Bellos confront drug problems head-on

BY ANDREW SCHNEIDER
editor@buglenewspapers.com

As a father of five, it wasn’t easy for Dr. John Bello to come forward and speak publicly about his youngest son’s drug problems that started with marijuana, moved on to heroin and landed him in a rehabilitation program in Utah. But Bello did it, first at a meeting of the Park Ridge city council and then again at a meeting of the Maine Township High School District 207 school board.

“Hopefully by alerting other families in town, we can prevent this from happening again,” Bello told the school board, Monday, Apr. 11.

The problem with the Bello’s youngest son, they later discovered, began in seventh grade when he experimented with marijuana. It wasn’t until he entered high school at Maine South in Park Ridge that Bello and his wife, Nancy, realized what was going on. At that time, their son was on the football team and they were both concerned that he would be sanctioned if they approached the school about the problem.

“We were afraid because we thought our son would be blackballed,” Nancy said.

That fear prompted the Bellos to approach a social worker outside of the school. That individual, they said, believed that their homes were at risk from the burns. Five sites currently fall under the moratorium, Sauganash, Indian Road Woods, Bunker Hill, Oxbow and Miami Woods, encompassing all of Morton Grove’s Forest Preserve sites south of Dempster Street.

The “Friends of the Morton Grove Forest Preserves” are calling for the prescribed burnings in the prairie area of Miami Woods, located just east of the intersection of Caldwell and Waukegan Roads.

Typically, prescribed burns are used as a restorative tool in Illinois prairies because native species have long been adapted to fires and are able grow back at a faster rate than encroaching European and Asian species.

At Thill’s urging, Morton Grove passed a resolution last month asking Cook County President John Stroger to allow prescribed burnings in the Forest Preserves within the village limits south of Dempster. Safety is the primary concern for Morton Grove Fire Chief Tom Friel.

According to a survey conducted by the village in July of 2003, there were at least ten piles of brush that had accumulated over the years in Miami Woods. The piles were a result of volunteer efforts to clear brush.

A pile of chipped wood lies in the Miami Prairie. The chips are all that is left of a pile of brush that the Morton Grove Fire Department observed two years ago. They believe it poses a threat to the Bethany Nursing Centre, background.

A Burning Issue

Morton Grove and Suffredin want prescribed burns in the Forest Preserves south of Dempster, Stroger isn’t budging

BY ANDREW SCHNEIDER
editor@buglenewspapers.com

Prescribed burnings in prairies are a commonly used ecological restoration tool, even for the Cook County Forest Preserve, which has burned almost 1,000 acres this year, but for about a decade they haven’t been allowed in Morton Grove’s Miami Woods.

Now, the village and the “Friends” of the Forest Preserve have begun clamoring for the burns, for both ecological and safety reasons.

There’s been a moratorium on prescribed burnings in the Forest Preserve south of Dempster for almost a decade. Cook County President John Stroger originally imposed it because of concerns from residents living in the north Chicago neighborhoods of Edgebrook and Sauganash. They believed that their homes were at risk from the burns. Five sites currently fall under the moratorium, Sauganash, Indian Road Woods, Bunker Hill, Oxbow and Miami Woods, encompassing all of Morton Grove’s Forest Preserve sites south of Dempster Street.

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“The work at Miami Prairie had been going on for over 15 years before the ban was put into place,” said John Thill, Friends president. “In spite of the hours of work our volunteers have been putting in to manage the prairie, it is now deteriorating in quality because one of the more helpful and natural restoration tools is being denied to us: fire.”

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MG Mayor-elect Krier: Transition is going very well

Steve Banks of the Morton Grove Lions Club displays the 60 foot barbecue he and members of the club designed and built to prepare the world's longest sausage at the July 2 Morton Grove Days Festival. Members of the Lions Club will prepare a 60 foot foot-long and a 5 foot Italian sausage to claim the Guinness Book world's record and collect donations for Special Olympics.

Aldermen advise on Commission appointments

Saying that they want to assist Mayor-elect Howard Firsing in developing a successful team in the new administration, Aldermen-elect Jim Rademacher and Alderman Jeff Cox provided him with suggestions on the composition of City Council standing committees and various Park Ridge boards and commissions last week.

"We appreciate Mr. Firsing's promise to hold hearings with the new Council as it, too, wants to learn about the many "hot topics" during these busy first days," Rademacher said.

A member of continuing and incoming aldermen volunteered their insights to Cox and Firsing. Firsing said that he appreciated the input and that he was making the recommendations under advisement.

A Fair Shake

A Fair Shake

Annoya Olson of St. Ignatius High School in Chicago items to the presentation of eighth-grade student Photos Bolaris Friday afternoon April 15, 2005, at the Park Academy Science Fair.

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result of volunteer efforts over the decades. In 2003, the Friends of Morton Grove Forest Preserve called the "tree sale" because of the removal of many of its sizable trees. A fire extinguisher is designed to fight other fires, not a tree fire that is the middle of a fire.

In response to public concern, Forest Preserve crews have chipped the brush piles, turning them from piles of duff to piles of wood chips that are, after the winter, little more than mulch. Another survey conducted in January found that the burns of Forest Preserve land had reduced the fuel load, but Friel said that the village was still concerned about the brush piles.

"Under the right conditions it can be more of a problem because now, with the greatly reduced the fuel load, but Friel said that the village was still concerned about the brush piles. Another survey conducted in January found that the burns of Forest Preserve land had reduced the fuel load, but Friel said that the village was still concerned about the brush piles.

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**ODYSSEY LUXURY CRUISE**

On Lake Michigan

Indulge in lavish food while cruising Lake Michigan on Wednesday, June 22. Enjoy a delicious three-course meal served by the exceptional Odyssey Livery’s Chicago-based staff. There will be music, entertainment as Morton Grove residents will sing along with a traditional ballad to wind down the evening. After the cruise there will be time to visit the shops on Navy Pier. The cost is $57 for Senior Center Members and $77 for non-members. This is a trip filling up fast so please register in person at the Senior Center today.

**HOME AND YARD CHORES**

Morton Grove Village and your “Chore Program” links Senior homeowners with youth and adults to complete various home and yard tasks. Those interested may call Marni Lane Long RN at 847-654-6199 or as scheduled.

### NEW COMPUTER CLASSES

Google, Tuesdays April 26th at 9:00am and 9:45 am. Learn how to use the biggest search engine on the web. Learn to navigate and find information on just about anything you want to know. Call the Morton Grove Senior Center at 847-654-6199 for more details.

**For more information about set- up services and activities, call the Morton Grove Senior Center at 847-457-4223.**

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### PANCEK BREAKFAST

Thursday, May 12th, 9:00am—10:00am

Join us for our annual Pancake Breakfast, prepared by members of our Senior Center Staff. Bring the family for a delicious breakfast featuring scrambled eggs, and sausage, waffles, bacon, coffee, and fruit. The cost is $5.50 and will be followed by the Ladies Auxiliary program, "We Are the Ones you Judge the Cost" $4.00

### MEN’S and WOMEN’S 2005 GOLF LEAGUES

Enrollment in Golf? Consider joining one of the Nicki Senior League. Men’s golf includes two leagues (A 9-hole league played Monday and an 18-hole league played Tuesday). The Women’s Golf League plays Monday mornings on the 9-hole course. New members are always welcome. For more information, please call the Senior Center at 847-647-4223.
**فأى وقعت؟**

**Community Announcements**

**Niles Park District Announcements**

2005 Ice Show Tickets on Sale!

Tickets are now on sale for the "Big Thunder Glider", an Old Western Adventure in Iceland's 2005 Ice Show. Over 100 skaters participate in this enthusiastic event of music and lights. The show will be held May 13th-16th. Show times are Friday 7:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., Saturday 1:00 p.m., 7:30 p.m., and 9:00 p.m., and Sunday 1:00 p.m. Show is general admission and will be $6.00. For further information, please call (847) 391-2400.

**Niles Park District and Village of Niles, in cooperation with Notre Dame High School, are excited to present the 5th Annual Niles Community Track & Sports Music Event on Sunday, April 24, (9 p.m. to 8 a.m.). Admission will be $5.00 per person, $2.00 (ages 18 and under) at Notre Dame High School Track & Field Stadium, 605 W. Deerpath in Niles. This event is super competitive and fun!

**Briefs**

**St. John Brebeuf Fiesta April 23**

On Saturday, April 23, St. John Brebeuf Parish in Niles will host their annual St. John Brebeuf Fiesta. A fun-filled event for the entire family, this event will feature a variety of activities and games for all ages. For more information, please call (847) 667-6077.

**Niles Park District Summer Camp Registration**

It's not too late to register for summer camp at the Niles Park District. A wide variety of camp options are available, including sports camps, arts and crafts, and more. Register now to secure your spot!

**5th Annual Niles Community Track & Field Event**

This event is non-competitive and free! Non-Members are welcome to participate and receive awards. All ages, from tots to seniors, are invited to take part in these exciting races.

**Learn to Swim Placement Program**

The Learn to Swim program is offered for individuals of any age and at least 5 minutes prior to your class start time. For more information, please call (847) 836-0200.

**St. Andrew Life Center**

The Silent Killer, because very often a high blood pressure, is known as a "silent killer," because it may not cause any symptoms until it is too late. Monthly blood pressure screenings are available at the St. Andrew Life Center. The screenings will take place on the last Friday of the month from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the Life Center. Make sure to attend these screenings to detect any potential health issues.

**Community Events**

**Spring-Summer 2005**

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It’s all for Stern’s new NBA age-limit plan

SPORTS Roundup

By Tim Sullivan

The latest issues in American sports, color is always a component.

That color, most often, is green. The National Basketball Association (NBA) has already announced its intention to impose an age limit of 20 on its salary cap for a player over 34 years old. When Stern’s initiative was announced, the NBA has been emphasizing that its goal is to "buttress the league’s profitability.

There are several factors at play here. First, the NBA is one of the most popular sports leagues in the United States, and its success can be attributed to its ability to attract fans from a wide range of demographics. Second, the NBA is one of the few sports leagues that has seen its popularity grow over the past decade, with an increase in the number of fans and revenue. Finally, the NBA has been successful in attracting new players, with a number of high-profile players coming from other leagues and countries to play in the NBA.

The NBA’s success is largely dependent on its ability to keep its teams competitive and exciting for fans. By imposing an age limit on players, the NBA is attempting to ensure that its teams remain competitive and that the best players are available to the league.

There are also several concerns about the NBA’s age-limit plan. Some argue that it will limit the pool of available players, which could have a negative impact on the quality of play. Others argue that it will limit the league’s ability to attract new players, which could have a negative impact on its popularity.

Despite these concerns, the NBA has announced that it will impose an age limit on players over 34 in an effort to "buttress the league’s profitability." It remains to be seen whether this initiative will be successful in achieving its goals.
I love books and I enjoy reading books in the mail but the publication of new books and the availability of new books online are much more likely to be a good choice.

However, a couple of weeks ago I received three books in the mail. It felt like my birthday. Not only did I love the books, but the rest grew in the garden this spring.

Another book that I want to do over the study, which is the reference list of Fine Gardening called Plant Combinations. It has an easy-to-follow design that is guaranteed to create beautiful garden areas. Whether you are looking for harmony or contrast in your colors, textures and plant forms, this magazine has one just right for your garden.

For the first time in “The Gardener’s Guide to Growing Hardy Perennial Ornaments” by William Mathis, Ph.D. (Wild Orchid Co.)

There is general information for each type of habit, such as upright, spreading, trellised, shrub, deciduous, evergreen, semi-evergreen, and perennial. It is also detailed information on each of the ornamental species that grow in that habitat, including the soil preparation, watering, cultural requirements and pest control.

Each habitat area also has information on the companies that plants grow in these conditions. For instance, if you can grow native trees and shrubs or garden perennials such as fox, the best choice for a home in the Midwest would be Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin. Check out the book on www.wildorchidcompany.com.

The next book I read was the revised and updated “Right Plant, Right Place” by Because in Fireclay Books. It has always been a good book, but now it is even better because in Fireclay Books. It has more than 1,400 pages and more than 1,200 photographs.

There are numerous links, such as plants suitable for shade or sun, or with the same texture. Other lists are more specialized, like the list for trees and shrubs suitable for woodland orchids. The book is well organized and would be useful for any gardeners who have more than 300 pages and costs for about $15.

Another book that I will refer to is called “The Gardener’s Guide to Growing Hardy Perennial Ornaments.” It is published by Fireside Books.

As a 30th birthday surprise, for my very-perfect-height husband, I bought some of the best books I have in my library. The first one is “The Gardener’s Guide to Growing Hardy Perennial Ornaments” by William Mathis, Ph.D. (Wild Orchid Co.)

People don’t know that there are about 35 species of native orchids in North America, from the Gulf Coast to Alaska. A few of the southern ones grow in trees, but the rest grow in the ground.

Some grow in woods, some in the woods and, of course to grow orchids, we will be adding some to your water garden this spring. A book on orchids must have color pictures and this one is filled with them and another color diagrams for illustrating how to plant orchids in your garden.

There is general information for each type of habit, such as upright, spreading, trellised, shrub, deciduous, evergreen, semi-evergreen, and perennial. It is also detailed information on each of the ornamental species that grow in that habitat, including the soil preparation, watering, cultural requirements and pest control.

Each habitat area also has information on the companies that plants grow in these conditions. For instance, if you can grow native trees and shrubs or garden perennials such as fox, the best choice for a home in the Midwest would be Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin. Check out the book on www.wildorchidcompany.com.
The winter weather is finally over! How did your house fare? Check out these areas and see for yourself:

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- Air conditioning system. Have it inspected by a professional and change the filter as needed to keep it running efficiently.
- Deck. Replace any loose nails and warped or rotting boards.
- Screens and windows. Fix any torn screens and replace loose caulking.
- Outside pipes. Repair any that might have been damaged by the cold weather.

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Chicago Sears 4035 North Cicero 773-865-3428
Chicago Sears Lawrence & Ashland 773-561-0760
Chicago Sears 6153 S. Western Ave. 773-918-0870
Joliet Sears Joliet Mall 815-477-8332
Matteson Sears Lincoln Mall 708-503-1623
Niles Sears Golf Mill Ctr. 847-593-8162
Oak Brook Sears Oak Brook Ctr. 630-990-0104
Orland Park Sears Orland Square Mall 708-226-5647
Schaumburg Sears Woodfield Mall 847-995-1908
Vernon Hills Sears Westfield Hawthorne Ctr. 847-816-6838
West Dundee Sears Spring Hill Mall 847-426-1583
Elmhurst Miracle-Ear Ctr. 597 N. York Road 630-633-5382
Naperville Miracle-Ear Ctr. 4950 N. Cumberland Ave. 708-456-2930
Skokie Miracle-Ear Ctr. 3943 W. Dempster Ave. 847-673-3280

*The $495 offer good on the AudioChoice AC7000 Contour model only. No other offers or discounts apply. All discounts do not apply to prior sales. Good only from participating Miracle-Ear representatives. Good for up to 25 dB hearing loss. Offer expires 4-27-05.

Hearing aids do not restore natural hearing, individual experiences vary depending on severity of hearing loss, accuracy of evaluation, proper fit and ability to adapt to a hearing aid. Only your Miracle-Ear® representative can determine if the AudioChoice® or another Miracle-Ear® hearing aid is right for you.

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