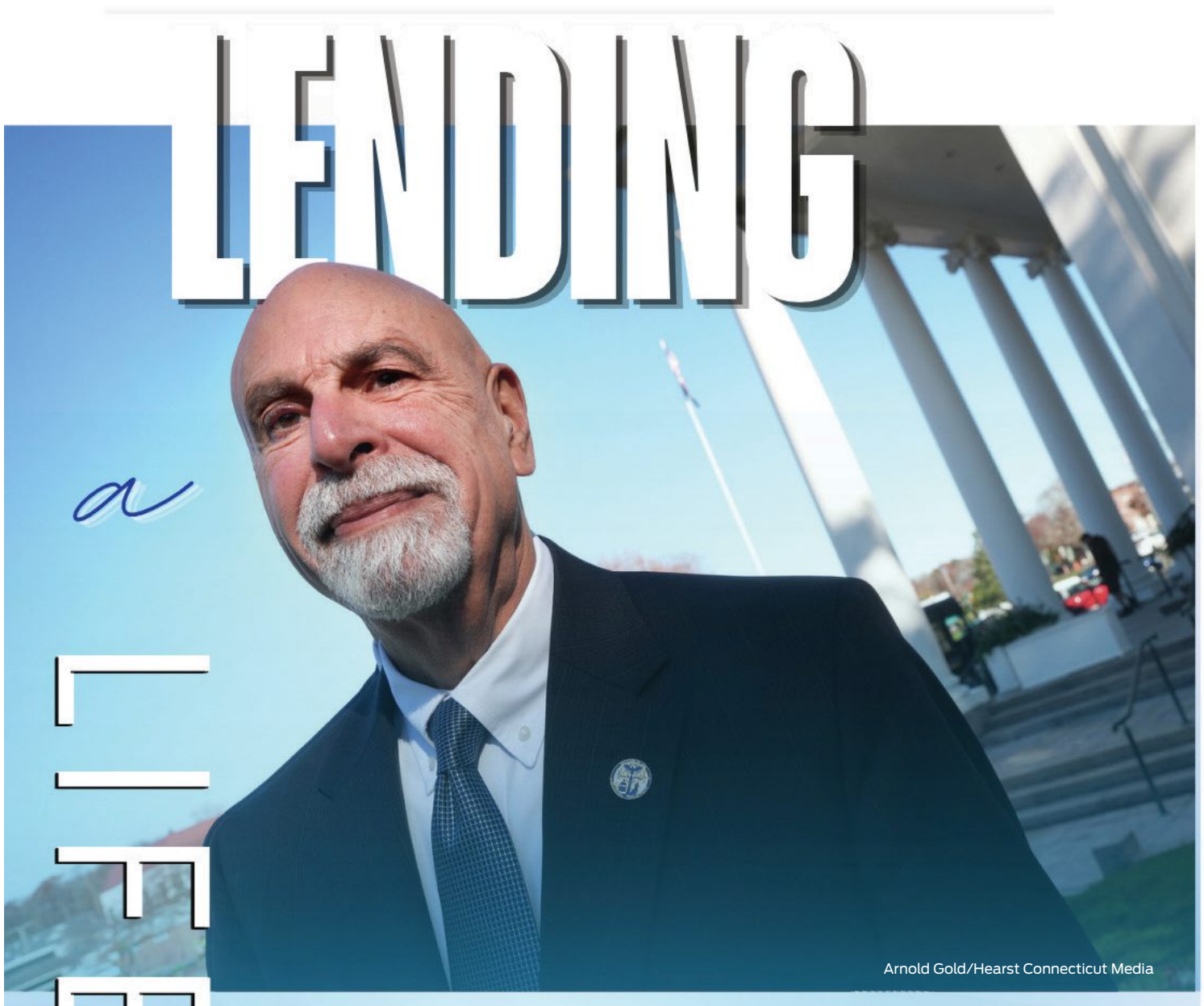
According to the municipal finance office, for the fiscal year ending this June 30, the police department spent $13 million in overtime — meaning department-related duties on top of their regular hours. That $13 million total is $4.2 million over what was budgeted in spring 2025.

Payroll continues on A8



Arnold Gold/Hearst Connecticut Media

Of those on the list of top municipal earners in calendar year 2025, the first 100 are police officers, except for two firefighters and a few civilians, including Mayor Joe Ganim and interim Schools Superintendent Royce Avery.



Arnold Gold/Hearst Connecticut Media

Branford Tax Collector Bob Imperato outside Branford Town Hall on Monday. He's among the 10 inaugural recipients of the Catalyst Awards, which honors people who help others.

Former banker's microloan program helps neighbors get back on their feet with 'dignity'

By Jordan Nathaniel Fenster
STAFF WRITER

Branford tax collector Bob Imperato spent 45 years in banking before turning his attention to a different kind of lending: small, interest-free loans for neighbors facing emergencies.

The Branford Microfund, which Imperato helped start and of which he is now chairman, lends residents up to $3,000, typically repaid over 30 months. The money can help cover rent, car repairs, utility bills, medical expenses and other costs that can throw a household's finances off course.

"We're trying to provide a financial lifeline when those unexpected emergencies arise," Imperato said.

Catalyst continues on A4



Inside: In today's paper is a 40-page section showcasing the people and nonprofits that help others while creating a sense of belonging and connection.

State seeks dismissal of tuition lawsuit

By Colin Tiernan
STAFF WRITER

Connecticut isn't giving up on its undocumented college students without a fight.

In response to a Trump administration lawsuit, the state attorney general's office argued in a U.S. District Court filing Nov. 13 that Connecticut should be allowed to keep offering discounted college tuition to undocumented residents. The state also says a judge should dismiss the case because the federal government hasn't been harmed by Connecticut's law and therefore lacks standing to sue.

The U.S. Justice Department in August sued Connecticut over a state law that allows undocumented residents to pay the in-state tuition price at public colleges and universities. The Trump administration has been trying to prevent more than a

Tuition continues on A4

Developer seeks to expand 55+ housing

Change would affect 12 Shelton parcels

By Brian Gioiele
STAFF WRITER

SHELTON — An Easton developer is pushing a plan to not only bring age-restricted housing to an Armstrong Road property but also expand such options in other locations in Shelton.

Stephen Shapiro has filed with the Planning and Zoning Commission a text amendment to the zoning regulations which would create an Age Restricted Residential Development overlay zone, which would allow for 10 age-restricted units at 118

Shelton continues on A8

Advice/puzzles.....D2, D7
Business.....B8-9
Classified/Public noticesB11
Comics.....Inside
Obituaries A15
Opinion A18-19
Sports.....B1-7
Sunday Arts & Style D1-8
Television D8

8 52433 00117 4

© 2026 Hearst Media Services CT LLC

Weather: Clouds with rain late in the afternoon. High: 58. Low: 54. **Page A20**

THIS RATE WON'T WAIT

14 MONTH NO PENALTY CD NEW MONEY ONLY

4.60% APY*

LIMITED TIME OFFER—GET STARTED TODAY

Scan the code to request an appointment or find a location near you.

First County Bank™ It's where you belong. 175 YEARS

*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of October 23, 2026, and subject to change prior to account opening. Minimum deposit of $1,000 required to open the account and obtain the APY. New money only; must be opened with funds not currently on deposit with First County Bank. Additional deposits and partial withdrawals are not permitted. A withdrawal of the entire balance is permitted without penalty after the first 6 calendar days of deposit. 14 month fixed term. APY assumes principal and interest remain on deposit for 12 months; withdrawals reduce earnings. Automatically renews into a 14 Month No Penalty CD after a 5-day grace period.

Member FDIC