

# MILEPOSTS

A Newsletter for MTA Metro-North Railroad Customers



March 2020

- [Corona Precautions](#) ■ [Schedule Change](#) ■ [GCT Escalators](#) ■
- [News12](#) ■ [K9 Graduation](#) ■ [BTS in GCT](#) ■ [Valentine Treat](#) ■
- [Safety Rule](#) ■ [Courtesy Corner](#) ■ [Getaways](#) ■

## What the MTA and Metro-North Are Doing About Coronavirus

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) is taking agency-wide precautionary measures against the Coronavirus, or COVID-19.

**These measures are meant to ensure the safety of our customers and employees.**

The MTA is coordinating its response with our labor partners, the [National Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#), the [NYS Department of Health](#), and the [NYC Department of Health](#).

### The MTA is stepping up its cleaning procedures across all modes of travel,

and at MTA Metro-North we continue to aggressively disinfect our stations twice per day, and clean and disinfect our trains daily and our full fleet every 72 hours. The additional disinfection started Monday, March 2.



### Below are the recommended actions for our customers and employees to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases:

- **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick;
- **Avoid touching** your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- **Stay home** when you are sick.
- **Cover your cough** or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- **Clean and disinfect** frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- **Wash your hands often** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- **Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer** with at least **60% alcohol** if soap and water are not readily available.
  - **Always wash hands with soap and water** if hands are visibly dirty.

### If you have symptoms and have recently traveled to

**at-risk areas as defined by the CDC**, or if you have been in close contact with someone who has, you should **seek medical care right away**.

Customers can find updates at [new.mta.info](#) that speaks to our efforts in this ever-evolving situation and our measures against the Coronavirus. You can continue to check back to that page as needed.

### We are also sending out regular updates

through social media on [Twitter](#) @MetroNorth, and [Facebook](#) with the latest information, and [our main website](#) also has regular updates. You can also [sign up for regular Metro-North email updates](#) at this link.

[Back to Top](#)

## Schedule Change, Effective Sunday, March 29

Train schedules will change on the Hudson, Harlem and New Haven lines effective Sunday, March 29, 2020.

The new schedule will more accurately reflect where and when trackwork and infrastructure projects are occurring along the lines, and provide reliable train times for you, our customers.

**Among the highlights, there will be minor adjustments to train times**



#### **On the Hudson Line**

The **Breakneck Ridge** station will also remain temporarily closed.

#### **On the Harlem Line**

station enhancements at **White Plains**, **switch replacements near Hartsdale**, a **new substation installation near Mt. Kisco**, and the **installation of a new Harlem Line express cable between North White Plains and Goldens Bridge**, will create **small adjustments to weekday and weekend schedules.**

#### **On the New Haven Line**

to improve performance **on weekdays** on the New Canaan, Danbury and Waterbury Branch trains and connections, there will be minor adjustments to train departure times.

**On weekends** there will be small adjustments to the schedule to accommodate infrastructure projects.

#### **Be sure to pick up a new timetable**

in Grand Central and at outlying stations to check for possible adjustments to your train's schedule. Schedules are also available online at [mta.info/mnr](http://mta.info/mnr) or [new.mta.info](http://new.mta.info) or via our free [Train Time App](#).

[Back to Top](#)

## **We're "Escalating" Your Experience @Grand Central Terminal**



**The newly renovated East Side escalators in Grand Central Terminal are now open for business!**

The intensive renovation project of the escalators, located near the entrance to the Grand Central Market, required a complete overhaul. That included the escalator trusses, motors, steps, handrails, safety systems, control equipment and surrounding architectural finishes.

The renovation will help to ensure improved performance and reliability, and less downtime for maintenance for many years to come.

Compliant with **American Public Transportation Association** standards, the new escalators feature energy-saving devices like "sleep-mode," which reduces the speed of the escalator during downtimes and increases when pedestrians approach.

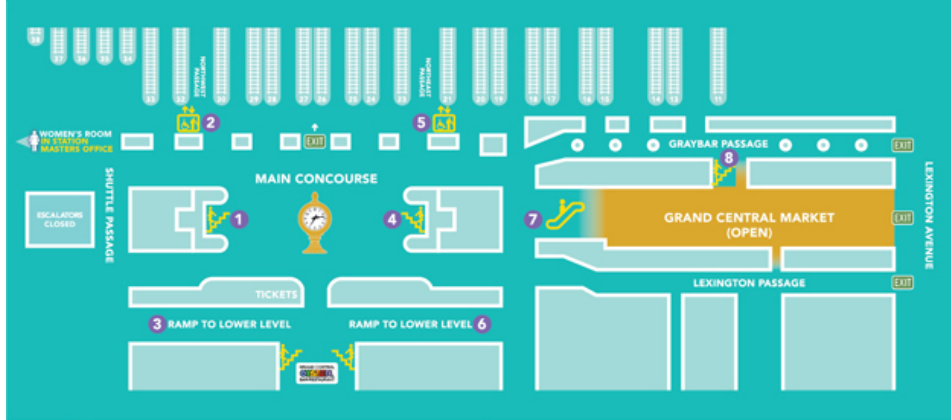
#### **Now it is the West Side's turn!**

Crews will be renovating the West Side escalators inside Grand Central Terminal, located near the Station Master's Office and Shuttle Passage.

During this time, the west side bathrooms (situated under the west side escalators) will be closed each night between 8 PM – 6 AM the next morning.

#### **Alternate routes to the lower level,**

as well as alternate restrooms are available during the renovation, which is expected to continue through the first quarter of 2021.



- 1 West Concourse Grand Staircase
- 2 West Elevators  
Upper Level: Northwest Passage & Elevators next to Track 33  
Lower Level: Elevators next to Track Track 113
- 3 West Oyster Bar Ramp
- 4 East Concourse Grand Staircase
- 5 East Elevators  
Upper Level: Northeast Passage & Elevators between Tracks 21 & 23  
Lower Level: Elevators between Tracks 104 & 105
- 6 East Oyster Bar Ramp
- 7 East Escalators by Grand Central Market
- 8 Graybar Passage Staircase

[Back to Top](#)



## "Taking the Lead" with Metro-North President Catherine Rinaldi: News12

"Thousands take Metro-North to get in and out of New York City, and from the Harlem, Hudson and New Haven lines, one woman has her eye on it all," starts the [News12 story](#) about Metro-North President Catherine Rinaldi.

"In the sea of commuters, tourists and locals is someone who blends right into the crowd, her name is Catherine Rinaldi, and she is anything but ordinary."

"Rinaldi's ride to the top was hardly an express ride though," explains News12 reporter, Sarah Toland.

[Back to Top](#)

## Badges, Barks, and Honor – K9 Grads at Vanderbilt Hall

Five bright-eyed, bushy-tailed new officers joined MTAPD in February in the annual K9 graduation ceremony at Vanderbilt Hall in Grand Central Terminal.

### The newly commissioned dogs

are traditionally named in honor of fallen police officers, firefighters, or members of the U.S. armed services, with family members of those honored in attendance.



This year, one of the dogs — **Canine Timo**, named for NYPD **Det. Russell Timoshenko** — died of a rare medical condition during the training period and was remembered at the ceremony, alongside members of Det. Timoshenko's family.

### The K9 officers, along with their human partners,

completed an intensive 12-week explosives detection course at the MTAPD's 72-acre training center in Dutchess County. The MTAPD has approximately 50 dogs in service,

and runs one of the nation's largest K9 forces.

**Canine Artie** erupted in hearty barks as the ceremony got underway, while **Canine Goose** proved to be the class clown, jumping into the arms of partner **PO Salvatore Surletti**, then diving across the marble floor for a beloved stuffed toy.

Proof that no matter how invaluable they are to MTA's security and anti-terrorism efforts, there's always a puppy deep inside.

### Congratulations to:

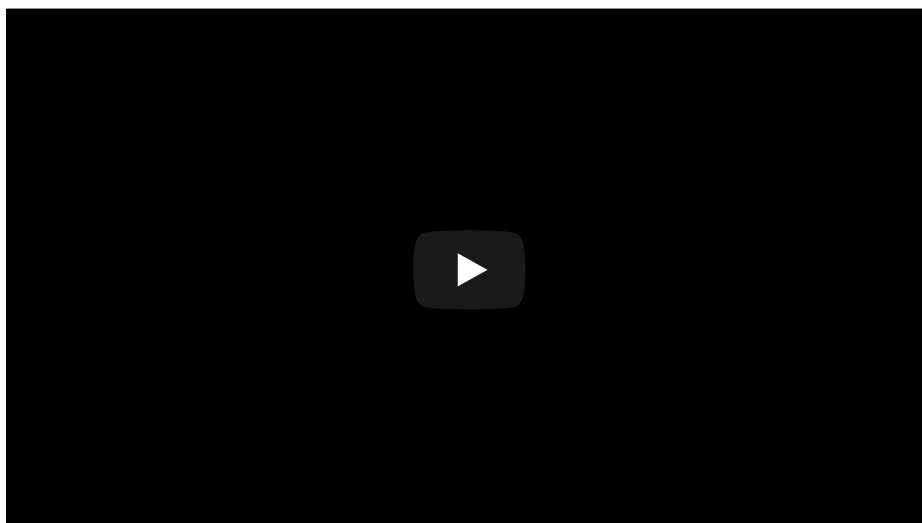
- **PO Salvatore Suletta** and **Canine Goose**, honoring **FDNY Lt. and USAF Master Sgt. Christopher Raguso**
- **PO Tommy Long** and **Canine JD**, honoring **NYPD ESU Police Officer John D'Allara**
- **PO Richard Denicker** and **Canine Chris**, honoring **NYPD Sgt. Christopher Christodoulou**
- **PO Ashley Torres** and **Canine Artie**, honoring **Nassau County ESU Police Officer Arthur Lopez**
- **PO Daniel Bradbury** and **Canine Joey**, honoring **FDNY Firefighter Joseph Henry**



[Back to Top](#)

## Our Terminal Was Home to the Tonight Show/ Jimmy Fallon, & South Korean Pop Band BTS

On Monday, February 24 at 11:35 PM, NBC aired a special telecast of *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*, featuring South Korean pop band BTS and their performance of a brand-new song inside iconic Grand Central Terminal!



"We wanted to do something special for BTS and, at the same time, celebrate New York City," Fallon said in a press release. "BTS really knocked it out of the park. You're not going to believe how big and fun their performance is," he wrote before the airing.

[Back to Top](#)

## Valentine's Day 'Under the Stars'

At 2:30 AM in the wee hours of the morning — when not even a wandering pigeon could be spied in the empty main hall of Grand Central Terminal — one lucky couple got to spend **February 14, Valentine's Day** alone, serenaded by a pianist to the British Royals and feasting on a Michelin-rated, three-course meal.

**Macy and Spencer Wise**, two years married, were the lucky winners in a drawing held by GCT retail manager, Jones Lang Lasalle, for the special night.

It was such a unique experience both **ABC News** and **PIX11** included it in their news coverage.



More than 16,000 people sent in their names for a chance to win the special night, which included Nordic specialties from Agern, drinks from Campbell Bar, live music by **pianist Simon Mulligan** on a grand Steinway piano and a room for the night in the adjacent Hyatt Hotel.

"It didn't feel real to us, it felt surreal," said the couple after the dinner. "We are in awe of the beauty of the building and its architecture—it feels like a dream."

"It was lovely playing in the grand hall with no one around except the couple," said Mulligan. "The acoustics were resonant and gorgeous, and I enjoyed looking up at the starry sky, and following the sound of the piano as it bounced against the ceiling and walls."

[Back to Top](#)

## Safety Rule of the Issue

Brought to you by Operation Lifesaver

The video player features a thumbnail image of a blue dump truck on a road. The title "Operation Lifesaver Inc. - Rail Safety for Cement, Dump and Garbage Truck Drivers" is displayed in blue text. Below the title, it says "from Operation Lifesaver". The video player interface includes a play button, a progress bar showing 03:37, and the Vimeo logo.

### Metro-North's TRACKS team

can come out and instruct your company's drivers on how to approach rail crossings safely, at no cost to you. Just email [TRACKS@mnr.org](mailto:TRACKS@mnr.org) or call 914-461-0459 to set up your appointment.

[Back to Top](#)

## Courtesy Corner

As the situation with COVID-19 continues to develop, we ask all of our customers and employees to practice common sense hygiene, as recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), including:

- **Wash hands often** with soap and water for 20 seconds or more.



- Use hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol, if soap and water are unavailable.
- **Avoid touching** your eyes, mouth, and nose. Break that habit!
- **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick.
- If you have flu-like symptoms, use sick leave to **remain at home**.

[Back to Top](#)

## Getaways



### Hudson Valley Restaurant Week March 16 – 29

Hudson Valley Restaurant Week offers three-course prix-fixe **dinners at \$32.95**, many restaurants also offer **lunches at \$22.95**. Of the 200 participating restaurants, **nearly half are located near Metro-North train stations**. Many chef's dishes feature produce, cheeses and meats locally-grown in the Hudson Valley.

**Reservations for Restaurant Week** are always encouraged and sometimes required.

[See details on this offer.](#)

### Harry Townsend's Last Stand through April 12

*Harry Townsend's Last Stand*, with Len Cariou and Craig Bierko, is a must-see new play about the inescapable ups and downs of family to which we can all relate.

[See details on this discount package.](#)

Use **code MNR20 online**, when calling CityTix at 212-581-1212 or when visiting **City Center Box Office** at 131 W. 55th St.



### Getting there is easy:

Take any **Hudson, Harlem or New Haven Line** to Grand Central Terminal. From there it's about a 20 minute walk to 131 W. 55th St. or take the **S** to the **N Q R** or **W**

[Back to Top](#)

Published by  
Corporate & Public Affairs, MTA Metro-North Railroad,  
345 Madison Ave. NY, NY 10017

[www.mta.info](http://www.mta.info)

[MilePosts Archive](#)