

Opinions

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Missing poem might be better suited in library garden

I would like to share my thoughts on your paper's recent article "The Case of the Missing Poem" beautifully written by the Tribune/Sentinel reporter Joshua Maloni.

On June 22, 2019, you interviewed Lee Simonson who continues to point out the over-abundant signage that is present on historic Center Street. Those signs come in all kinds of shapes, colors and messages. Over the years I have noticed that the same thing has happened to the Peace Garden.

The first sign was installed in the Peace Garden explaining what the garden represented. It represented the peace that exists between Canada and the United States. A tasteful plaque was

placed on a huge boulder at the entrance of the garden. That was made possible by Jerry and Jeff Williams and Norm Williamson. Shortly after that was installed, an oversized, out-of-date "1950s" Lewiston Kiwanis sign, which had no tie-in to the garden, was added to the entrance.

As a volunteer gardener, many visitors thought that I was a Kiwanian or that Kiwanis operated the garden. I suggested that the sign be moved to their park - Kiwanis Park. I was told "no."

Next came a large village information sign with a lot of misinformation located to the left of the front of the historic Yellow House. Visitors could have gotten the correct information at the Chamber of Commerce located

up the street. Then another oversized red, white and blue sign was installed. I believe it was the International Bicentennial Committee. By this time, the garden looked like Route 66.

And now we have a missing poem written by Robert M. Giannetti. That poem was written on a sheet of paper. That day (I was there), the author read his poem to those gathered for the bicentennial celebration in the garden. Sometime later, smack in the middle of the garden, there appeared another huge sign with Mr. Giannetti's message painted on it. Mayor Anne Welch was correct. The sign became a mess and illegible. It just could not stay because it detracted from the greenery.

I don't think that the many local residents seeking peace in the moment, or the weary visitors resting or eating their lunch, much care about reading poetry or redundant signage. They want to soak in the beauty of the garden and hear the splashing water and the chirping of the birds. Many contemplate a loved one remembered on an inscribed red brick.

If Mr. Giannetti's sign resurrects itself, the garden at the library might be a more suitable place. If a writer/poet from the Lewiston Writers Group writes a poem about the garden, will that poem get its own sign? Who should be the judge?

Your readers may want to know that the Lewiston Peace Garden is under the aegis of the Village of

Lewiston. The Lewiston Garden Club does not maintain the garden but over the years have supplied major funds and volunteer workers including myself. Mayor Welch, herself a fine gardener, and the DPW are quick to assist when needed, and village Trustee Claudia Marasco also volunteers.

Having spent so many hundreds of hours in the Peace Garden, speaking to so many hundreds of visitors, my humble plea is that there be no more signs/advertisements in this glorious and very special space.

*M. Jacquie Lodico
Volunteer gardener
Member of
the Lewiston Garden Club
Member of
the Lewiston Writers Group*

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AAA: 'Miles-to-empty' warning fuels when drivers decide to fill up

BY AAA OF WESTERN AND CENTRAL NEW YORK

In-dash fuel economy displays estimate the number of miles a vehicle gets per gallon, including how many "miles to empty." AAA tested the accuracy of these systems and found their estimates vary significantly over shorter trips or are dependent on the consistency of things that affect gas mileage like speed and acceleration. This means drivers could be taking an unnecessary risk if they over-rely on these displays. This is especially true for the 74% of drivers who use their "miles-to-empty" display when they are low on gas to decide when to fill up (according to a AAA consumer survey).

To avoid running out of gas, AAA recommends drivers watch their gas gauge and fill up when it reaches a quarter of a tank.

It's not uncommon for motorists to run out of fuel. In fact, locally, AAA Western and Central New York typically responds to more than 400 fuel calls per month. In 2019, when traffic was at pre-pandemic levels, AAA Western and Central New York responded to well over 4,800 calls from motorists who ran out of fuel. Fuel call volume for 2021 has been a tad lower, but higher gas prices may cause motorists to stretch time between gas tank fill ups putting them at risk.

"People want to get the most out of a tank of gas, especially when prices are higher," said Megan McKernan, manager of the Automotive Research Center in California. "Collectively, the systems we tested were relatively accurate, but a closer examination of different driving scenarios revealed significant variability based on changes in speed, acceleration and distance."

Testing Shows Driving Habits Directly Impact Fuel Economy
AAA, in collaboration with the Automotive Research Center (ARC) of the Automobile Club of Southern California, used a dynamometer - essentially a treadmill for vehicle testing - to run selected vehicles through a series of simulated driving scenarios to

determine the accuracy of the fuel economy estimation and range value (aka "miles-to-empty") systems.

On average, the fuel economy displays of the vehicles tested showed a relatively low error of 2.3% as compared to the fuel economy measured by the dynamometer. However, individual vehicle error varied greatly, ranging from -6.4% to 2.8%. The negative number indicates one test vehicle overestimated fuel economy by 6.4%, or 2.2 mpg, while another underestimated it by 2.8%, or 0.9 mpg. These specific results suggest each vehicle reacted to changes in driving differently, and that the accuracy can be impacted by driving style and conditions.

Testing of the "miles-to-empty" display found similar results with accuracy fluctuating across driving scenarios. While each manufacturer likely uses a unique algorithm to estimate vehicle range, it can be assumed that some historical driving data is also used to determine the vehicle's fuel efficiency for future driving. Therefore, the range estimation, at any given point, is affected by the vehicle's most recent driving conditions.

"We ran our test vehicles through different driving situations ranging from cruising at highway speeds to being stuck in traffic to typical city driving," McKernan said. "Despite the irregularities our testing found, a vehicle's fuel economy display is an important tool to understand how different driving styles impact how efficiently a vehicle uses fuel."

The information displayed by these systems can give drivers a clearer picture of how their specific driving habits influence their fuel economy. To do this, drivers should reset their vehicle's trip data after filling up, and then watch how their fuel economy display changes as driving conditions change.

Maximizing Fuel Economy is Key as Gas Prices Reach 7-year High

In recent weeks, gas prices have reached their highest point in seven years. To offset some of this additional cost, AAA recommends

drivers do the following:

✓ Plan ahead and run multiple errands in one trip, and whenever possible avoid times of day when traffic is heavier.

✓ If you own more than one car, use the most fuel-efficient model whenever possible.

✓ Avoid hard acceleration to maximize fuel economy, and always inflate your tires to the recommended pressure found inside the driver's side door or owner's manual.

✓ Remove unnecessary and bulky items from your car. Minimize your use of roof racks and remove special carriers when not in use. Smaller cars weighed down by heavy cargo will have a greater reduction in fuel economy than larger models designed to carry more weight.

✓ Consider minimizing your use of air conditioning. Even at highway speeds, open windows have less effect on fuel economy than the engine power required to operate the air conditioning compressor.

✓ In hot weather, park in the shade or use a windshield sun-screen to lessen heat buildup inside the car. This reduces the need for air conditioning (and thus fuel) to cool down the car.

While these tips will help improve fuel economy, AAA reminds drivers it's best to always have at least a quarter of a tank of gas. This will ensure drivers have enough fuel in case of unexpected delays, but also helps to prevent fuel pump damage that can occur when a vehicle's gas tank is regularly run down to empty.

AAA provides more than 62 million members with automotive, travel, insurance and financial services through its federation of 30 motor clubs and more than 1,000 branch offices across North America. Since 1902, the not-for-profit, fully tax-paying AAA has been a leader and advocate for safe mobility. Drivers can request roadside assistance, identify nearby gas prices, locate discounts, book a hotel or map a route via the AAA Mobile app. To join, visit AAA.com.

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