



## MTA Press Releases

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Press Release

June 11, 2009

LIRR

IMMEDIATE

### Eagles And Birdies And Tigers . . . Oh My!

***Go Green to the Greens. Take MTA LIRR & L.I. Bus to the U.S. Open Golf Championship at Bethpage State Park.***

Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson have already been there to practice. But how are you getting to the U.S. Open Golf Championship at Bethpage State Park next week? Fans the world over should know that the most convenient way to see the best golfers at play on the famed Black Course at Bethpage during the U.S. Open, June 14 through 21, is to take advantage of the special train and bus service in place for the entire week.

The MTA Long Island Rail Road will provide extra train service – every half hour – to Farmingdale Station where a United States Golf Association (USGA) provided MTA Long Island Bus shuttle will transport customers to the Open. Customers must have a valid LIRR train ticket to board the buses at Farmingdale Station. For those driving, nearly 11,000 parking spaces have been reserved at Jones Beach in Parking Fields 3, 4 and 5. The USGA will provide shuttle bus service to the golf course and back.

New York State Governor David Paterson, a Long Island native, said: "It is truly an honor for all Long Islanders and all New Yorkers to have Bethpage Black, a state-owned, public golf course, chosen for the U.S. Open for the second time in seven years. I want to thank the USGA and offer a tip to golf fans heading for the Open. The Long Island Rail Road is a hassle-free way to get there."

Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi sees big benefits for the local economy. "The success of the 2002 U.S. Open at the Black Course at Bethpage State Park showed the entire world what a great place Nassau County is, and I have no doubt that we will have the same success for this year's tournament," Suozzi said. "The U.S. Open is a world-class event and will provide a tremendous boost to our local economy as tourists and spectators visit Nassau County. It will bring in millions of dollars to our economy, which will benefit our local businesses, and all of the wonderful attractions that we have in Nassau will be showcased around the world."

LIRR President and interim MTA Executive Director and CEO Helena Williams said: "As you all know, Bethpage is a public course and the LIRR is part of a public authority known as the MTA. We couldn't be more proud to be teaming up to provide extra service to the U.S. Open, which will highlight Long Island and give a boost to our local economy as thousands of visitors stream in from across the country. The LIRR is the quickest, easiest and greenest way to get there."

Joseph Smith, president of MTA Bus Company/Long Island Bus, said: "Long Island Bus is pleased to once again be part of this world-class sporting event. We are looking forward to working closely with the LIRR to ensure that all MTA customers enjoy a safe and reliable trip to the U.S. Open."

Farmingdale Village Mayor George Starkie said: "It has been a true pleasure to work with Helena Williams and her team to enhance the safety of our station for the safe passage of guests to our Village and the U.S. Open."

Nassau County Legislator Dave Mejias (D-Farmingdale) said: "We have secured money for beautifying Main Street, we did weekly radio shows with our Chambers of Commerce, developed a U.S. Open tourist guide to promote local businesses, ordered a trolley to take tourists to the downtown and we are ready to go! We want everyone coming to the U.S. Open to know that Farmingdale is "Open" for business."

Robbie Zalzneck, director, U.S. Open Championship Management of the USGA said: "Spectators have two excellent travel options when coming to the U.S. Open. For anyone wishing to drive to the championship, they can take advantage of complimentary parking at Jones Beach State Park and take a quick 20-minute free shuttle ride to Bethpage State Park. The USGA is thrilled to be also partnering with the MTA to provide an alternative to parking at Jones Beach."

#### LIRR U.S. Open Train Service to Farmingdale Station

Direct eastbound LIRR train service to Farmingdale will depart Penn Station, Woodside, Jamaica, Mineola and Hicksville. Connecting service will be available from Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, Forest Hills and Kew Gardens.

Those traveling to the Open from eastern Long Island will be provided with direct train service to Farmingdale from Ronkonkoma, Central Islip, Brentwood, Deer Park and Wyandanch. LIRR customers traveling from the Port Jefferson Branch should transfer at Hicksville for train service to Farmingdale.

Customers for the Open should make sure they get off the train at Farmingdale Station. There will be no buses to the Open from Bethpage Station. Fans should purchase roundtrip tickets before boarding trains, as tickets bought onboard cost more.

LIRR Ticket Information

LIRR fares will increase June 17, but tickets purchased before are still valid. Customers are advised to purchase train tickets to and from Farmingdale in advance at LIRR Ticket Offices or via LIRR Ticket Machines prior to boarding the train. Tickets purchased on the train are subject to an additional surcharge. LIRR ticket prices vary according to the distance traveled and whether you are traveling during peak or off-peak travel time. LIRR tickets must be presented in order to board the shuttle bus from Farmingdale Station to the U.S. Open.

Round Trip Fares	Adult	Senior
From/To		
Zone 1	\$14.00 (June 15 & June 16)	\$9.50 (June 15 & June 16)
Penn Station, Brooklyn, Woodside, Forest Hills, Kew Gardens	\$15.50 (as of June 17)	\$10.50 (as of June 17)
Zone 3	\$9.50 (June 15 & June 16)	\$6.50 (June 15 & June 16)
Jamaica	\$10.50 (as of June 17)	\$7.50 (as of June 17)
Zones 4-9	\$4.50 (June 15 & June 16)	\$2.00 (June 15 & June 16)
Mineola, Hicksville, Bethpage, Farmingdale, Wyandanch, Deer Park	\$5.00 (as of June 17)	\$2.50 (as of June 17)
Zone 10	\$8.00 (June 15 & June 16)	\$4.00 (June 15 & June 16)
Brentwood, Central Islip, Ronkonkoma	\$9.00 (as of June 17)	\$4.50 (as of June 17)

Customers attending more than one day of the U.S. Open may wish to consider the convenience of an off-peak ten-trip ticket, which can be shared by other travelers. The price (available from Zone 1 only) is \$59.50 and \$66 when purchased starting June 17. Consult the LIRR website at [www.mta.info](http://www.mta.info) for further information.

Security at the U.S. Open

The USGA has issued the following guidelines for those traveling to the Open:

- Farmingdale is the LIRR station for service to the U.S. Open. Customers will pass through security and board buses for the short ride to the Open.
- No cell phones, PDA's and/or other portable e-mail devices
- No noise producing electronic devices (including MP3 players)
- No cameras or camcorders, other than Monday through Wednesday for personal non-commercial photographic use only and without their cases
- No food or beverages, no containers or coolers
- No pets (except for service animals), no lawn and/or folding chairs
- No weapons, no metal spiked golf shoes, no ladders, step stools

Travel Tips from the LIRR

- Please remember to step over the gap between the platform and the car door when entering and exiting trains.
- Purchase round trip tickets before boarding trains at LIRR ticket machines or at staffed LIRR ticket windows; tickets cost more on-board.
- No bicycles are permitted on U.S. Open trains.
- Do not drive to Farmingdale Station—no parking is available.
- Listen to train and station announcements regarding track and platform changes.
- On your return trip, please allow adequate time to walk to the shuttle bus stop for the trip to Farmingdale Station. Tickets will be collected before boarding. Allow more time if you have to pick up an item from Security.
- Trains will leave promptly at scheduled departure times

For additional information about the U.S. Open visit [www.usopen.com](http://www.usopen.com)

For train schedule information customers may contact the LIRR Travel Information Center 24-hours a day in Suffolk County at 631-231-LIRR, in Nassau County at 516-822-LIRR or in New York City at 718-217-LIRR. The Travel Information Center's TDD telephone number for the hearing impaired is 718-558-3022. Customers may also consult the LIRR's website at [www.mta.info](http://www.mta.info).