

For the record, my name is BJ Ostergren and I live in the Ashland District

I was just hit with a reassessment increase in **2007**. That increase was based on sales that took place in **2005**.

And last month, I received **another** reassessment increase. I was told by the Assessor's office a month ago that this increase is based on **2007** sales.

This year only **23%** of parcels in Hanover were reassessed which equals approx. 10,000 parcels. Of those, **6,000 were increased** while **4,000 parcels were lowered** in value.

77% of the county parcels were not changed when maybe some should have been:

Here's an example...in Robin Ridge, there were 4 sales or 3.7% changed hands, but yet that subdivision received no increases this year even though one house sold for **20% above** the 2008 assessed value. The selling price in March 2007 was \$350,000 but the 2008 assessed value was **\$290,700** and they didn't get an increase this year, **but 6,000 of us did**. Another house in Robin Ridge sold in Dec., 07 for \$370,000. The 2008 **and** even the 2009 assessed value remains at \$327,100 which is **13% lower than 2007 purchase price**.

But 6,000 other parcels went up in value.

While looking up the "Proposed assessments" on the county's website, I found the unfairness of this whole reassessment scheme continuing to be grossly unfair. I found many examples where subdivisions right next to each other were treated differently. One may have changed and the other didn't. A subdivision next to me rec'd no change for example. I also found that houses on one side of a road like Cool Spring and Crown Hill got a change while houses **on the other** side had no change in value. I also found that commercial properties in the Rt. 1 hot bed of commercial development went **down**.

It is a fact that most people think that when they got their increase that everyone got one. How wrong they are. They just don't know this county started spot assessing in 1994. I know. I became a victim of this process in 1995.

It was also very apparent that the value of our homes was merely changed on a computer using a subjective percentage and not based on the condition of the property itself or how many new buildings had been built without a building permit.

So 6,000 of us are victims of what happened **two** years ago instead of last year when the economy went further down hill. We all will be shouldering a bigger tax debt during these hard times which means more money out of our pockets but not yours. While 6,000 parcels went up, not one of your homes did... I checked.

BOTTOM LINE: The reassessment process here is unfair, too subjective, and definitely needs to be changed.

