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## 1 percent grocery tax to resume, gas tax to increase July 1

By JERRY NOWICKI  
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SPRINGFIELD – A new state fiscal year will begin July 1, ushering in the reinstatement of a 1 percent tax on groceries and a second increase to the state's motor fuel tax in 2023.

Amid record-high inflation last spring, the General Assembly temporarily waived Illinois' grocery tax for the coming fiscal year and delayed the annual increase in the state's motor fuel tax for six months. Democrats introduced both those measures as part of a larger tax relief package that drew criticisms for its proximity to the November general election.

"What we did last year was a temporary measure because we had very high inflation," Pritzker said when asked at an unrelated news conference Tuesday whether the changes were election-related. "Inflation, you may notice, has come down."

Inflation was approaching 9 percent when the tax relief plan passed last year, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, but it was 4 percent last month when the fiscal year 2024 was budget passed.

The Pritzker administration estimated at the time the temporary pause on the grocery tax would cost the state \$400 million. Most grocery tax revenues are distributed to local governments, so last year lawmakers directed state general revenue funds to reimburse local governments for any financial hit they would have taken due to the pause.

"I would like very much to eliminate entirely the grocery tax, but it is a matter of local governments and what they would do if they didn't have that income as a result of the grocery tax," Pritzker said, faulting Republicans for "complaining" about the tax being

reimposed without offering revenue alternatives.

The motor fuel tax on gasoline, gasohol and compressed natural gas, meanwhile, will increase by 3.1 cents on July 1, to 45.4 cents per gallon. The tax rate for diesel fuel will also increase by 3.1 cents, to 52.9 cents per gallon.

The automatic increase in the fuel tax at the beginning of the new fiscal year is an annual process that became law in 2019 with bipartisan support. Lawmakers doubled the motor fuel tax and indexed it to increase at the rate of the federal government's Consumer Price Index each year.

The motor fuel tax revenue, combined with one-time increases to license and registration fees that took effect in 2020, provided the funding backbone of the state's \$33.2 billion six-year infrastructure plan for road and bridge upkeep, dubbed Rebuild Illinois.

According to the governor's office, Rebuild Illinois has funded \$10.9 billion of upgrades as of March 31, including 4,913 miles of roads, 479 structures, and 709 other safety improvements.

Last year's July 1 motor fuel tax increase was delayed six months, so the per-gallon tax already increased by 3.1 cents in January. Pritzker last year estimated that the temporary pause on the gas tax hike would have saved consumers about \$70 million.

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## GRAIN MARKETS

As reported by Total Grain Marketing - Arcola at 6.34 p.m., Friday, June 30, 2023.

	Corn		Beans	
Cash	\$5.19	Cash	\$14.92	
October '23 (futures)	\$4.60	October '23 (futures)	\$13.08	

### Rotary

From page 1

President; Kris Graves, President-Elect; Sandy Arthur, Vice President; Suzy Saunders, Secretary; Karen Yardley, Treasurer; Karen Kennedy, Sergeant-At-Arms; and Winnie Stortzum, Immediate Past-President.

Several members received Paul Harris recognitions for their participation in The Rotary Foundation. The Paul Harris Fellow program recognizes individuals who contribute, or who have contributions made in their name,

of \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. The honor, named for Paul Harris who founded Rotary at age 36 in 1905, was created to show appreciation for contributions that support our Annual Fund, PolioPlus, or an approved Foundation grant. The Rotary Foundation is what drives the programs of Rotary. The money that is contributed to the Foundation is put to good use and part of it comes back to local Rotary clubs as grant monies to allow them to do projects to help their commu-

nity and the world. Members recognized as Paul Harris Fellows were Karen Yardley and Vicki Gilbert. Paul Harris Fellows who make additional contributions in increments of \$1,000 or more receive additional recognitions. Jane Seaman and Suzy Saunders received their Paul Harris+1 pins and Sandy Arthur received a Paul Harris+2 pin.

Rotary is an international service organization composed of people of action who strive to make the communities in which they work and live better for all. The mission of Rotary is to provide service

to both the local and world communities to build international relationships, improve lives, and create a better world to support peace efforts and end polio forever. The Arcola Rotary Club meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at Jo's Diner in Chesterville at 7:15 am and on the 4th Thursday of the month at the Arcola Community Center at 6:00 pm. If you would like more information about Rotary, please contact President Julie Mills at (217) 246-4750 or email her at [jmills1957@hotmail.com](mailto:jmills1957@hotmail.com).



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