



Trumbull grand list grows despite downturn

By Susan Silvers
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Posted: 02/04/2009 06:07:52 PM EST

TRUMBULL -- Boosted by the addition of the new Target store at the Westfield Trumbull mall and new condominium construction, the town's grand list grew nearly 1.3 percent last year.

Assessor Ross Murray said the net assessment for all property in town rose to \$5.114 billion, compared to the previous year's total of \$5.049 billion, or growth of \$65 million.

"Any town that's getting a 1 percent increase this year is doing well," Murray said, referring to the national economic crisis.

First Selectman Raymond G. Baldwin Jr. called the result "excellent," saying it would help blunt the effects of the downturn. "It finally gives some help to our taxpayers," he said.

He added that it also speaks well to the efforts of Economic Development Director Deborah Cox, who joined the town less than three years ago, and the Economic Development Commission.

Baldwin said the grand list additions would mean more than \$1 million in new revenue, depending on tax rates, that will help offset expenses in the new budget he is scheduled to release next week.

With a flat grand list a year ago, Baldwin's initial budget request called for an 11.6 percent tax rate hike, provoking an uproar before it was finally cut back to 7.38 percent, with a tax rate of 23.86 mills

for the current fiscal year.

Murray said real estate values in town rose from \$4.573 billion to \$4.615 billion. In addition to the new Target, there are condominium developments on upper Main Street and Monroe Turnpike.

Personal property value rose from \$216.6 million to \$254.9 million, reflecting the addition of more equipment, much of it at Sentinel Properties' facility in Trumbull Corporate Park.

But the value of motor vehicles took a nosedive, falling from \$260.19 million to \$243.82 million. That reflects the slump in new vehicle sales.

As usual, the Westfield Trumbull mall led the taxpayers' pack with its value assessed at \$127.23 million.

Next was Unilever HPC, with an assessment of \$28.62 million.

The new grand list figures will be used to calculate taxes for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

TOP 10 TAXPAYERS Trumbull Shopping Center #2 LLC, \$127,237,900. Unilever HPC USA, Inc., 75 Merritt Blvd., \$28,624,566. RVW Limited Partnership (Oxford Health offices), 48 Monroe Turnpike, \$28,465,200. Avalon Properties Inc., \$25,926,200. Parallel Post Real Estate LLC, Trumbull Marriott, \$24,031,200. 35 Nutmeg LLC (personal property), \$23,534,200. Sentinel Properties Trumbull LLC, 60/80 Merritt Blvd., \$20,414,900. Oxford Health Plans (personal property and motor vehicles), \$18,020,330. Greenwich Capital Markets Inc. (personal property), \$17,301,960. Pitt Scinto LLC 3, 116 Quarry Road (Sikorsky Helicopter Support offices), \$15,218,100.

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