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## Who pays Lake County's biggest property tax bills?

By [Dennis Rodkin](#)

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*Click on the photo above for a look at the top 10 properties.*



Two Chicago-born rock stars, Billy Corgan and Richard Marx, have made a new top 10 list that shows the downside of being successful in the music business.

The musicians were among the homeowners who received the 10 biggest property tax bills in Lake County this month. Corgan, **of Smashing Pumpkins fame**, got a bill for nearly \$169,000 on his lakefront estate in Highland Park. That was second only to the \$179,000 bill that Medline Industries President Andy Mills and his wife, Nancy, received for their Highland Park mansion, about two miles north on the Lake Michigan shoreline.

The good news for the Mills and Corgan households is that their bills declined from 2015, along with one other taxpayer in the top 10. Six went up, by as much as 27 percent. For one bill, the change from last year to this year is not known.

Though anyone who can afford a multimillion-dollar home presumably can cover a six-figure bill, that still doesn't make them happy about it.

"It's too expensive, a disaster," said the recipient of the county's tenth-largest bill, Dr. Vishnu Gaiha. A cardiologist at St. Francis Hospital in Evanston, Gaiha and his wife, Purnima, received a property tax bill for almost \$144,000 on their 16,000-square-foot home in Lake Bluff, right next door to the Marx mansion.

"I don't know what I get for paying it," Gaiha said, explaining that his two children went to private schools and the house uses well water, not the municipal supply. For police coverage and a few other services, he said, "it's a tremendous bill to pay."

Soft-rocker Marx and his ex-wife, who last week re-listed their estate on Arbor Road in Lake Bluff **at just under \$14 million**, received a tax bill for about \$158,000, the county's fifth largest.

Though the Mills house has the highest residential bill in Lake County, they wouldn't make it into the top 10 in Cook County, where the tenth-largest bill **last year was about \$217,000**. This year's Cook County bills aren't out yet.

Representatives for the Millises, Corgan and Marx did not respond to requests for comment.

In early May, the office of Lake County Treasurer David Stolman mailed tax bills to the county's estimated 225,000 residential taxpayers.

On the top 10 list are four estates in Highland Park, four in Lake Forest and two in Lake Bluff. The town's property tax rate is 7.99 percent of assessed value, more than 2 percentage points above Lake Forest's 5.52 percent. In Lake Bluff, the tax rate is 7.11 percent. Assessed value is one-third of estimated market value.

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