

Gas prices hold steady; no hike seen

By DIANE LUPTON
Staff Writer

Self-service gas prices have come down slightly since *The Daily Tar Heel's* September survey of local gasoline stations but full-service prices have remained above the state average.

The Carolina Motor Club listed average full-service prices at \$1.23.5 for regular and \$1.28.2 for unleaded during November. Local stations surveyed average \$1.25.1 and \$1.29.9 compared with September's \$1.24.8 and \$1.29.4.

Eastgate Exxon had the lowest prices for its full-service gasoline. "We try more to compete on full-service prices," said Tim Sargent of Eastgate Exxon. The station's self-service prices are above the area average.

There is a considerable margin between the prices for self- and full-service. Full-service is on the average 6.3 cents a gallon higher than self-service, compared to a 3.2-cent difference last November, according to Quinton Anderson, public relations director for the Carolina Motor Club. He said there were some bargains to be found at the self-service stations.

This survey indicates the best self-service bargain is at The Pantry on Jones Ferry Road, which sells regular for \$1.09 and unleaded for \$1.15. Walker's Gulf, which had the lowest prices in the September survey, is close behind, with regular at \$1.10.9 and unleaded for \$1.15.9. Manager David Walker said his prices had changed a penny or so a couple of times during the last few months, but his self-service prices were the same now as in September.

The September average for self-service was \$1.14.9 for regular, \$1.22 for unleaded and \$1.28.3 for premium. These prices have remained stable for the past two months with only a slight decrease of less than 1 cent a gallon.

Dealers said they predicted no shortages or drastic change in prices. "I don't think there'll be any drastic changes as long as the supply is not interrupted by any international problems," Walker said.

The motor club said in a press release that the prices for November had risen 25 cents from the same time last year.

Price survey of local gas stations

	SELF-SERVE			FULL-SERVE		
	reg.	unled.	prem.	reg.	unled.	prem.
Walker's Gulf 1500 E. Franklin St.	110.9	115.9		126.9	131.9	136.9
Brinkley's Gulf Eastgate Shopping Center	114	123	125	122	126	128
Tar Heel 66 Raleigh Road	113	121		123	131	
Eastgate Exxon 1701 E. Franklin St.	116.9	122.9	124.9	122.9	127.9	129.9
Eastgate Amoco Eastgate Shopping Center	113.9	123.9	127.9	130.1	132.7	133.8
Happy Store 100 E. Franklin St.	120.9	125.9	129.9			
McFarling's Exxon 126 W. Franklin St.	117.2	122.9	131.9	125.8	129.8	133.8
The Pantry Jones Ferry Road	109	115				
Average	114.5	121.3	127.9	125.1	129.9	132.5

Highway expenses to jump

RALEIGH (AP) — North Carolina faces astronomical highway expenses over the next 20 years, a consultant said Wednesday as a special study commission built its case for an increase in the state gasoline tax.

The Governor's Blue Ribbon Study Committee on Transportation heard the projections for future costs as it met and prepared recommendations on a set of alternatives for raising more money.

All three packages of alternatives under scrutiny include an increase in the 9-cent-per-gallon gas tax as their chief ingredient.

The meeting was the last before the commission presents its findings to Gov. Jim Hunt in two weeks.

As the meeting continued into the afternoon, Transportation Secretary Tom Bradshaw said he expected the commission to recommend all three packages for raising highway money without stating a preference for any one.

Each of the sets of alternatives would raise around \$200 million a year for the state's highway program.

Two of the plans would create a new 4 percent tax on

the wholesale price of gasoline — translating to about 4 cents a gallon at current prices.

One would include a flat 5 cents per gallon increase in the current tax.

The commission was appointed by Hunt last year, and Hunt has been widely expected to embrace a gas tax increase and recommend it to the legislature next year.

Jim Covil of the consulting firm presented a list of highway needs. He said the cost of maintaining roads and bridges and improving them to a desirable level would cost \$33 billion over 20 years.

But Bradshaw said he expected the commission to recommend a more modest program of improvements, estimated at costing \$19 billion over the period.

Bradshaw said even a tax package adding \$200 million a year would not ensure the state would meet all those needs.

He said he expected the commission would recommend that the state spend money first to maintain existing roads and then begin new projects only when federal money also is provided.

Dormitory closes lounge

By NORA WILKINSON
Staff Writer

Residents of Grimes residence hall voted 22-20 during a recent council emergency meeting to accept the Grimes Executive Council's decision to close the hall's lounge each night for a week.

The council tried to close the lounge from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. Nov. 22-28 to prevent further lounge damage and to call attention to damage already done. Council members said damages included a broken chair, spilled drinks and trash.

On Nov. 22, three residents staged a brief sit-in in the lounge to demonstrate their disagreement with the council's decision. As a result of the sit-in, the emergency meeting was called.

Wayne Thomas, sit-in participant, said the only thing that didn't keep the lounge open was the residents' apathy.

"We weren't mad at the Executive Council. They had a fair vote," Thomas said.

Donald Pennell, president of Grimes, said both sides were well-represented at the meeting. Almost half of the residents were in attendance.

Josh Kardon, another sit-in participant, said although he disagreed with closing the lounge, "the vote was fair in that it was open to everyone."

"The Executive Council, who voted originally to close the lounge, had voted as residents of the dorm," Kardon said.

All fifteen Grimes Executive Council members attended the meeting, he said.

The lounge has been reopened but three residents were written up for disorderly conduct and for making noise while it was closed.

"Their contracts are in jeopardy now because they didn't have a place to go late at night," Kardon said.

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