LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stop Sign Awareness Month needed

To the Editor, I would like to write a letter regarding stopping at stop signs.

We seem to have a certain month dedicated to keep us aware of some important aspect of driving. May is usually Click it or ticket; April is alcohol awareness and work zone awareness month.

I would like to express my concern and maybe we should have a new one and the Corning-Painted Post area can be the first to have a national awareness month and the police agencies can call it Stop Sign Awareness Month.

September would be a good month with the students going back to school and extremely busy times for everyone after the summer months.

I cannot believe the number of people that do not stop for stop signs as they learned in driver education classes or being taught at home how to drive.

Everyone needed to do the above on your driver's road test or would lose points on the exam and possibly if fostered a dangerous action could fail the privilege of driving a motor vehicle on New York State highways and roads.

When approaching a stop sign: 1) stop completely 2) look left, right and left 3) proceed to drive with caution.

The people that I have observed driving and not stopping for stop signs, just drive like it was not even there or make the what I call a quick drive-through stop maneuver at the stop sign.

The New York State vehicle traffic law 1172a states for running a stop sign or not full complete stop there can be 1) \$150 fine 2) 3 points on your license 3) \$88-\$93 surcharge 4) second and third violations can increase fines/surcharges, plus possible jail time.

Conclusion: 1) leave early, 2) do not rush, 3) avoid distractions when driving (texting, makeup, shaving, eating, etc) or you next stop could be

in court, the hospital or at the funeral home.

Fran Avagliano, Corning

Whitehouse will be proactive leader

To the Editor, Elizabeth Whitehouse is off and running for Corning mayor.

Noted for her vitality and creativity, she knows how to realize dreams.

Big on her agenda is global climate change. As she says, "To avoid climate catastrophe, every human on earth, every business and every community must act now to cool the planet. So far, Corning has changed some light bulbs."

Corning needs more such proactive leaders.

Elizabeth has been creating solutions for years. She says, "It's not difficult. Small changes multiplied millions of times make enormous changes."

She is sure Corning can be part of that: "Let's green the city so that it is not only more attractive, but also a place that regenerates biodiversity and draws down carbon. Let's be the change the world needs."

Walking the walk, she holds Repair, Composting, etc. workshops at her 51 Bridge St. headquarters.

Elizabeth is an activist, environmentalist and teacher. She is a Master Gardener and composter who shares her skills with others and helps to beautify Corning with plants. She is active in the arts community and has published five books.

Although she has traveled widely and lived in four countries, her homesweet-home is Corning.

Her lapel sports her personal and campaign slogan, "Be Nice. It's A Better Way." Check out her website.

As mayor, Elizabeth Whitehouse will make the Crystal City shine as it helps make the world a better world. By enhancing our sense of community through positive actions like reducing waste, she will help Corning stand out as a Little City that Could.

Karen Biesanz, Corning

ANOTHER VIEW



TOM O'MARA | 58TH DISTRICT

Nothing 'golden' about this pest

'ew York State's leading agricultural industry must deal with a range of challenges, concerns, and threats every single day of the week.

Recently, I was reminded of one of these challenges and the globally important work being done right here at home to confront the invasive crop pest known as the "golden nematode." While not an everyday concern for most of us, it nevertheless would have a widespread impact if left unchecked.

It's been said that there is nothing "golden" about the golden nematode.

The United States Department of Agriculture considers this invasive microscopic worm "to be potentially more dangerous than any of the insects and diseases affecting

the potato industry." That's no small concern. Potato farming is a \$54-million industry in New York State and a multi-billion enterprise nationally, accounting for thousands of livelihoods. The golden nematode pest would devastate

the industry if it spread throughout our soils. The pest also attacks tomatoes and other plants related to the potato, such as eggplant. Furthermore, beets, carrots, turf grass, and other plants can be excluded from domestic and international trade markets if they are grown in uncontrolled nematode-infested soils.

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) at Cornell University has long been the first line of defense against the doomsday scenario of total crop failure and the subsequent consequences for state, national, and international agriculture. The pest was first discovered in New York State in 1941.

Over the past seven decades, the nation's only Golden Nematode Quarantine facility at Cornell – a collaborative effort by the university, and state and federal agricultural agencies - has largely controlled this threat through quarantine and regulatory efforts, as well as the development of resistant potato varieties and management plans.

To date, the facility has successfully developed over 20 types of nematode-resistant potatoes.

Several years ago, however, the discovery of a new race of the golden nematode jeopardized the facility's ongoing success. It called for state and federal investment to modernize it.

Gary Mahany, a prominent Steuben County grower and past director of the Empire State Potato Growers Inc. reached out to me directly and I welcomed the opportunity to work with New York's growers, university officials, and legislative colleagues to secure the necessary state investment.

The bottom line was straightforward: We could not risk the survival of our potato industry because we failed to contain the

industry's greatest threat. That work is now complete and we celebrated it recently with a ribbon cutting at the new facility on the Cornell campus. The goal of the modernized, state-of-the-art Golden Nematode Quarantine Facility is to ensure the

integrity of past containment efforts and to continue fostering the research (and control strategies) fundamental to preventing future outbreaks.

Kathryn J. Boor, the Ronald P. Lynch Dean of CALS, said, "With the new state-of-the-art research equipment, we will be able to better mitigate new threats from nematodes and maintain the stability and success of New York agriculture."

In fact, Cornell's efforts throughout the past century to contain this threat, and to conduct the research and development that will always be the front line of protection for our regional growers and farmers throughout New York State and the nation, has been remarkable.

Of the new facility, Gary Mahany says, "Cornell has always had the brain trust for dealing with the nematodes."

Indeed, it is the gold standard of this critical work and we can be rightfully proud that it is carried on, effectively and successfully, right here in our region.

The Leader



INFORMATION STAFF BOX

The Leader (ISSN #10501983) The Leader is published daily at 34 West Pulteney Street, Corning, New York 14830 by Gatehouse Media, LLC. Periodical postage paid at Corning, N.Y. 14830-0817. USPS code | 0586-160. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Leader, 34 West Pulteney Street, Corning, New York 14830.

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Postal Rates:

Steuben County \$41.00 One month \$123.00 Three months Six months \$264.00

\$492.00 ELSEWHERE IN USA

\$51.00 One month Three months \$153.00 \$306.00 Six months One year \$612.00

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3:30, 6:30, 9:15 3:30, 6:30, 9:15 3:30, 6:30 3:30, 6:30

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Mail: Letters To The Editor, The Leader, Po Box 1017, Corning, NY 14830 Fax: 607-936-9939 Email: svargo@the-leader.com

CIRG Meeting Wed., August 14th • 9:30 am



The August CIRG meeting at the Corning Archives is scheduled for Wed., August 14th at 9:30 am. We will meet at the Houghton Park Cafe for refreshments, then go to B Building at 10:00 am. This should be an interesting meeting where we will be able to see Corning's history and reminisce. Please call Linda McDonald at 607-368-2244 by 8/12 if you plan to attend.

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