

LOCALNEWS

Officials surprised by gas price change

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Average retail gasoline prices in Minnesota have risen 0.8 cents in the past week, averaging \$3.04 per gallon Sunday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 2,856 gas outlets in Minnesota. This compares with the national average that has increased 1.6 cents per gallon in the last week to \$3.21 per gallon, according to gasoline price website MinnesotaGasPrices.com.

Prices in International Falls ranged from \$3.15 to \$3.19 Monday, according to the site.

Including the change in gas prices in Minnesota during the past week, prices Sunday were 18.5 cents per gallon lower compared to the same day one year ago and are 25.6 cents per gallon lower than a month ago. The national average has decreased 16.3 cents during the last month and

stands 22.5 cents per gallon lower than this day one year ago.

"Surprisingly, the decreases we've seen in the national average have all but dried up," said GasBuddy.com Senior Petroleum Analyst Patrick DeHaan. "I admit, it's a bit of a head scratcher to have seen wholesale gasoline prices perk up last week, and it's a bit premature to say we've seen the end of decreases in gas prices for the time being, so I'm hopeful that an uptick in the national average is merely temporary, but then again, this year has featured trends in prices that have all been earlier than expected," DeHaan said.

GasBuddy operates MinnesotaGasPrices.com and over 250 similar websites that track gasoline prices at more than 140,000 gasoline stations in the United States and Canada.

Study: Minnesotans wasting more food, plastic

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Minnesotans are throwing away a lot more food and a lot more plastic these days, and that's discouraging to officials who say valuable resources are being wasted that could create jobs if they were recycled instead.

A new Minnesota Pollution Control Agency report compares data on what residents and companies are putting into the garbage with a similar study in 2000. From 2000 to 2012, it found, the amount of organic material Minnesotans throw away — primarily food — has grown to 31 percent of the waste stream, a 21 percent increase. And the amount of plastic Minnesotans trash has increased from 11 percent of the waste stream to 18 percent.

Researchers got down and dirty. They sent teams to six waste handling facilities across the state

to sort trash into 50 categories by hand. Proper protective clothing and safety equipment were mandatory.

Based on what they found, the report estimates that Minnesotans last year threw out 21,000 tons of recyclable plastic beverage bottles and 12,000 tons of aluminum beverage cans — 3.6 million aluminum cans per day. Paper decreased from 34 percent to 24 percent of the waste stream, likely due to fewer newspapers, but Minnesotans still discarded more than 543,000 tons of recyclable paper last year.

"We're throwing away about a million tons of recyclable material every year, and that material is worth about \$217 million," Wayne Gjerde, recycling market development coordinator with the MPCA, said in an interview.

The agency provided a copy of the report to The Associated Press ahead of

its official release Monday.

"This report is a wake-up call. Minnesotans take great pride in environmental stewardship, but these numbers suggest we're not living up to our reputation," MPCA Commissioner John Linc Stine said in a statement. "The amount of plastic and aluminum we're still seeing going to the landfill is much more than a lost environmental opportunity, it's a lost economic opportunity as well. We are literally throwing away valuable resources that fuel jobs and economic activity; we're burying opportunity in landfills."

It's not clear why Minnesotans are throwing away more food, Gjerde said. It may have something to do with people's buying habits or the trend toward more meals outside the home. He pointed to a 2011 British study that found two-thirds of the food waste from hotels, pubs and restaurants there in 2009 could have

been eaten had it been better portioned, managed, stored or prepared.

One sanitation company is already composting household food waste in the western Minneapolis suburbs, Gjerde said. And the MPCA soon will issue draft regulations for public comment aimed at expanding curbside collection of compostable food waste across the metro area and other parts of Minnesota, he added.

He also credited groups such as Second Harvest with doing a good job of salvaging edible food for people in need.

There's been a dramatic jump since the last report in discards by businesses and consumers of plastic films including stretch wrap and plastic bags, Gjerde said. But used shopping bags and construction wrap can be recycled if they're collected and kept clean instead of being mixed with the rest of the trash, he said.

LOOKING BACK

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Looking Back is compiled by the Falls Public Library
Visit them online at www.internationalfallslibrary.us

25 YEARS AGO

International Falls resident Don Schmidt was named to the director's list covering the first quarter of the 1988-89 school year at Dakota County Technical Institute. He is a student in the meat processing program.

James Birkebak of the Littlefork Medical Center celebrated his 102nd birthday Nov. 15.

40 YEARS AGO

Cal Sandbeck and Paul Brown are co-captains of the Bronco hockey team.

Bronco basketball captain is John Irby.

Beth Elaine Walls is presently enrolled in the medical technician program at Rochester State Junior College in Rochester, Minn.

50 YEARS AGO

The Catholic Youth Organization held its first of what will be an annual semi-formal fall ball, last Saturday evening at Aquinas Hall. JoAnn Murray, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Phil Murray, was crowned queen and her escort, Paul Lucca, received

the honor of reigning king.

Bob Hartje, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hartje, Ranier, is spending a 10-day furlough at his parents' home following boot training at the U.S. Naval training base at San Diego, Calif.

The Ross Pelland family, Mrs. Joe Belanger, Mrs. Arnold Baumchen and her guest, Miss Sylvia Hnatiuk, Fort Frances, helped Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Pelland celebrate their 53rd wedding anniversary.

A son was born today at Falls Memorial Hospital to

Mr. and Mrs. William Larson, 7 pounds, 6 ounces.

60 YEARS AGO

A son was born today at Falls Memorial Hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Dilly, Ranier; weight, 7 pounds, 2 ounces.

The "Florettes," the city's newest musical group, is composed of Mrs. Arthur Ojala, Mrs. Ronald Laurion, Mrs. B.F. Goodness and Mrs. Carroll Thureen.

Wagner Variety Store, the border city's newest store, opened its doors for business

Monday morning. Ivan C. Wagner, owner and operator of the establishment, said today he plans a formal opening for Saturday.

Bill Pavleck, proprietor of an automotive electrical service at 602 Third Ave., has been named local dealer for the Lifetime battery.

70 YEARS AGO

A/S Edward Bacon was recently selected for pilot training in the U.S. Army Air Corps. At present he is stationed at Santa Ana, Calif. His brother, Pvt. Arnold Ba-

con, is stationed not far away at San Pedro.

At a meeting of the county welfare board it was announced that the resignation of Miss Iona Mills, welfare visitor, has been accepted.

The Third Street skating rink is in use and enjoying considerable patronage by young and old, Pat Murray, street commissioner, reported to the city council. Albert Beck, caretaker of grounds, has been placed in charge.

A birthday dinner at the home of Mrs. Steve Sugranis honored Mrs. Francis Lasich.



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