

Laws are like cobwebs,  
which may catch small flies,  
but let wasps and hornets break through.  
— Jonathan Swift

# NEWS-STAR

AN INSIDE PUBLICATIONS NEWSPAPER

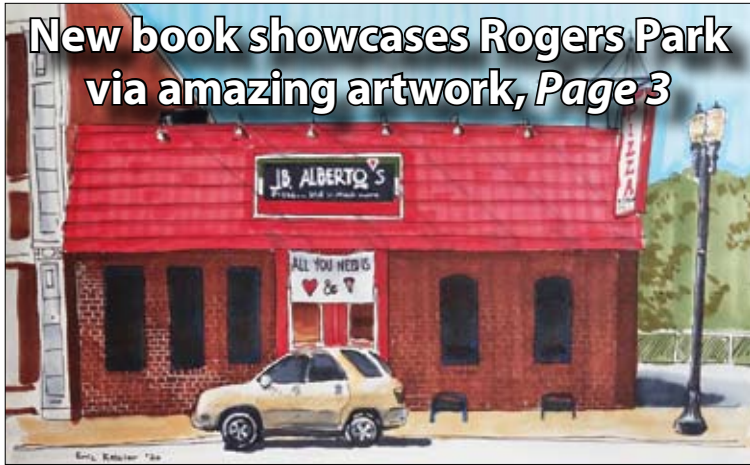
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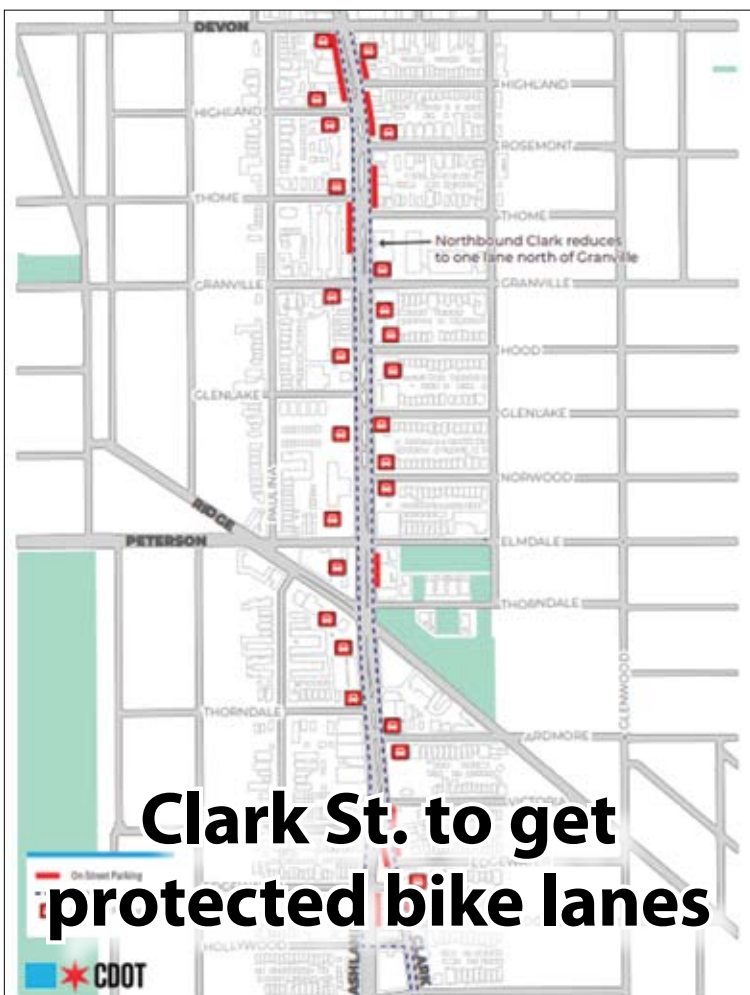
NEWS OF ROGERS PARK, EDGEWATER, UPTOWN & ANDERSONVILLE

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## New book showcases Rogers Park via amazing artwork, Page 3



Neighborhood favorite JB Alberto's Pizza by Eric Kessler.



## Clark St. to get protected bike lanes

Clark St. protected bike lane. A solid red line indicates on-street parking, the black dotted line indicates the bike route. And a red square stands for an off-street parking lot, most of which are private property.

### Northbound Clark St. may be knocked down to one-lane north of Granville

Bikers will soon be competing for road space now with cars, buses and trucks as bike lanes will soon connect Andersonville to Rogers Park along Clark St.

A protected bike lane will soon run up Clark St., says the Chicago Dept. of Transportation [CDOT]. It will be installed from Hollywood to Devon avenues in Edgewater.

The bike lane comes after years of work hoping to make the portion of Clark St. north of Andersonville safer for bicyclists and pedestrians, said Ald. Harry Osterman [48th].

"These new bike lanes will help provide a safe connecting route for cyclists between Andersonville and Rogers Park through Edgewater," said Ald. Osterman. "This is a project my office has been working on with the 40th Ward, neighbors and businesses on and near N. Clark St. for many

years. This project is expected to calm automobile traffic through our community, creating a safer experience for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers alike."

Additionally, between Granville and Devon, northbound automobile traffic will be reduced to one lane, with two lanes remaining for southbound traffic. "We will share more information as the installation is scheduled," said Osterman.

Parking along this six-block stretch of Clark St. will be re-configured, with some supposedly unused parking spots being removed or relocated to off-street sites, according to CDOT.

The bike lane will be separated from car traffic by a "paint-and-post" installation of plastic dividers or by a parking lane. The configuration of the bike lane will depend on each block's parking needs.

## Game on for XFun e-sports



(L) A vacant space on the ground floor at 5214 N. Sheridan (just north of Foster) will be the home of the e-sports gaming café. Construction will begin within three months. (R) Artist rendering of the sports café that is expected to open late this year or early next year. The \$1.5-2 million facility will feature more than 80 computer stations, console games such as Play Stations 4, Xbox and virtual reality games.

### Gaming café to open in Edgewater

STORY BY BOB KITSOS

In a July 8 community meeting chaired by the 48th Ward office, XFun Entertainment LLC, DBA as XFun eSports Gaming café sought a zoning change for its proposed state-of-the-art café.

"It will not be a traditional arcade that most people are probably used to." That understatement is from attorney Rob Nolter who is serving as counsel for an e-sports gaming café that will open at 5214 N. Sheridan.

E-sports is a form of competition using video games and often

takes the form of organized multiplayer video game competitions, particularly between professional players, individually or as teams.

And now it's big business. The gaming industry has actually surpassed sports and Hollywood for gross revenue. The COVID-19 pandemic has propelled the eSports industry to make more money than movies and North American sports combined.

Global videogame revenue surged 20% to \$179.7 billion in 2020, according to recent data. The global film industry reached \$100 billion for the first time in 2019, according to the Motion Picture Assoc., while North American sports brought in more

than \$75 billion in 2020.

Competitors from different leagues or teams face off in the same eSport games that are popular with at-home gamers. The popularity and emergence of online streaming services have helped the growth of eSports and are the most common method of watching tournaments. In 2015, the first E-sports Arena was launched in Santa Ana, CA, as the United States' first dedicated eSports facility.

Now just about every large university in North America features an eSports team

The Edgewater proposal was

**E-SPORTS** see p. 8

## Robberies, vehicular hijacking in Rogers Park

BY CWBCHICAGO

Police are warning residents of West Ridge and Rogers Park of recent robberies and aggravated vehicular hijackings.

In the robberies, a male offender approaches victims on foot as they sit in the vehicles or just have exited their vehicle. The offender displays a black semi-automatic hand gun and demands victims

keys, wallets and phones.

The offender also demands the victims to unlock their phone and in two cases made the victims change the password on the phone. The offender then drives off in the victim's vehicle.

Incidents include one on the 6200 block of N. Whipple, 2:51 a.m. July 10; on the 3000 block of W. Hood 7:45 p.m. July 19; 5200 block of N. Washtenaw 10:30 p.m.

July 19; 2500 block of W. Fitch 10:45 p.m. July 19; 3000 block of W. Northshore 11:15 p.m. July 20, and on the 7000 Block of N Rockwell 10:30 p.m. July 20.m

The offender is described as male, 20-30, 5'-6" to 5'-10", 140-180 lbs., wearing a grey colored hoodie and black rimmed glasses, dark pants and a black mask over his nose and mouth.

## Feds investigate property tax bribery scheme

BY PATRICK ANDREESSEN

A Cook County Board of Review employee claims corruption is rampant in his Cook County office after an FBI affidavit states he was charging \$2,000 to lower assessments on commercial properties and \$1,000 for homes.

A Cook County Board of Review employee has come under FBI investigation for allegedly accepting thousands of dollars in bribes to lower property tax assessments, according to a federal court affidavit obtained by the Chicago Sun-Times.

The revelation of alleged corruption could be another blow to public confidence in Cook County's property tax system, just as tax bills are supposed to be hitting mailboxes.

The employee, an unnamed member of the administrative clerk's staff, said the \$43,000 he accepted in bribes was to be split with others in the Cook County office, insisting, "I'm just the middle guy."

The corruption claims involving the Board of Review are coming as property tax bills were expected to be mailed out. The bills may be delayed because of separate problems uncovered with the county's \$250-million senior tax break program.

The Cook County property tax scheme was revealed as part of a federal probe dating back to at least Jan. 2019. The inquiry involves another unnamed individual secretly cooperating with the feds under a separate criminal investigation. That person has yet

**The Cook County property tax scheme was revealed as part of a federal probe dating back to at least Jan. 2019.**

to be charged.

According the 45-page affidavit, the cooperating witness approached the Board of Review worker about lowering property assessments in July 2020, eventually emailing the employee 18 commercial properties and seven residential properties owned by an associate on Jan. 5.

The Sun-Times says they obtained the affidavit while it was publicly available on the court

**BRIBERY** see p. 8

# In this Chicago no one dodges a bullet



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

What a month. Since the July 4th weekend, the streets of Chicago have been running with blood after what looks like our the city's worst "Wild West" shootouts. It wasn't this bad during the heyday of bad boy Al Capone, the tax dodger and bootlegger. He pales in comparison to the new style of post-modern gun-slitting.

We're living up to our old TV reputation for mayhem, only in the 1920s you could leave your house in peace. No mobster would shoot a child. A grandmother, pretty girl or a teenage boy. They only shot each other, as the saying

went. Elliot Ness aside.

Today shooters glide across the streetscapes or sashay across the pavements using Chicago citizens for target practice.

People are knifed downtown. They're brutalized on the lakefront. Shot 64 times with impunity in front of Cook County Jail and their five-zillion (lack-of) security cameras.

It's hard to get your head around so much violence, not from veteran mob gunslingers, but from teenagers and 20-somethings who have no moral compass. In this Chicago no one dodges a bullet.

Sorry. There is one exception to that rule: The Chicago City Council.

Aldermen are experts at dodging bullets. Most of the time.

Apparently no matter how much you embrace reform most aldermen are ready to wage war to protect the most ancient of the Old Machine privileges. Namely who gets to hire their Ward Superintendent. That's always been a sacrosanct part of their office. You know, they get to install the boss who oversees on their behalf the minutia of city services in their local fiefdom. Snow removal. Street cleaning. Alley maintenance. Dog catching. What tools they use. Purchases they make. Equipment they label a necessity. The old foot bone's connected to the leg bone.

The Ward Superintendent is the guy everyone sees in an emergency. During storms or blizzards, after a fire or a flood. When you need permission to do something. Or when you choose not to ask. When your lawn is swallowed up in a sink hole, or a pothole gobbles up your car. He's the practical guy in the sweater, driving a truck filled with tools, who seems to know how broke things get fixed. And fixed things get broke.

He's most often the alderman's right hand man, or woman, maneuvering, often, a relationship of psychic intimacy. The alderman and the Super.

In some wards, he might be the smartest guy in the zip code. Or at least the cleverest. And his one overriding virtue, beyond every other grace or gift or work history is, of course, his reasoned loyalty at any cost. The faithful adjutant of the elected alderman. His last filter to the public, the widow, the home-owner, shopkeeper, small business owner. The tavern boss and local restaurateur, undertaker or pastor.

The Ward Superintendent is the problem solver. Not so much quantum physics, but the resolver of general annoyances. A resolver of gripes, complaints and bad feelings. They keep stuff up and running. Don't let equipment go on the fritz. Know when a sign looks too big, or when a building needs to get boarded up. What property is about to fall down. What areas of the neighborhood are in need of trimming, pruning or repair. The lists go on and on.

He's often part diplomat; part thug. Not afraid to get his hands dirty, or his knuckles soiled. This is no job for the tea and crumpet crowd.

A good Ward Superintendent can make or break an alderman. The mouthpiece protecting his larger reputation in the public eye. His uncanny ability to get out the vote.

Little ceremony is attached to the Ward Superintendent's role. He's an upfront guy when he

needs to be. But he's someone who knows when to stand off in the distance. A specialist at behind the scenes efforts and shenanigans.

No place in America so manicured and refined the role of Ward Superintendent as Chicago.

In fact, I think Chicago invented the post.

An indispensable leader in efficient, economic, effective politics, as it were. A good Ward Superintendent in Chicago has always been the frosting on the cake for aldermen. When you find one, you never let him go. So we understand the power to appoint one is indispensable, like free tickets to a White Sox game.

That's why Mayor Lightfinger's recent Council strategy to remove the power to appoint the Ward Superintendent from the alderman was so bold. A real Blitzkrieg in its ultimate political attack on aldermanic colleagues and close allies. Her maneuvers to take away the Ward Superintendent from the purview of local aldermen appeared a stunning political charge of strategic military superiority.

But alas, it's proving to be merely a 'charge of the Light Brigade.' It's a classic textbook maneuver even Harold Washington would not have tried. Alderman are now rewriting the law governing such a move. She's lost. She slipped on a banana peel in her moment of mayoral madness.

I cannot fathom who whispered this plan into the mayoral ear. In what scenario did this seem like a solid workable plan? What was she thinking? Did no one imagine that the explosive nature of the maneuver would be met with resistance. Terror, and a return volley of intransigent aldermanic political re-fortification? Not to mention providing the cause celebre serving to realign and unify dangling aldermen and fearful council loners?

My speculation is not idle. Getting to the bottom of who put this Soviet-style attack notion in the mind of the rookie mayor just

might turn on more lights aimed at why she keeps getting things wrong.

What's next? Shipping the poliburo to a gulag?

Why is she making such a mess in the tattered precincts of the City Council? And why does she continue to arm her Council foes with the weapons of mass destruction that will serve as her final undoing? It won't be a pretty site. She certainly has provided her most articulate and muscular enemy with ample aim for the bullseye she is painting on her mayoral derriere.

In the meantime, as the Council chamber echoes with the foolish voices of meagre reason and low intelligence, Chicago streets have never been more dangerous. A new plan, they say, has been hatched. Just announced by Police Supt. David Brown. It's supposed to "reorganize" Chicago Police, now, engaging the massive armaments that are supplied to Chicago street gangs.

The "reorganization" is for immediate use.

Good luck.

We're supposed to think that the same person who thought taking away aldermen's power to hire their top ward personnel has discovered a fresh solution to guns and shooters on the street? Was it her brainstorm? What's cookin' in that noggin of hers?

I'm locking my doors and windows and making a chicken pot pie from scratch. I've got farmers market yellow beefsteak tomatoes and great garlic marinade.

I want to hide. But we can't sit this battle out. Like it, or not,

**DODGE** see p. 6

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Eric Kessler



The Armadillo's Pillow, Sheridan and Pratt, painting by Eric Kessler.



Artist Joe Taylor's work at Old Town Art Center.



Linda Goldberg

# New book showcases Rogers Park via amazing artwork



**Heart of the 'Hood**  
by Felicia Dechter

Eric Kessler may be a fourth grade teacher for the Chicago Public Schools, but he could easily use the artwork from his own new book, "A Walk Through Rogers Park," as an excellent -- and beautifully-done -- history lesson of the neighborhood circa-2020/2021.

"I really fell in love with it," Kessler said of Rogers Park. "I really love the diversity, I love the flavor that it has. There's a real community. Just walking up and down the street... I kind of felt at home right away."

"Early in 2020, I started going for walks around the neighborhood, taking reference pictures, and filling a sketchbook-and-a-half with art of Rogers Park," continued Kessler. "It soon occurred to me that these pieces are worth publishing and sharing with my community."

What he is sharing with his community, which is my community too, is a 60-page, vibrantly-colored and beautifully done soft cover book filled with wonderful portrayals of the area that Kessler and I both love. It's filled with expressive colors and great drawings and shows many of the places that I've frequented throughout my entire life.

Kessler captured the views of everyday life in Rogers Park, including the view from his living room, a watercolor of St. Ignatius Church, a drawing of the Armadillo's Pillow ("This local bookstore is worth a stop for anyone in Rogers Park!" said Kessler).

Of course, everyone's favorite, JB Alberto's is in there, along with Kilmer Elementary School and also there's his Pratt Series, where Kessler drew every building on the south side of Pratt between the Red Line tracks and Sheridan Rd. ("My aim for this mini-series was to share what the

neighborhood looks like with the people who are unfamiliar with Rogers Park," he said).

It's a magical look at an always-evolving 'hood. For Kessler, 34, it all started when things shut down in March of last year. Like every other teacher, Kessler had to figure out "on the fly," how to start teaching online. "That's not my training. I think one of the ways early on I reasoned that I don't have control of what's going on in the world, but I can find something positive in my life to keep going."

After teaching in South Korea for two years, Kessler had moved to Chicago to complete a Masters Degree in Elementary Education at Loyola. He already had a couple of pieces of artwork he'd created, focusing on Rogers Park. He figured, "What if I start walking? I'll have control over something." He decided to start telling his story throughout the year in visuals from his walks.

"When I moved to Chicago in 2015, I immediately noticed my surroundings influencing my art," said Kessler. "Since that time, I've focused on architecture and alleyways; restaurants and corner stores; and the happenings of daily life. For me, the body of work in this book represents my efforts to focus on what I could control, rather than worry about what I could not," said Kessler, who grew up in Kenosha, WI, and became interested in art in high school after a few great teachers fueled his talent. "This meant focusing on the beauty of Rogers Park."

"The artwork in this book is a collection I made between March 2020 and March 2021," Kessler says in his book intro. "In a way, this is my story of a year not soon forgotten."

Kessler has displayed that talent, working mostly in pen, ink, and watercolor, with some mixed media "thrown in for good measure."

"Making art has always been a passion of mine, and it has only been recently that I have shared my work publicly," said Kessler, whose other main influence is Urban

Sketchers, a global non-profit dedicated to sketching on location. "A Walk Through Rogers Park," is my first major work, and I'm excited to continue as a local artist."

When school starts, Kessler said he will share his book with his students and talk about the power of the word, "Yet."

For example, for a first grade assignment, he drew a picture of his dad, and his arm was way too long. "I said, I'm not a good artist but through hard work I can do it." In fourth grade, he still thought he was no good, but he worked at his art and it got better. And now, Kessler has published a book, chockfull of goodness.

"Here's what happens when you work hard," he said.

Another big thing, he said, is celebrating when things go right and building each other up when things don't go right. "Kids haven't been in school in person since March 2020," he said. "I want to instill that wherever they are academically, we're going to get them to where they need to be. We'll be celebrating growth and hard work."

And please don't forget to celebrate your awesome new book too, Mr. Kessler. Congratulations!

"It feels so good, it feels really just wonderful," said Kessler. "I feel a connection to the community when I get to meet them and show them, hey, this is our neighborhood. It feels really good, like I'm connect-

ed the place and the people."

You can go to Kessler's website at [interalcombustionart.com](http://interalcombustionart.com) and check out some of his work for sale, but the pieces from the book are from his sketchbook, and sorry, but what happens in Eric's sketchbook stays in Eric's sketchbook.

Buy now and get a signed book for \$30. Demand is picking up, Kessler said, so be sure to get a copy for your fave Rogers Parker.

**Old Town time...**The Leslie Wolfe Gallery, 1763 N. North Park Ave., has reopened just in time for the show, Joe Taylor: Capturing Character in People and Places, on exhibit through Sept. 24 with an artist's reception from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday

Taylor is an award-winning painter, printmaker, and freelance illustrator who teaches studio art with Chicago Community Colleges and the Old Town Triangle Assoc. I don't know Joe, but I hear he bakes a mean cherry pie and if he bakes as well as he paints, his pie must be super delish.

**Sincerest condolences...** we send our sincerest condolences to Dr. Sandy Goldberg on the recent death of her beloved sister, Linda Goldberg, who passed away earlier this month in Boca Raton, FL. Linda, an actor who worked under the name Linda Bernhard, "was a ray of sunshine and never

**ARTWORK** see p. 6



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# Police Beat...

## Suburban man buys car Friday, gets hijacked in the Loop same day

Ahhh. You're 20-years-old, it's Friday, and you just rolled out of the car dealership with your new ride. May as well pick up your girlfriend and drive into the city so you can get carjacked.

And that's exactly what happened to an Algonquin man on July 23.

Just hours after he took ownership of the red 2009 Toyota Corolla, he drove his girlfriend into the Loop. Around 11:30 p.m., he stepped out of the car for a moment on Balbo Dr., just east of State St.

Before he returned, another man climbed behind the wheel and ordered his girlfriend out of the vehicle. The intruder claimed to be armed, according to Chicago police.

The Toyota, bearing a crisp new temporary license plate, was last seen heading east on Balbo and then south on Michigan Ave. The girlfriend wasn't injured.

The carjacker was described as a Black male who wore a black jacket with a flower design. Area Three detectives are investigating.

Chicago police recorded 75 carjackings between July 1 and July 16. That's up from 65 during the same period last year and 26 during the first 16 days of July 2019.

Year to date through July 16, 836 carjackings were reported in Chicago, up 55% from this point last year and 200% compared to mid-July 2019.

## Lakeview man disarms robbers, but the gun jammed when he tried to shoot them

A Lakeview man disarmed a robber and tried to use the offender's gun in self-defense July 20, but the firearm malfunctioned, and the bandits fled empty-handed.

The 36-year-old victim was sitting in his car on the 2800 block of N. Broadway when two masked men climbed into the vehicle around 1:35 a.m., said Karie James, a CPD spokesperson. One of the offenders punched the man in the face while the other displayed a handgun and demanded his valuables, James said.

But the victim had other ideas.

He grabbed the robbers' gun away and then pulled the trigger repeatedly, but the weapon didn't fire, James said. The offenders wrestled their gun back and fled south in a black Toyota Corolla driven by a third person, according to James.

The suspects are two Black males in their early 20's who stand 5'6" to 5'10" tall and weigh 130- to 140 pounds. They wore masks and hoodies, one of which was blue, ac-

ording to the victim.

Area Three detectives are investigating.

Tuesday's robbery is similar to a pair of hold-ups in Old Town and Lincoln Park July 14. Both of the earlier robberies involved armed men who got out of a vehicle and entered cars that the victims were sitting in.

At 12:15 a.m. on July 14, two men pistol-whipped a man and took his wallet and phone inside a vehicle on the 600 block of W. Armitage. About 20 minutes later, two men walked up to a victim who was sitting in his car on the 2000 block of N. Lincoln. They pointed a gun at the man's head and took his wallet and keys. The offenders reportedly escaped in a vehicle driven by a third person.

Area Three detectives issued a community alert about those two crimes just a few hours before the Lakeview man was robbed.

## Death of woman found in car near Clark-Fullerton was accidental

A north suburban woman who was found dead in a parked car July 22 near the intersection of Clark and Fullerton died from accidental inhalation of automobile exhaust, according to the Cook County medical examiner's office.

First responders found Payton Mickey, 25, in the driver's seat of a Lexus on the 400 block of W. Fullerton after a passerby noticed she was unresponsive and had been there for hours, according to dispatch records. She was pronounced dead at the scene at 8:27 p.m.

Police remained in the area until after midnight as detectives investigated Mickey's death. Officers found no unusual circumstances at the scene, according to a CPD report. CBS2 reported that a dog was also found dead inside the car.

## More robberies and hijackings in Lincoln Square and West Rogers Park

Two more armed carjackings were reported July 20 in Lincoln Square and West Rogers Park — the same neighborhoods where four similar crimes were reported on July 19.

On Tuesday, the first victim was a delivery driver who left the keys in her green Ford Edge while she dropped off food in the 2700 block of W. Giddings around 11 p.m., said Kellie Bartoli, a CPD spokesperson. When the 24-year-old returned to her car, which was not left running, she saw a man in the driver's seat. He pointed a gun at the woman, demanded her valuables, and then drove west with her car, Bartoli said.

Police found the car abandoned less than an hour later in the 6100 block of N. California.

Then, around 11:15 p.m., another carjacking was reported on the 3000 block of W. North Shore. Two 19-year-old men were sitting inside a black Lexus RX350 when a hijacker walked up and demanded their property and the car's keys at gunpoint, Bartoli said. They complied, and the carjacker drove away with the SUV.

At about the same time, another robbery was reported on the 7000 block of N. Rockwell. Once again, a man displayed a gun and demanded the victim's money and phone. He also tried to take their car keys but failed to get them, according to a CPD report.

All three victims described the robber as a thin Black male in his late teens or early 20's who wore a gray or beige hoodie and a black mask.

Police responded to three carjackings and a fourth attempted carjacking in the same area July 19.

The robberies began around 7:40 p.m. on the 3000 block of W. Hood. That's when a hijacker stepped out of

a white Volkswagen, pushed a woman, and took her Lexus RX350.

Around 10:25 p.m., a carjacker displayed a handgun and took a man's blue Hyundai Sonata on the 2600 block of W. Farragut.

Moments later, an offender displayed a gun and ordered a man to get out of his car in the 6200 block of N. Claremont. But the victim foiled the carjacking attempt by driving away and calling the police. The victim told police he thought the hijackers were using two or three cars to get around.

Finally, around 10:50 p.m., a man got out of a white Volkswagen and took a woman's red Nissan Rogue at gunpoint on the 2500 block of W. Fitch, according to a CPD report.

Area Three detectives are investigating all of the incidents.

## Man faces carjacking charges just months after prosecutors dropped another carjacking case against him

A three-time felon who's accused of battering and carjacking a food delivery driver on the North Side was accused of committing another carjacking on the same street last autumn, but prosecutors dropped the case two months later.

Deonta Sanchez, 25, also known as Deinta Sanchez, was ordered held without bail during a bond hearing before Judge Arthur Willis July 23.

Last August, a concerned citizen directed police to a suspicious vehicle



Deonta Sanchez

in the Douglas neighborhood and told them that Sanchez had been driving it, according to CPD records. Cops ran the Dodge Dart's license plate number and discovered it had been carjacked a few days earlier in Albany Park.

While officers were researching the car, Sanchez walked up to a nearby minivan and started shuffling through things in the driver's seat. Cops ran the minivan's license plate and allegedly found that it, too, had been carjacked recently in Albany Park.

Sanchez ran when the officers tried to arrest him, police said. But he was caught and charged with vehicular hijacking and possession of a stolen motor vehicle. Sanchez, who was on parole for aggravated DUI and escape at the time, was ordered held in lieu of \$100,000 bail. But just two months later, on Oct. 10, prosecutors dropped both charges.

The Cook County State's Attorney's office did not respond to an inquiry about that decision.

On July 23, Sanchez was back in bond court to face fresh charges of vehicular hijacking and battery.

Around 4:30 p.m. July 17, a 55-year-old delivery driver arrived on the 4500 block of N. St. Louis with a food order. Sanchez and two women approached, and Sanchez gave him \$20 for the order, which cost \$40, Assistant State's Attorney Brian Burkhardt said.

When the driver told Sanchez he needed another \$20, Sanchez punched him in the back of the head, pushed him to the ground, and got into the driver's seat of the man's car, according to Burkhardt. The driver tried to get him out, but one of the women pulled the victim away as Sanchez drove off.

The women ran into a nearby building where a witness said one of them lives.

But Sanchez's getaway was quickly foiled by one of Apple's newest products: The driver had an AirTag affixed to the car, according to Burkhardt. Cops tracked the vehicle and trapped Sanchez when he turned down a

dead-end street, Burkhardt said. Sanchez "made admissions" after the victim identified him as the hijacker.

A public defender said Sanchez is expecting his first child and works as an event planner.

In addition to the DUI, Sanchez's criminal record includes a 2014 conviction for punching a woman in her face and robbing her and a 2013 threat to blow up a school with a bomb, according to Burkhardt.

The 2014 robbery, the 2013 bomb threat, both of last year's carjackings, and the latest hijacking all occurred within a half-mile square section of Albany Park.

## Rogers Park shooting leaves 17-year-old injured

A 17-year-old boy is recovering after someone shot him in the Rogers Park neighborhood on July 19, police said.

The boy was in the 6700 block of N. Greenview when a man fired shots, striking him one time in the buttocks, according to a CPD media statement. Witnesses saw the gunman run east in an alley after the shooting. He was described as a thin Black male who stood about 5'-9" tall and wore a gray sweater with a mask.

Police recovered one shell casing at the scene. The victim was listed in good condition at an undisclosed hospital, police said.

He is the 14th person shot in Rogers Park this year.

## Party bus drive-by leaves 8 shot in Old Town

Eight people were injured when someone opened fire on a party bus July 21 in Old Town. The victims include two employees of the bus company and a man who was struck by a bullet while getting gas at a nearby service station, according to a source.

Police said that it was not clear if the party bus victims were inside or outside the vehicle when shots were fired from inside a dark gray Jeep Grand Cherokee around 11:57 p.m. on the 1600 block of N. LaSalle. The Jeep, which reportedly bears a stolen Chicago Blackhawks license plate, then fled westbound on North Ave. A black Jeep Grand Cherokee was also involved in the shooting, according to CPD's statement.

Video recorded from nearby high-rise shows the bus pulled to the curb next to BP, 1647 N. LaSalle, as ambulances arrive and police search the pavement for evidence. At least 25 shell casings were reportedly found at the scene.

According to dispatch records, officers applied three tourniquets to victims at the scene to help restrict blood loss. A witness reported seeing bullet holes in the party bus.

The victims include two men, ages 42 and 52, who work for the party bus company. They were taken to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center in fair condition with gunshot wounds to their legs.

The 23-year-old driver of a car that was being filled with gas at the BP station. He fled the scene with three witnesses and contacted police a short time later. The man was taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital in serious condition with a gunshot wound to his groin.

A 26-year-old female passenger from the party bus who was celebrating her birthday is in serious condition at Northwestern with a gunshot wound to her leg. A 24-year-old man who was with the bus party is in fair condition at Northwestern; a 26-year-old woman who transported herself to Jackson Park Hospital is in good condition with a gunshot wound to the hand; a 27-year-old man who was taken by car to Northwestern is in critical condition with a gunshot wound to the chest, and a 29-year-old man

who drove himself to Rush Hospital was transferred to Stroger Hospital in fair condition with a gunshot wound to his arm.

Police said three male victims who were part of the celebration have histories with CPD. Records show one of the men has been arrested three times for felony gun charges since 2015, most recently in July 2020. Those men were not working for the bus company.

Area Three detectives are investigating.

The shooting came two years and one day after Lincoln Park's last mass shooting.

Seven people, mostly women, were shot near the entrance to Theater on the Lake, 2401 N. Lake Shore Dr., at 3:20 a.m. July 20, 2019. Police said a group of people was walking toward the lakefront when they encountered another group that was leaving. A verbal altercation broke out and escalated, causing people from both groups to pull out handguns and open fire, police said at the time. No charges have ever been filed.

## Armed robbers struck in Old Town, Lincoln Park, West Loop

Police are investigating a series of armed robberies across Old Town, Lincoln Park, and the West Loop July 25. No injuries were reported, and no arrests have been made.

At 9 p.m., a man hopped out from a black SUV's passenger seat with a handgun and confronted a 30-year-old woman on the 400 block of W. Wisconsin in Old Town, police said. He demanded the woman's purse and phone then returned to the SUV and fled the scene.

The woman said he is a Black male between 20- and 30-years-old who stands about 6' tall. He had short hair and wore a black sweatshirt and black pants.

About a half-hour later, a 30-year-old man was robbed at gunpoint of his phone in the 2000 block of N. Racine in Lincoln Park, police said. Once again, the offender reportedly emerged from the passenger side of a black SUV with a handgun before the robbery and returned to the car afterward.

This victim described the robber as a Black male in his early- to mid-20's who stands about 6' tall wearing a green hoodie with gray sweats.

Then, around 12:40 a.m. July 26, a black SUV stopped in front of a 68-year-old man who was driving on the first block of S. Desplaines. A woman and a man who had a gun stepped out of the SUV and demanded the other driver's valuables, according to a CPD statement. The victim complied, and the offenders returned to the SUV with his wallet and phone, police said.

The robbers in the third incident were described only as being Black, in their teens, and possibly using a Toyota SUV. Detectives are investigating the hold ups.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

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## Letter to the Editor

### Go back to the drawing board

Thanks for the coverage of the project to re-do the streetscape of Clark between Devon and Arthur. I've participated in the online public meetings.

It's been going well from my viewpoint. The one thing I'm really angry about are the "doodads" (their label) proposed for objects like lightpoles and the screen along the park on Arthur.

I told the managers of this project that the choices offered are all insipid and weak and said go find a Native American artist to create some designs. For instance, the new logo for the American Indian Center of Chicago is strong and beautiful. This segment of Clark St. deserves as good.

Jean SmilingCoyote, West Ridge

## Soup's on with CloudKitchen's free meals for teens in North Side Parks

CloudKitchens of North Center have partnered with the Chicago Park Dist. to provide free meals for two upcoming teen events in the park.

They made the donation of hot meals from Monti's Chicago, 4131 N. Rockwell St., as a part of its service mission to tackle food insecurity in the communities in which it's located.

The partnership with the CPD was launched in May to provide fresh and healthy meals to youth participating in Teens in the Parks programming over the summer.

In June, CloudKitchens donated 40 meals (turkey sandwiches with side salads) for the Color Run, where teens did a one-mile run through various color stations (a run where color powder is thrown on the participants).

Now this August, CloudKitchens will be donating 280 meals for teens participating in the Ka-

raoke and Flag Tag and Splash Bash events in parks across the north and northwest sides. Both events are free, but registration is required.

The Karaoke and Flag Tag event will take place from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 6 at Chase Park, 4701 N. Ashland Ave. The Splash Bash will take place from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 13 at Chase, Gompers Park, 4222 W. Foster Ave., Holstein Park, 2200 N. Oakley Ave., Norwood Park, 5801 N. Natoma Ave., Riis Park, 6100 W. Fullerton, and River Park, 5100 N. Francisco Ave.

While much attention has been paid to childhood hunger, teens' experience with food insecurity is often overlooked. Both the CPD and CloudKitchens recognize this gap and have launched this partnership to create a stigma-free opportunity for teens to get access to a healthy meal.

## City's only classical music street fest returns to Ravenswood

Thirsty ears quenched Aug. 14-15

The 6th Annual Thirsty Ears Festival is returning to the North Side this year and will feature performances by 15 stellar ensembles and soloists, craft beer from Empirical Brewing, food from Urban Tables, community vendor booths and kid-friendly activities and performances both days.

Produced by Access Contemporary Music [ACM], the Thirsty Ears Festival is Chicago's only classical music street festival. It runs from Saturday, Aug. 14 from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 15 from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. (rain or shine)

Thirsty Ears Festival is held in Ravenswood on Wilson Ave. between Hermitage Ave. and Ravenswood Ave. A \$10 suggested donation for entry is requested

and benefits the ACM School of Music.

Thirsty Ears Festival presents high-quality classical music performances, from Baroque to Contemporary, in a fun, relaxed setting. The annual street festival attracts an audience of thousands, many of whom are new to classical music.

Highlights of this year's Thirsty Ears Festival include a special screening of ACM's Sound of Silent Film Festival on the street Saturday night, a performance by five-bass ensemble the Growlers, new premieres by five Chicago composers, and a classical remix from art-rock band Origin of Animal.

The festival also features kid-friendly activities and performances in Kidzone at the west end of the street both days.

For more information visit [www.acmusic.org](http://www.acmusic.org).

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## Former 44th Alderman Hansen dead at 76

BY PATRICK BUTLER

Former 44th Ward Ald. Bernie Hansen – widely credited with “transforming” a large part of the North Side – died July 18 after a long illness.

He died in hospice care in Phoenix, his winter home.

“Nobody was better at getting things done than Bernie and the communities he served were better for it,” said Hansen’s onetime aide Mike Quigley, now Congressman for the 5th District.

“He taught me that policy only works when it works at the street level. I know that without Bernie’s advice, I wouldn’t be where I am today,” Quigley said in a statement issued shortly after word of Hansen’s death was announced.

**“Nobody was better at getting things done than Bernie and the communities he served were better for it,” said Mike Quigley.**

And Quigley wasn’t the only one who had been guided by Hansen over the years. Among the others who were helped along the way included State Sen. Sara Feigenoltz, who worked her way up from an aide in Hansen’s office to the State Legislature and currently an Illinois Senator since last year; former State President John Cullerton, and current 44th Ward Ald. Tom Tunney.

Upon his City Council retirement – for health reasons – in 2003, he picked Tunney as his replacement, making Tunney the city’s first openly gay alderman.

From 1994 to 2000, he served as one of four U.S. commissioners to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. Hansen made an attempt to be a Democratic Congressional Candidate in 2002 but the Clinton Administration chose to push former staffer Rahm Emanuel for the spot. Hansen withdrew and soon after resigned from the 44th Ward Aldermanic seat.

A born North Sider, Hansen went to Hawthorne grade school, then on to Lane Tech. He eventually met his wife of 56 years at the Waveland Bowl. “I bowled for St. Ben’s and he bowled for Lane,” she told a reporter.

A long active member of the 44th Ward organization, he was picked for the post by longtime



Former 44th Ward Ald. Bernie Hansen. Photo courtesy ABC 7 News

incumbent John Merlo in 1983, the same election that got Harold Washington elected Chicago’s first black mayor. Initially Hansen lined up with the 29 aldermen under Ed Vrdolyak against Mayor Washington during Council Wars from 1983 to 1986, but soon found himself gravitating toward Mayor Washington and supporting a city ordinance to fund private recycling and a moratorium on landfills.

Soon he was supporting efforts to promote new treatments for AIDS/HIV as well as support for other LGBTG programs at a time when few other aldermen were openly promoting those kinds of services.

Hansen wasn’t your typical late 20th century mainline Chicago Democratic organization type.

Of course, that became obvious when he and Ald. Cliff Kelly began pressing for a Human Rights Ordinance to protect gay, lesbian and disabled people from discrimination. To the surprise of some, that law was approved in 1988.

But to Ald. Hansen, it was probably just another effort to right just another wrong.

Speaking at the Lake View Kiwanis Club luncheon in 2016, Hansen reminded his listeners that all most people “want is to be treated decently – whether they’re black, brown, white pink or pur-

ple. Whatever.”

He was also an almost round-the-clock alderman who this reporter (among others for sure) often saw checking out the alleys, streets, storefronts and parks during the midnight hours, before reporting to his office almost like clockwork a 6 a.m.

It was no secret he was always on the prowl for Wrigley Field ticket scalpers when he wasn’t battling places like the long-extinct Medusa’s, an all-ages juice bar and raucous nighttime destination for many younger night owls, despised by many of the areas older neighbors.

Hansen is survived by his wife, Annette, and sons Paul and David.

Services were still being planned as of presstime.





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INSIDE PUBLICATIONS



Jim Williams and Marshall Harris.



President Emmanuel Macron and Rev. Jesse Jackson.



Meg Steele and pup.



Richard and Linda Robin, Herb and Carole Rudoy, Ruthie and Lou Weisbach and Jason Robin.



Gwen Yen Chiu, Richard Hunt and Kelly McGrath. Photo by S. Swann

**DODGE** from p. 2

we're up to our hips in it. Time for us to come up with a plan. Elections can't come soon enough. Bon Appetite.

**CITOYEN DU MONDE:** French President Emmanuel Macron awarded Chicago's own Rev. Jesse Jackson the Legion d'honneur, one of France's highest honors, in recognition of what he called "a long walk towards emancipation and justice." Who has shown more energy and moral direction in great issues for so many decades than Rev. Jackson? Other nations have no one like him.

**CBS 2:** News veteran Jim Williams giving a hearty welcome to CBS 2's new sports director, Marshall Harris. He'll be on the 5, 6 and 10 p.m. newscasts.

**BEGORRAH:** Support 'Sharing Notes' at the Irish music fest at Chief O'Neill's Pub, 3741 N. Elston, 7 p.m. July 30 (doors open at 6:30). Tickets are \$25.

**MACKINAC RACE:** The Beneteau 36.7 Maggie Mae picked off Veni Vidi Veatchi in the race for the Chicago-Mac Trophy.

**HELMUT JAHN:** Don't miss the Helmut Jahn retrospective now through October at the Chicago Architecture Center. Fascinating.

**FELICITATION:** Bravo to Meg Steele, recently named principal of Sacred Heart Academy on Sheridan Rd.

**NEWSIES NOSTALGIA:** Seemed like old times. Hanging out with friends in person. Listening to Walter Jacobson's "perspective" and Anne Kavanagh laughing with Lilia Chacon and Nancy Pendar. Nancy hosted a great party for her station alum buddies.

**SERVICE CLUB:** Just around the corner, The Service Club of Chicago Day on the Terrace- Aug. 3, at The Geraghty.

**SINGING CELEBS:** Richard Knight, Denise Tomasello, Gino DeLuca were all part of the Chicago musical stars popping in



Dayle D Ann Edgeworth getting the coif done, always important to look your best.

at the Green Mill in Uptown for Joanie Pallatto's party launching her new CD.

**BIG ICE:** Dan Lawlor honored to report that wife Laurie Baker Lawlor and he both qualified as Junior Park Rangers in Glacier Bay National Park, Alaska (see Johns Hopkins Glacier) and Mendenhall Glacier.

**WHO'S WHERE:** Karen Schmid delighted to have her very accomplished actor son, James Schmid, a former Disney talent, and her personal IT dept., back in Lake Forest... Mark Olley in Waynesboro, VA, and Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's home... Candace and Chuck Jordan in Lake Forest at the new Forester Hotels' Grand Opening looking fab... Whitney Reynolds and David Heiner packing up the family for Disney World... Horse racing's Patricia Bidwill in Paris at Hemingway's Cafe de Flore... Shereen Leigh post-Grant Park concert, no cabs in sight, going for Plan B., fun in a bike rickshaw... Chicago actor Vince Vaughan dining at Gibson's Steakhouse in Rosemont... Birthday boy Richard Robin, with wife, Linda and son, Jason, and friends Herb and Carole Rudoy, Ruthie and Lou Weisbach at Piccolo Sogno ... Russ Goeltenboldt sailing with family off the Maryland coast, later crooning in New York at an open mic with Michael McAssey at Pangea ... Susan Tower in LeBarroux, in Provence with

sibs... Mark Howard, Trinity Dance founder, taking the dance group out for a fab dinner... Eileen Howard Wienberg and Susan Kaplan Barr at Tavern on Rush, usual table number 1... Bonnie Spurlock excited for the farmers markets... U. Wisconsin rower Christine Dombrowski's first Mac Race was aboard the Karma, a real Lake Michigan sailing baptism ... famed American sculptor, Chicago's Richard Howard Hunt was with Kelly McGrath and sculptor Gwen Yen Chiu for the installation of "Thought Vortex," a stunning piece of art ... switching stadiums Lois Dal Santo Harring, Michael Harring and Victoria Harring squeezed in to cheer the White Sox on the South Side, Wrigley was last week.

**It is forbidden to kill; therefore all murderers are punished unless they kill in large numbers and to the sound of trumpets. — Voltaire**  
**tog515@gmail.com**

**ARTWORK** from p. 3

met a stranger." Any wishes or donations in her memory can be sent to the foundation founded by Dr. Sandy and her husband, Greg Hines, at A Silver Lining Foundation, 134 N. LaSalle St., Suite 2050, Chicago, 60602 or online at asilverliningfoundation.org where the Linda Goldberg Memorial Fund has been established.

And the same goes to Debbie Silverman Krolik, who we send our heartfelt condolences on the loss of her dear, longtime friend, comedian Jackie Mason. Years ago, I had a hoot hanging with Debbie, a publicist, and Jackie when I interviewed him. And Jackie loved the photo I took of him so much that he ended up using it for his press kit.

When you're in this business for a long time, some of the people/interviews are unforgettable. Jackie Mason was definitely one of those.

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East Bank Storage located at 730 W. Lake Street, Chicago, IL, 312-876-2000, is opening locations: 7570F - Advanced Solution Inc 4270F - Heather, Kimberly 1265F - Kardi, Ram 5300A - Pence, Emily for public sale. This sale is to be held on Tuesday, August 24, 2021, at 2:00PM. Cash payments only.

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**E-SPORTS** from p. 1

backed by Ald. Harry Osterman [48th]. He said, "I have received many letters of support for this project from neighbors, including official support from the Edge-water Chamber of Commerce, Goudy Elementary School and The Breakers." The Breakers is an independent living residence for older adults in the 5300 block of N. Sheidan. The Committee on Zoning voted in favor of the zoning change and it recently passed the full City Council.

**Café features**

The café will offer more than 80 computer stations and provide console games such as Play Stations 4, Xbox, Nintendo WiiU and the latest Virtual Reality games. Prepared foods, bakery items, soft drinks and coffee will be available for hungry gamers. A staging area will have TVs and a large video screen to watch the competition.

Ian Hafner of Spirit Investors.com and one of the owners of the 1930s building and landlord of this tenant, said, "This is not your old school internet café where people

are just hanging out and surfing around the internet." Hafner emphasized that this will not be a bar or tavern. It also will not serve alcohol and there will be no gambling or smoking allowed. Hafner said, "We want something that will be beneficial for the community, neighborhood and the ward."

Casper Chen, one of XFun's founders, said, "We will provide a space for all kinds of events such as education or experience events for schools and family events for all neighbors and businesses.

"Besides that," she said, "I believe we

can bring extra safety by installing 13 cameras around the exterior of the building along Sheridan and Foster, and both north and west alley side. These are the cameras that would be tied in with the City's Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC)."

Chen estimated that the build-out work on the building's ground floor will begin in about two to three months. The target date to open the \$1.5-2 million sports café is at the end of this year or early next year

**BRIBERY** from p. 1

docket. It has since been sealed. A spokesman for U.S. Attorney John Lausch declined to comment.

Told about the affidavit, Board of Review Commissioner Larry Rogers Jr. said in a written statement, "We take any allegation of impropriety very seriously and will be opening an investigation."

Cmsr. Michael Cabonargi said, "We will be directing the Board of Review's ethics officer to open an investigation immediately."

The Board of Review employee under investigation told the witness, "everything's doable" and allegedly offered to reduce property assessments in exchange for bribes.

The Cook County employee charged \$2,000 per commercial property and \$1,000 per residential.

"Half now and half when it's completed," the employee allegedly said, later agreeing on \$21,000 for the first payment. The affidavit contained a photo of the employee accepting the bribe in a Skokie parking lot Jan. 15.

The employee sent the cooperating wit-

ness the reduced property assessment in May, reportedly saving his associated around \$99,000.

The Board of Review worker then requested to meet with the witness to collect the second \$22,000 payment July 1 for completing the task. The feds filed their affidavit June 30 to search the employee and his phone.

After being made aware of the federal affidavit, Board of Review Commissioner Tammy Wendt told the Sun-Times, "It is not a surprise to me as I have discovered a culture at the Board of Review that believes it operates in a vacuum. I have pressed the issue of adhering to the Open Meetings Act, homeowner appeal denials, financial responsibility and other issues of concern in my short time at the Board."

"I hope this serves as a wake-up call to everyone. If this was truly an organized crew inside the Cook County Board of Review, we need to do a full forensic accounting of any and all work touched by those named in this investigation," Wendt said.

The exposition of an alleged pay-to-play scheme in the Board of Review coincides as Cook County residents prepare to shoulder one of the highest property taxes in the

***"I hope this serves as a wake-up call to everyone. If this was truly an organized crew inside the Cook County Board of Review, we need to do a full forensic accounting of any and all work touched by those named in this investigation," Tammy Wendt said.***

nation.

Property taxes billed by Cook County's local governments has been nearly triple the rate of inflation during the past 20 years, according to a 2020 study.

Illinois property taxes are the second-highest in the nation. Cook County residents pay an average effective property tax rate of 2.1% of their homes' values each year – almost double the national average of 1.1%. That burden is not equally shared.

Cook County performed worst among DuPage, Lake and St. Clair County for accuracy and fairness for assessing property values, according to an analysis of Illinois Dept. of Revenue data. This means properties with comparable features located in similar areas were more commonly assessed at different rates when compared to their county neighbors.

Cook County also saw owners of higher-value residential, commercial and industrial property with lower levels of assessed value than owners of less expensive prop-

erty. Wealthier property owners in Cook County tended to catch a break in their assessed values, while poorer property owners did not.

The study shows that less than 50¢ of every additional Dollar paid in Illinois property taxes went to pay for services between 1996 and 2016. Meanwhile, 45¢ of every Dollar went to supporting government worker pensions.

Illinois' worst-in-the-nation pension crisis consumed 26.5% of the state's total operating budget in 2020, up from less than 4% in 1990 through 1997. As a consequence, increased pension contributions have diverted property taxes from spending on core services that benefit the community and raise home values.



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