

# Higher gas prices affect town

## Cost of pizza rises, residents to see affects

by SHANNON O'SULLIVAN  
Student Correspondent

Amherst pizzerias raised prices recently because the cost of flour has increased dramatically in the past year.

Rising wheat prices caused the price of flour to more than double, according to several Amherst pizzeria managers.

At Dino's Bocce Club Pizza, at 4174 N. Bailey Ave., the price of flour was around \$15 last year for a 50-pound bag and jumped to more than \$30, said manager Steve Houck. Bocce Club is still eating some of the costs despite raising prices in early April.

"We've gone up approximately \$1 a pizza, which is comparable to others in the area," Houck said. "As far as the bottom line, we've been hurting, but there's been a lot of contributing factors."

The slumping economy causes people to eat out less, and more pizzerias exist now than 10 years ago, creating stiffer competition, he said. He attributes the increase in wheat prices to high transportation costs, growing demand for wheat from China and farmers planting corn for ethanol instead of wheat.

Jason Majewski, owner of Pizza Works Etc., at 712 Maple Road, raised the price of a large, one-topping pizza from \$10.99 to \$13.99 within the last month because of the high cost of flour. Business has dropped because customers have noticed the price increases, especially for their regular specials, Majewski said.

"I had a lady arguing with us today about how our \$10.99 spe-

cial is now \$13.99," he said. "Gas alone should tell them prices are going up — my food has to get here somehow."

Ryan Humphrey, a 24-year-old student at Daemen College, orders regularly from Pizza Works and noticed the price jump. He now orders pizza every other week instead of every week to save money.

"Now even a couple bucks is pretty steep for a student," said Humphrey, a Williamsville resident, before picking up his order.

Not all Pizza Works customers

have cut back. John Kozlowski of North Tonawanda has enough room in his budget to afford the few extra dollars. The price increases didn't surprise him because of high gas costs, Kozlowski said, before entering Pizza Works on a recent evening.

"It makes sense that prices are going up," he said.

Ilyia Lasting has owned Palladio's Pizzeria in the Sheridan-Harlem Plaza for more than a year and a half. A 25-pound bag of flour cost \$5.50 when he first bought the business and tripled to about \$17, Lasting said. He re-

cently raised prices across the board between 5 and 8 percent to compensate, which has affected business.

"I'd say business is down year over year from our numbers compared to last year," he said.

He emphasized that the volume of customers has decreased, but profits grew from last year.

Franco's Pizza at 1924 Eggert Road updated its menu approximately two months ago with a small percentage increase in prices because of the high cost of flour, said general manager Stacey Gempko.

Gempko anticipates that Franco's will update the menu again by the end of May, reflecting an increase of approximately 8 percent. Despite the increased prices, business at that Franco's location has not decreased significantly, she said.

For some Franco's customers, such as Ed Jordan, who was picking up his weekly order on a recent evening, the decision to stop buying pizza regularly depends on one thing.

"If I can't afford it, I won't," said Jordan, who is self-employed.

## School districts feeling the heat at the pump

by MIKE MATISZ  
Student Correspondent

The school districts within the Town of Amherst are feeling the gas crunch as much as the average consumer this year.

With more than 150 buses running among three school districts in Amherst and Williamsville, the amount of gasoline consumed becomes a budget issue.

The Amherst, Sweet Home and Williamsville school districts all purchase the gas on their own, whether they contract the bus system out or not.

Sweet Home owns and operates its own fleet of roughly 58 full-size buses, according to Superintendent Geoffrey Hicks.

The Williamsville Central School District operates about 60 buses and contracts the rest out to First Student, formerly Laidlaw. Even though the school doesn't operate all of the buses, the district pays for all the gas, according to Superintendent Howard Smith.

For Sweet Home, the district is a public entity, which means it doesn't have to pay taxes on top of the gas prices, according to Hicks. But the district still had to find the money for gasoline in the budget.

"This year, we're going to end up being short. Not substantially, but we're going to be short," Hicks said. "When the fuel gas prices go up like they have, you have to re-examine things."

The proposed budget for the Sweet Home School District has

allocated roughly \$810,000 for all fuel needs, according to Hicks.

Likewise, the Williamsville district is making more room in its proposed budget for next year.

"We're anticipating a \$220,000 increase in gas and diesel fuel next year," said Smith. "That's a 28 percent increase."

Both districts will examine their fuel consumption more closely by looking at bus routes and other trips, according to the superintendents. The districts' goals are to decrease fuel consumption while maintaining the same levels of service.

Unlike Sweet Home and Williamsville, the Amherst Central School District does not own or operate any full-size buses.

The district contracts solely through First Student for its bus needs but has to pay for the gasoline that is consumed while transporting its children, according to Gregory Kern, the school business administrator.

Amherst schools use 36 full-size buses to transport students to and from school, he said.

Amherst's proposed budget will increase the amount set aside for gasoline to a total of \$200,000, Kern said. Over the course of the summer, the school district will review its current bus routes to see if it can cut down on fuel consumption, according to Kern.

"We constantly monitor our routes to make sure they're efficient," Kern said. "Everybody moves a little bit. We're always tweaking our routes."

# Heim Middle School names honor roll

The following Heim Middle School students have been named to the honor roll for the third quarter of the 2007-08 school year:

### Grade 5

Carly Abbott, Vincent Adelizzio, Basim Ahmad, Tiana Andrews, Meagan Barry, John Becht, Kimberlyn Belle, Justin Benton, Shruti Bidani, Marchelle Brooks, Andrea Bucklaew, Steven Bunce, Kathryn Burke, Dominick Calavano, Jeffrey Calderon, Mikhail Chekhov, Xiaolan Chen, Samuel Cimato, Derek Colburn, Jackson Collis, Hannah Criscione, Patrick Crowley, Samuel Cruver, Michelle Dao, Nicolette Davidson, Jennifer Dinderski, Madeline Divencenzo, Michael Doucette, Dominic Edmonds, Matthew Fallavollita, Mikyla Fisher, Faith Gian, Kevin Gramlich, Alison Greaves, Owen Green, Jack Grossman, Armeeta Hajikandi, Arya Hajikandi, Jonathon Harris, Natalie Hazzan, Amanda Helak, Savannah Henry, David Hnat, Carolyn Hoffman, Julia Hourigan, Alicia Hyland, Sooji Hyun, Jack Jibb, Taylor Kaefler, Heeba Kariapper, Melissa Kelley, Matthew Kellner, Noor Khechen, Katherine Kozlowski, Nicholas Lamastra, Gregory Langlois, Michael Leczinsky, Jim (jongho) Lee, Min Sou Lee, Nicole Lucca, Serena Mack, Eric Macphee, Olivia Maranto, Robin Marshall, Kirsten McCarthy, Charles McCormick, Cassidy McGee, Jonathan McLean, Derek Mordant, Jessica Mucci, Peter Muffoletto, Victoria Novak, Alexandra Nusall, Austin Oetinger, Alexandra Orlando, Talea Palmer, Isabel Paris, Dean Penman, Derek Penman, Lucas Perna, Nicholas Peters, Ryan Plewinski, Claire Pohlman, Aditi Prabhu, Rebecca Reinhardt, Sarah Reynolds, Ilianna Ring, Jamey Rodemeyer, Katherine Rupp, Clayton Ruppert, Samah Sadig, Alanna Sadler, Julian Saleh,

Elizabeth Schmidt, Julianna Sebastian, Elyse Serrano, Alina Shaikh, Caroline Sharp, Hailey Sheridan, Micaela Shick, Thomas Sinha, Katherine Sprague, Chad Steinwachs, Anna Swiatowy, Grace Taylor, Kimhong Trieu, Joshua Trzyna, Nicholas Weissenbun, Jessal Wik, Brian Wiktorowski, Alexandra Wolfe, Joshua West

### Grade 6

Basel Ahmad, Jenna Aquino, William Bauer, Justin Beck, Alexandra Begley, Tia Marie Belle, Vadim Belous, Eric Benschadle, Allison Birkinbine, Jessica Bodie, Paige Boyer, Eleni Casseri, Nikolaus Castilone, Julia Cerny, Elana Chazen, Monica Cheng, Cassandra Chu, Benjamin Cleaver, Grant Cohen, Nicholas Constantinou, Christian Cretella, Casey Davis, Nathan Dileas, Alexander Farley, Justin Fell, Kristen Fischer, Anne Francavilla, Timothy Fremming, Alexa Gardner, Gowthami Gengatharan, George Goga, Noah Gottlieb-Wright, Gabriella Gulino, Madeline Hammer, Andrew Harris, Lauren Hay, Patrick Haynes, Erin Hopkins, Alexandra Jadoch, Samira Kakavand, Alexander Kamens, Jiwon Kim, Ye Sin Kim, Catherine Kraus, Amanda Levy, Meredith Licata, Benjamin Lieber, Alexander Lodico, Timothy Martin, Daniel Mayers, John Mernitz, Katherine Mietus, Hannah Mulvihill, Emmett Narby, Jacqueline Oestreicher, Jeremiah Oishei, Emily Palmer, Katherine Pandolfino, Kelly Paterson, Sofiya Prozapas, Kyle Ribbeck, Olivia Rizzacasa, Matthew Rosen, Alexander Schmitt, Caroline Schwab, Aidan Scoccia, Audrey Sharp, Michael Shi, Jillian Sickler, Sarah Snyder, Matthew Soos, Stephen Spoth, Samantha Stanford, Maria Stein, Hannah Stillwell, Jenna Stogsdill, Brandi Strom, Sadie Sunshine, Alison Zukala, Tiffany Thavisin, Allyson Thomas, Joy Thompson, Aria Tung, Michelle Wang, Kristen Webb, Kara Wertz,

Jennifer Wess, Aaron Wolfberg, Alicia Woods, Amanda Woods, Melanie Zimmer

### Grade 7

Haley Adams, Garrett Adelizzio, Olivia Alphonse, Tori Andrews, Lindsey Austin, Monilola Awolesi, Sarah Bauer, Stephanie Becht, Trevor Bennett, William Bennett, Philip Blatner, Joshua Blumberg, Ashley Callen, Scott Campana, Eric Cheng, Allison Chertack, Abigail Cimato, Megan Cirbus, Benjamin Claydon, Shannon Conway, James Corra, Joseph Crumlish, Blake Curran, Emily DeRoo, Jeffrey Dick, Madeleine Diperna, Shelby Donhauser, Nathaniel Doucette, Taysha Evans, Christopher Fancher, Zachary Forman, Alec Gradl, Kelsey Gramlich, Tyler Green, Sonya Hawramee, Sarah Heckman, Meghan Hodson, Emily Hopkins, Marissa Kaefler, Manar Kustiro, Paige Lunghino, Roksolana Lypska, Kristin Markarian, Madeline Marsack, Kelly McCormick, Emily McGillicuddy, Mary Mik, Christine Murphy, Alison Novak, Rachel Obenauer, Danielle Panaro, Chanh Park, Andrew Pawanski, Erica Pellerite, Andrew Pierino, Hannah Pilkey, Taylor Plewinski, Valerie Poniatowski, Evan Poole, Natalie Popielski, Jessica Ramani, Alyssa Rodemeyer, Jennifer Rowekamp, Christian Ruhl, Edward Rutkowski, Alison Safir, Elizabeth Saturnino, Sarah Schnabel, Kelly Schneggenburger, Shaan Shaikh, Haley Short, Justin Smith, Rachel Sperrazza, Sarah Stanford, Evan Steinberg, Eric Steinwachs, Rebecca Sternberg, Haley Stogsdill, Danielle Taylor, Christine Toufexis, Jessica Tripi, Marc Volpe, Hailey Wageman, Alex Wapniewski, Alexis Weber, Thomas Weisansal, Erin Williamson, Brianna Wilson, Brandon Woitas, Demetria Xenos

### Grade 8

Bano Ali, Jessica Asirwatham, Kristen Belle, Emily Bodie, Christian Bruno, Paul Carbrey, Danielle Carrow, Jennifer Carstone, Nicolette Charboneau, Shoshana Chazen, Hannah Cominsky, Brett Davidson, Michelle Denton, Christina Fildes, Adam Hammer, Audrey Heckman, Olivia Hoffman, Juliet Holme, Jacob Honsberger, Erin Hughes, Jamie Jackson, Luka Jankovic, Alex Killion, Emily Koestler, Alexis Koral, Alexis Kroese, Kristen Kubala, Lisa Kuhn, Theodore Langlois, William Lashomb, Danielle Licata, Sarah Loud, Adam Marra, Jessica Marshall, Rachel Mordant, Courtney Orr, Rachael Pettys, Sana Raheem, Jodie Robinson,

Sarah Rupp, Emily Saint, Payraw Salih, Brian Shin, Naomi Soman, Alan Spoth, Jessica Stender, Taylor Stuewe, Ryan Till, Darrin Trebes, Alina Versalova, Cristen Vohwinkel, Alayna Wageman, Jenna Weinholtz, Kate Whitecar, Casey Willer, Sarah Williams, Ryan Winkler

*(Editor's note: information for this list has been printed exactly as supplied by the school. The Bee will not reprint any lists because of school errors. Questions should be directed to the school at 626-8600.)*

## Community News

**Mount Calvary Cemetery's** Stepping Out Walking Club brings together people who have experienced a loss. The group will meet at 8 a.m. Saturday, beginning May 3. In collaboration with Life Transitions Center, the grief support group is designed so participants can enjoy fresh air, camaraderie, emotional support and the fun of stepping out together. The group meets at the Pine Lawn Cemetery, located at the corner of Harlem Road and Genesee Street. For information, call Nancy Weil, director of aftercare, at 892-6600.

**Jenna Artist**, 8, of Williamsville won the Reflections Art Contest's Western Region Award for her self-choreographed lyrical dance piece to the music of "Imagine." She entered the contest through Forest Elementary School and her piece went on for judging at the regional level. Her video was show at the awards banquet held on April 25 for all western regional winners.. This year's theme was "I can make a difference ... ." She is a student at David DeMarie and Classical Ballet Studios, and is the daughter of Darrell and Judy Artist.

**The Village of Williamsville Court** has been awarded a \$2,434 grant under the Office of Court Administration's Justice Court Assistance Program. Included in the grant will be monies for office equipment, new computers and an advanced printer system. Judge Sharon S. Townsend of the 8th Judicial District and Town & Village Supervising Judge M. William Boller presented a check at a recent Village Board meeting.