

MILEPOSTS

A Newsletter for MTA Metro-North Railroad Customers July 2019

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Metro-North’s “Ground-Breaking” Development in Harrison



Metro-North Railroad, Avalon Bay Communities and the Town/Village of Harrison held a groundbreaking ceremony at the Harrison station in June to mark the start of construction of a mixed-use development project on the south side of the station.

The development will drive new economic activity

to Harrison, by adding 143 residential units, about 27,000 square feet of retail space, two landscaped public areas, and 758 total parking spaces.



“We are delighted to be proceeding with what promises to be a transformative project for Metro-North commuters and for the Town and Village of Harrison,” said Metro-North President Catherine Rinaldi.

“When it’s fully realized, this green project will create a vibrant, walkable community, both reducing a reliance on cars and enhancing the existing village hub.”

The start of construction of the transit-oriented development

is the culmination of a long public process that involved meeting with community stakeholders, request for proposals to build on the site, a review of construction plans, an environmental review, as well as a series of approvals from the MTA Board.

Avalon Bay will be situated right at Harrison Station, where we have daily train service for more than 16,000 weekly riders.

Metro-North will gain valuable parking spaces

for our customers, almost double from 257, to 475 (an 85% increase in commuter parking), in a garage that Avalon Bay will build as part of the development.



“Our customers will have a much easier time finding parking at the station, and Harrison residents can enjoy new shopping options and an enlivened downtown,” said Rinaldi.

“We hope this type of suburban transit-oriented development becomes a model for communities

throughout the MTA region.”

There will be closures of part of the parking lot during the construction process. Alternate lots will be provided, and customers will be diverted to the other lots within walking distance from the station.

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Parting is Such Sweet Sorrow... We'll Miss You, M2s!



If you're a longtime customer on Metro-North's New Haven Line, you likely remember riding on our M2 fleet, which first came to our railroad more than 45 years ago.

On May 10, we bid farewell to the last M2 train set

(we call them consists) on Metro-North property, as it headed to Ashtabula, Ohio — some 575 miles away — for dismantling.

Though we're sad to see our M2s go, we are excited to pass the torch to our newer fleet of M8s, which will continue to provide you — our valued customers — with reliable service for years to come.



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Coming to Bronxville: Get Your Hair Done, While Sipping a Cup of Joe

Our Bronxville Station building will be reimagined, becoming a more vibrant, welcoming place with a beauty salon, a new café, and a place to sip cocktails in the evening.

“Every week, about 9,500 customers use the Bronxville station, generating over 19,000 rides,” said Catherine Rinaldi, Metro-North President.

“Bringing new tenants to the Bronxville station house will not only improve the commute for these customers, but will also help enhance the community’s quality of life.”



After soliciting proposals for two sections of the station building, the MTA Board voted to approve a lease to Xarupa LLC to turn the Harlem Line station’s interior space into a café and a lounge/bar.

They also approved a lease for the smaller section at the southwest end of the building to The Coiffure Clique LLC to operate a hair salon. Currently, the station building only houses a small concession stand and ticket booth. Both of the new leaseholders will make capital investments and upgrades to the station building amenities and/ or their interior retail spaces.

Xarupa LLC will transform the 2,595 square-foot interior

of the building, including the waiting area and restrooms, into a morning café/coffee spot, and the vacant unit at the north end will become a cozy evening bar and lounge.

They will also create a new seating area, upgrade bathrooms, paint the interior, and install new fixtures.

If coffee isn’t a customer’s passion, the bar and lounge area housed in an 819 square-foot interior section at the north end of the station house, will offer a range of wine, beer and cocktail options, and a great place to unwind and connect with friends.

The Coiffure Clique will assume the lease for the 239-square foot retail space

at the southwest end of the building, accessible by a separate entrance at the station.

As part of the lease agreement, The Coiffure Clique will upgrade the restroom, and install laminate flooring and custom shelving within its space.

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Hurricane Season, June 1 — Nov. 30

Travel Tips

Hurricane Season runs from now until November 30,

with the New York metropolitan region most vulnerable to its effects from August through October.

Significant coastal storms can impact the area at any time. High winds, heavy rains, and dangerous lightning can result in flooding, mudslides, fallen trees, and downed power lines along our right-of-way.



We can’t stop the weather’s worst from happening, but we can control our team’s response to it. In the event of a hurricane or severe storm, we have several operating plans at the ready, depending on the weather’s impact.

We will take appropriate steps before, during and after a hurricane

that may include an orderly shutdown of the railroad before a storm’s arrival. If the weather and the damage associated with it is severe enough, our only option may be to reduce or suspend train service temporarily until conditions improve. Ensuring your safety is our primary concern.

To help you prepare for hurricane season, we recommend the following:

- Sign up for Metro North [email/text alerts](#).
- Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).
- Check www.mta.info/mnr for updates. If severe weather requires us to change service, we will post that information on our website.

- Download the **Metro-North Train Time® App** for real-time train status and schedule information.
- Listen to radio and television news. During any storm or emergency, we give updates to the media on the status of our train service.
- Call our Customer Information Center at 511 (in Connecticut call 877-690-5114). They will also have a message giving you the status of our service.

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Safety Rules of the Issue — Safety Comes to Your Crossing

The electronic bell sounds. Red lights flash. The crossing gates lower to a safe, stationary position.

All the while, the low rumble of a Metro-North train approaches with four loud horn blasts — two long, a short, and another long — to warn pedestrians and traffic alike to stay clear of the grade crossing.

On Thursday, June 6, Metro-North's Hudson Avenue grade crossing at Peekskill Station, one of the busiest along our territory, was one of seven sites to participate in International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD), a global initiative to promote safe behaviors at or around grade crossings.



"Some of us think that we can just beat the train," said Metro-North customer Carmen M., who was waiting by the platform. "Events like these are important because they make us think and be more aware."

Grade crossings are very high on

our safety priority list at Metro-North.

And ILCAD provides yet another opportunity to interact with our communities, provide safety information and remind them to the dangers at grade crossings.

"I heard that it takes a mile for a train to stop," said Metro-North customer Sean F., as he waited at the station. "It's good to know because trains are massive machines. The event is a great idea."

Other railroad grade crossing sites included: Roaring Brook Rd., Chappaqua; Main St., Pawling; Glover Ave., Norwalk, CT; Commerce St., Norwalk, CT; Taylor Ave., Bethel, CT, and Washington Ave., West of Hudson.

In total, Metro-North handed out nearly 2,000 safety pamphlets to drivers at the seven crossings.

If your school, camp, or company would like our **TRACKS (Together Railroads and Communities Keeping Safe)** team to come out and address your students or employees about how to navigate safely around train tracks, please call **914-461-0459**, or email **MNRTracks@mnr.org** to schedule a free presentation.



We bring you this safety information because your safety is always our first priority all year long!

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A little jazz. A little fruit. A little wine. Getaway with Metro-North



Jazz Festival

Presented in Collaboration with Jazz at Lincoln Center

Saturday, July 20 — All day

**Caramoor Center
for Music and the Arts**

Celebrating its 5th year in collaboration with Jazz at Lincoln Center, Caramoor's Jazz Festival returns with phenomenal talent and music throughout the stunning gardens and historical venues. Join us for a full day of jazz, activities for the kids, and expanded food options! Upgrade on site for headliner Eddie Palmieri Salsa Orchestra. Daytime artists include Etienne Charles, Lakecia Benjamin, Sammy Miller and The Congregation, and more

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

Metro-North Package Prices from GCT/Harlem-125th Street

Adults, \$46; Seniors, Persons with disabilities and individuals receiving Medicare, \$41.50; Children 12–18, \$34, Children 5–11, \$14; Children under 5, \$12

See details on [Metro-North Package Pricing from other stations.](#)

Getting there is simple:

Take the [Harlem Line](#) to Katonah Station. Free shuttles to/from Caramoor start at 10:30 AM.

Farm Fresh Poughkeepsie Saturday, July 27

Explore the culinary mecca and the historic town of **Rhinebeck** and visit the bountiful pick-your-own berry and fruit farms of **Dutchess County**. Stops include **Greig Farm**, with its cozy café, indoor farmers market, pygmy goats and fruit fields and **Rose Hill Farm**, with its fruit orchards.

Farm Fresh Bus Reservations Are Required And Must Be Made At Least 48 Hours In Advance.

After you've made your reservation, purchase your rail/bus ticket at any Metro-North ticket office or full-service ticket machine (*excluding Poughkeepsie station*). Some activities may require an additional fee. For more information, call 877-997-2726



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

Metro-North Package Prices from GCT/Harlem-125th Street
Adults, \$65; Seniors, Persons with disabilities and individuals receiving Medicare, \$58.50;
Children 5–11, \$35; Children under 5, \$33.

See details on Metro-North [Package Pricing from other stations](#).

Getting there is simple:

Take the [Hudson Line](#) to the Poughkeepsie Station where a shuttle will meet the train arriving Poughkeepsie at 10:44 AM.



Vinyards & Wine Tours Saturday, July 27

The Hudson Valley is a destination for the wine lover with each winery having its own vibe and story. Our tours give you a tasting experience but also show off the unique charm of the area. Take in the farm stands and picturesque farms scattered between our visits to the wineries. This 6-hour small group tour takes you to the oldest wine making region in the U.S. Visit the oldest winery or vineyard and its historic cellars, taste flights of wine at three unique wineries, sample the local cheeses, and enjoy a pop-up picnic taking in the

Valley's views. Depart with wine, farm stand goods, local treasures, and a new understanding of wine.

Make a [reservation for a tour online](#) or call **845-943-9490** for more information.

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

Getting there is simple:

Take the [Hudson Line](#) to the Beacon Station on the train that departs Grand Central Terminal at 8:43 AM. You will be met at the station by your tour guide.

We can make sure you have something to do every weekend this summer!
[See a complete list of our Getaways.](#)

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Courtesy Corner



A Love Letter to Hikers, Bikers and Day Trippers

Metro-North loves all our customers, and in the summer, we put out a big welcome mat for day trippers heading up the line for our getaways, such as a hike at Breakneck Ridge, or a 100-mile bicycle ride from Poughkeepsie Station through the Shawangunks.

When traveling in large groups, we often forget there are others around us trying to enjoy the peacefulness of the train ride and the scenery from their windows.

Please keep your conversations at a reasonable level, place your backpacks on your lap or in the rack above you, and if you are bringing a bicycle on board, we ask you respect fellow passengers' space — as well as our seats!

Where possible cyclists, please place your bicycles at the far end of each car that has a bicycle holding space.

Happy hiking, biking and exploring!

It's the courteous thing to do!

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