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Press Release

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LIRR

IMMEDIATE

LIRR Launches Autumn Weekends: \$1 Fares With Monthly Ticket Holders

First-Ever Customer Appreciation Program ‘Summer Saturdays’ Now Includes Sundays; Extended to 10 Fall Weekends, Linking LIRR Customers and Their Families + Friends to Beloved LI and NYC Destinations

Long Island Rail Road President Phil Eng today announced *Autumn Weekends*, a continuation of the popular *Summer Saturdays* program, as a way to say “Thank you” to our monthly ticket holders for their continued patronage.

Over 10 weekends this fall, beginning this Saturday, September 8, until Sunday, November 11, monthly LIRR ticket holders will have the chance to bring along up to four additional companions aboard LIRR trains for only \$1 per person, each way, children and adults alike.

“After receiving such positive feedback from our Summer Saturdays program launched in June, we are excited to expand this opportunity to give back to our monthly ticket holders and show our customers how much we appreciate them,” LIRR President Phil Eng said. “We continue to look for ways to help reduce New York’s carbon footprint by getting people out of their cars and onto the rails while promoting the Long Island tourism industry, which extends way beyond beaches and the hot summer months.”

The *Summer Saturdays* program ran on 13 weekends from June 2 to August 25. On these Saturdays, more than 62,000 Family Fare tickets were sold, a 50% increase in Family Fare ticket sales over the same Saturdays in 2017.

The LIRR *Summer Saturdays* and *Autumn Weekends* pilot is modeled on the existing Family Fare ticket, which runs year-round, and allows up to four children (ages 5-11; children under 5 ride free) to ride for \$1 each when accompanied by a fare-paying adult. This new program extends this offer to adults as well, when traveling with a monthly customer whose ticket in effect becomes a system-wide pass on *Autumn Weekends*.

LIRR staff will continuously monitor the popularity of the program, and make adjustments as necessary.

Some exclusions due to capacity concerns include:

- Travel on the Ronkonkoma Branch between Hicksville and Ronkonkoma on the weekends of September 8-9 and 15-16, as a busing program is substituting for trains while testing and signal cutover work continues on the Double Track Project.
- Trains going to Oyster Festival the weekend of October 13-14.

Many Channels for Service Updates

Train information is available through the LIRR’s real-time service information sources:

Email and text message service updates – Customers are urged to sign up to receive the alerts by visiting [MyMTAAAlerts.com](https://www.mta.com/mtaalerts). To avoid unwanted messages, a user can tailor the messages to the specific branch, and the specific times of day.

MYmta app – Customers who use the new, comprehensive MYmta app will see real-time travel information for LIRR and connecting services all in one place. As a caution, trains that start out their trips on time may experience delays en route. The LIRR Train Time app also remains available for customers to access LIRR train information.

@LIRR on Twitter – Twitter users can follow @LIRR to receive updates of a similar nature to the email and text alerts, shortened to fit Twitter’s format.

The above communications channels can be accessed while at home or on the go. For customers who are located at stations, the LIRR will post the latest service updates on **digital signs** at station platforms and will make **audio announcements** over public address systems, and **on-board announcements** made by train crews.

For those who prefer the **telephone**, information is available from the LIRR’s Customer Service Center by calling 511, the New York State Travel Information Line, and saying: “Long Island Rail Road” Those who are deaf or hard of hearing can use their preferred service provider for the free 711 relay to reach the LIRR at 511.