

LOCAL GAS PRICES



Sunoco: Sumneytown and West Point pikes, Upper Gwynedd — \$1.70

Gulf: Valley Forge and Allentown roads, Towamencin — \$1.67

Gulf: Broad and East Third streets, Lansdale — \$1.66

Mobil: Maple Avenue and Route 63, Harleysville — \$1.75

Mobil: Sumneytown Pike and Forty Foot Road, Kulpsville — \$1.76

Getty: Route 113, Franconia — \$1.72

Cumberland Farms: County Line Road and Broad Street, Souderton — \$1.75

Amoco: Orvilla and Cowpath roads, Hatfield — \$1.70

Hess: Route 309, Montgomeryville — \$1.70

7-Eleven Citgo: Horsham and North Wales roads, Montgomeryville — \$1.74

Sunoco: Routes 202 and 73, Center Square — \$1.76

Gulf: Valley Forge Road and Route 73, Worcester — \$1.72

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Source: Reporter correspondent research

J. MATTHEW ROOT/THE REPORTER

Pump costs range from \$1.66 to \$1.76

Will gas prices affect summer travel plans?

By CHRISTIAN KLUSMAN
Correspondent

LANSDALE — Art Beighley owns a motorhome and likes to use it as much as he can. This summer may be the exception.

"I used to go someplace every weekend," said Beighley, formerly of North Wales and now living in the Poconos.

With current gas prices, it costs \$80 to \$90 to fill his tank. For someone who likes to travel, this is a real

COMING MONDAY GET THERE: A GUIDE TO SUMMER TRAVEL

problem.

"This affects me like, heck, I wouldn't be here right now," he said.

After briefly leveling off, gas prices are on a steady incline with no sign of letting up. While other states across the country have been hit much harder than Pennsylvania, the North Penn area's gas prices aren't exactly a

dream come true.

According to Colleen Healey of AAA Mid-Atlantic office in Lansdale, the nationwide average per gallon of gas this week is \$1.70; our area falls right in the middle of that average, with gas prices ranging anywhere from \$1.66 to as high as \$1.76.

The big question is how will this affect summer travel plans?

"I'm not going to be

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going out as much," said Jennifer Graham, of Ambler.

Graham likes to spend time in the city during the summer, but she fears that her money is going to be seriously limited due to current gas prices.

Graham, a junior at Wissahickon High School, travels several miles back and forth from work, which presents another problem.

"I drive from Ambler to Montgomeryville four times a week," said Graham. "I'm going to spend all the money I make working on gas."

Tired of the constant criticism, many area gas station managers don't want to talk about the current prices. Others said that this current high cost is not their fault; the oil companies are raising the prices, not the gas stations

themselves. In fact, it's affecting them just as much as everyone else.

While the high prices may be irritating, unless you own a vehicle that absolutely guzzles gas, the rising cost may not affect you too much — at least not yet.

In comparison to last year, taking a day trip by car isn't going to cost you that much more. With a car that gets an average of 30 miles to the gallon, a day trip to Atlantic City, N.J., and back will cost you approximately \$9.62. Last year, with the national average at \$1.53, according to Healey, the same trip would have cost you about \$8.66.

As for the typical, everyday transportation needs, Graham has a plan to save money.

"I'm going to be getting a bike soon," she said.