News

At $4.10 a gallon, a twenty doesn't get you very much

BY MATT ROCHELEAU FOR THE SUN CHRONICLE Tuesday, July 8, 2008 1:14 AM EDT

Jesse Sanders of Rehoboth keeps a weary eye on the gauge while gasing up at Gas Plus on Pleasant Street in Attleboro. With gas prices pretty much all topping $4 a gallon, drivers are finding sticker shock when filling up. (Staff photo by Tom Maguire)

Gas prices are on the rise again and area drivers paying more at the pump have noticed the needle on their vehicles' fuel gauge rising less than it used to.

"Last year, when I bought this car, $20 would fill the tank," now $20 only fills the tank about halfway, Nick Smith of Fall River said while gassing up at the Gas Plus on Pleasant Street in Attleboro.

"It's totally ridiculous," said Jesse Sanders of Rehoboth, who said he spent only $10 or $15 a week on gas last year.

Now, he said he needs at least $30 to make it through the week.

And George Blais of Attleboro, a delivery man for Papa Gino's, said gas costs him $40 to $60 a week. "It goes quick. It's $12 just to get through a Friday night's deliveries," said Blais, who estimated he spends double or triple the $20 per week gas cost last year.

George Blais of Attleboro pumps some gas into his van. People pump gas at Gas Plus on Pleasant Street, Attleboro. (Staff photo by

After holding steady for three weeks, the average cost of self-serve, regular gasoline in Massachusetts jumped 2 cents from last week to $4.08 per gallon, according to a statewide survey Monday by AAA of Southern New England.

Top Headlines

Volunteers sought for charter review committee in Seekonk

Four eventful years in Norfolk

Police seek two in city mugging

Police: Kidnapper brought NY woman to Attleboro and back

Kids Day: Have fun, obey rules

Print this story
Email this story
Photo Reprints
RSS
Forums
AddThis

Tom Maguire)

Consumers getting less bang for their buck at gas stations must also budget for rising prices elsewhere.

"It's killing me," said Rhonda Chauncey of Attleboro, who said she spends about $80 on gas each week. "I don't know what's killing me more though, gas prices or groceries."

Coupled with a slowing economy, residents are making sacrifices to use less gas and weather the rising cost of living.

"We don't go out to each as much," said Mike Lewis of Taunton.

Lewis said last year he spent about $30 per week on gas, but even though he drives less now, gas still costs him $60 to $70 a week, now.

"It's outrageous that they think people can afford these gas prices in this economy," said passenger Rachel St. Pierre, who stopped to fuel up with driver Lacey Binns.

St. Pierre and Binns of Attleboro said they each spend about twice as much on gas as they did last summer.

Prior to this week's increase, gas prices had held steady for three consecutive weeks after 10 straight weeks of rising prices. Massachusetts is about 2 cents below the national average of $4.10, AAA says.

Return to Previous Page

Rhonda Chauncey of Attleboro says gas prices are squeezing her, costing her more than $80 a week. (Staff photo by Tom Maguire)

Post Your Comments

jose21 wrote on Jul 8, 2008 4:28 PM:
" Jesse Sanders of Rehoboth has the coolest mullett I've seen in years! "

realist wrote on Jul 8, 2008 3:58 PM:
" A cynical addition to chiman1111's comment: I wonder how many of these oversize gas guzzlers were bought with money from a home equity loan? "

chiman1111 wrote on Jul 8, 2008 11:09 AM:
" " Its crazy to think we will ever see $2 a gallon ever again. Unless you are from Venezuela paying around $0.15 a gallon you are going to pay alot. Canada have seen these prices years ago. Europe...yeah ok France is paying around $11 a gallon! We are suffering from $4 a gallon? I am sorry to say it but we have taken low prices for granted for way too long! We all want the biggest,baddest,newest everything that the next guy has. We never just settle. Escalades, Expeditions, Denalis, Hummers, that is just vehicles. What about big screen tvs? Big houses? Why do people buy houses they cant afford? I think it's clear we are victims of our own demise. There are other countries that have it much worse and seem to make it happen. With out going bankrupt, foreclosed or moneyless. If you have a big family then perhaps you should have thought about what that intails financially in the future rather than relying on the state to pay your way and than get upset when the state stops funding. We need to get off our butts and make things happen! Its our own fault. Get up and vote! Make a difference don't be morons! Don't just complain. Take your anger and direct it to making a change in your own home, neighborhood, town, city, state, country! Ok I feel better now I vented and need to get back to work so my bills get paid...lol! " "

realist wrote on Jul 8, 2008 9:36 AM:
" Is a van really the best pizza delivery vehicle?
Spookey is right about the space heaters. With oil going up to near $5 a gallon many people will find electric space heaters cheaper than oil. That could be a problem. "

spookey wrote on Jul 8, 2008 7:32 AM:
" gas prices are high, however, home heating oil is through the roof. what i am concerned about, is the use of space heaters this winter. everyone knows what they can cause, if not properly used! this fuel situation came upon us all to fast! the average person in this part of the country just can't afford these outrageous prices! "

quaff787 wrote on Jul 8, 2008 7:08 AM:
" maybe rhonda should ditch her suv? "

***Member ID:**

***Password:**

Forgot Your Password?

Login

or

Sign Up!

© The Sun Chronicle, Attleboro-North Attleboro, MA.
All rights reserved. | Unauthorized reproduction is prohibited.