

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Take a careful look at your property tax assessment

It seems that some people in Montgomery County government have an unrealistic idea of what property is worth in this county.

I recently received the updated assessment on my property and, like most residents, I expected a slight rise but not to the degree mine went up.

At the Assessor of Property office I ran into several people also complaining about their assessments. Mine jumped over \$30,000 with no major improvements as did several others. It might not be too hard to accept, but a house four doors down, 500 square feet larger and built six years after mine, sold for almost \$7,000 less than mine was appraised for.

Housing has been depressed for some time and has not yet recovered to pre-bust values. Clarksville is supposed to have not been hit as hard as some areas, but it certainly hasn't

caused prices to escalate as much as the Assessor's office believes. At the per-foot cost of what the county says my house is worth, I can buy a brand new home in Autumn Woods Farms for less per square foot.

The Assessor's office also disallowed any foreclosures that sold in my area. Foreclosures bring down the value of neighborhood homes because one of them can be purchased for a whole lot less. If you look in the paper any morning there are at least three foreclosure notices from all areas of the city and county. If I were a conspiracy theorist I would believe that this is the underhanded way the county is trying to get around raising property taxes outright.

Anyone who disagrees with their assessment should contact the Assessor's office and request a hearing. Be sure to bring proof that houses in your area are not selling for what the assessor is saying.

**JOHN BENCH**

Clarksville 37042