

Discovery and Pricing of Personal Property and Motor Vehicles on the Web

We are all familiar with the use of newspapers, trade names, building permits and others conventional sources but are there available web sites that can help us even more? Any free sites? Are Assessors willing to pay \$500 to \$1,000 a year to find these businesses; to discover that a woman is running a daycare in her home and that the majority of the assets are her own personal things that the whole family uses; or a computer home business that has a substantial amount of assets? The following sites are a compilation of web addresses that many assessors have found to be valuable.

[Whitepages.com](http://www.whitepages.com) allows you to cross-reference and to search for businesses based on phone numbers, address or name of the business. It also allows you to check addresses of new accounts. The only draw back is that with some sections of the site you have to deal with pop ups.

[Yellowbook.com](http://www.yellowbook.com) allows you to do look ups by business type or name, phone number or distance from an address. When looking up by distance, just type in a starting point address, the distance you want to look from that point, then the name or category of the business you're looking for. You'll then get a list of that specific business or category of businesses. Another similar website is Yellowpages.com that provides you with similar information except that it breaks down the category into subcategories (Computers is broken down into Computer Graphic, Computer Software, etc.)

[Daplus.us](http://www.daplus.us) is another similar website where you can look up business or individual names and addresses based on a reverse phone number. What's different about this site is that when you do a reverse phone number look up and get the name of the company, you may also get the name of a contact person. With a small company, that's probably going to be the owner, or at least the manager of the business. If it is the owner and you need his home address, you can then go back and do a search of the owner's in the town that the company is in or just search that name for the State of Connecticut.

[Domesticbank.com](http://www.domesticbank.com) is a website that allows you to locate ATM machines throughout Connecticut. These are the small machines you find in gas stations and convenience stores. The site is easy to use, just type in the state and city/town and you get a list of all locations in town. Additional ATM location websites are:

<http://www.co-opnetwork.org/public/locators/atmlocator/>

<http://www.usbank.com/moneypasslocator/search.jsp>

<http://www.castlebank.biz/about/atm.asp>

[CT.gov](http://www.ct.gov) is a multi use site containing an abundance of governmental information. One area of the website is dedicated to the Office of Health Care Access (OHCA) and the Certificate of Need (CON). A CON is an approval that health care facilities are typically required to obtain from OHCA when spending over three million dollars on a capital project. Even more interesting, they also need one when purchasing, acquiring or

accepting any donation (regardless of cost) of a CT scanner, PET/CT scanner, PET scanner, MRI, inangiography equipment, a linear accelerator or the utilization of new technology that is being introduced into the state. This website not only gives detail on who was granted a CON, but you can see the actual CON and all of the information of what equipment is being replaced, its original cost, who it was leased from, the cost of the new equipment and who it will be leased from. Presently, the information that is available goes back to 2001.

The steps in accessing this information from the website are as follows:

Go to the **CT.gov** website and click on **Executive** along the top information bar, then scroll down under **Agencies/Offices** to the **Health Care Access, Office of**. At the top of the left hand column, click on **Certificate of Need**, under **CON Decisions** in the middle, click on the year, scroll down looking for any health care facilities that might apply to your town. If you click on the Docket Number, you will see the CON final decision.

Although the majority of CON's are related to hospitals, several are related to imaging and radiology offices.

Another State of Connecticut website is for the Secretary of State. This site can be found at <http://www.concord.sots.ct.gov/CONCORD/index.jsp> and can be used for looking up building contractors that are licensed with the State of Connecticut. This site allows you to look up businesses that file with the Secretary of State by name and get not only their address but the name the principal of the company, along with that address as well (this may help your Tax Collector). After you go to the above web address, click **Business** under **INQUIRIES** on the left column. You can enter the entire business name or if you only know one of the names, you can type it in followed by an asterisk and you will get all of the businesses with that name in it. Try it by using the name of your municipality and then the asterisk.

[Machinerytrader.com](http://www.machinerytrader.com) is a website that provides a wealth of information on pricing heavy used construction equipment. The site allows you to search by manufacturer, or type of equipment. Once chosen, you can further select the model, with each displayed by age. The site provides detailed information such as number of hours on the machine and a photograph along with the asking price. The site provides a good basis for estimating or verifying the value of this type of used equipment. The site also allows you to find local dealers and to go to manufacturer's websites.

Another website very similar to Machinerytrader is [Truckpaper.com](http://www.truckpaper.com). The website is set up in an almost identical format with the exception that it contains heavy-duty dump trucks and tractor-trailers.

[Edmunds.com](http://www.edmunds.com) is a good site for looking up new motor vehicles that aren't in the late model (pink) NADA book. The site is easy to navigate and can typically give you the MSRP of both 2006 and 2007 vehicles. Once you're in the site, click on the **new cars** tab. The screen that comes up will show vehicles by category, but if you scroll down you can view cars by manufacturer. The next screen will allow you to choose the model you're looking for and will give you the MSRP. Just below the MSRP you can click on

Continue to if you want to add options to the vehicle. Once chosen, click on **TMV Pricing Report** and the site will give you the total MSRP.

Motorhomesused.com provides a place to look up prices for motor homes that are currently being offered for sale from around the country. Once in the site, go to the left hand column and click on **Search Vehicle**. If you know the make and model and year of the vehicle, you can use these criteria in the **Advanced Search** screen to search the country for the same vehicles. Again, it's not perfect, but it does help when you have no other resource for pricing.

Make sure you save these web addresses under your **favorites** so that you have them at hand.

Many of these sites will bring you into the 21st century, and with new Internet sites and improvements coming on line each day, the tools available to us are infinite. However, there's nothing wrong with the basic foundation we all learned early on to discover, value and list. In the spirit of using the Internet to advance discovery and pricing, these web addresses can be found on the CAAO website. As more assessors' use the web and more sites are discovered, please let us know so we build a reference library on our website, enabling all assessors to benefit from it.