

# MILEPOSTS

A Newsletter for MTA Metro-North Railroad Customers June 2018

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## 'Tis the Season....

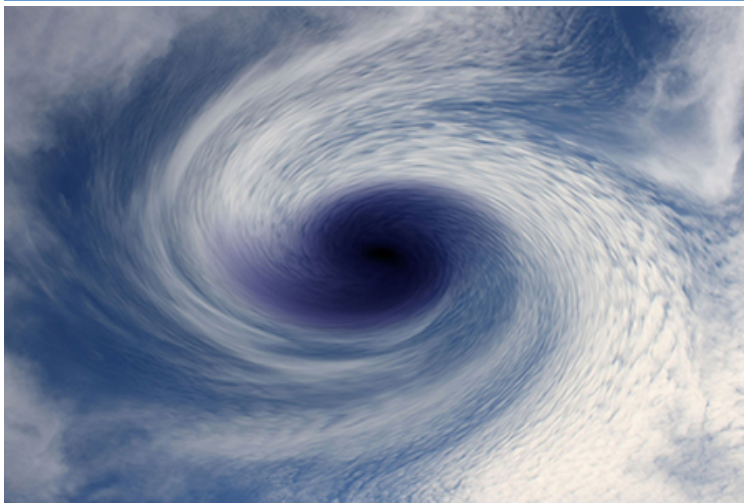
...for hurricanes!

And while Hurricane Season can't boast its own greeting cards or catchy carols (*Rock You Like a Hurricane by Scorpions doesn't count!*), it can lay claim to the fact that it lasts from June 1 to November 30 (*easily besting the twelve days of Christmas, but without the joy*).

**During that time, the New York metropolitan region is most vulnerable to its effects from August through October.**

The season's 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.

As we did during "Hurricane Irene" and "Superstorm Sandy," 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 — and the safety of our employees — is our primary concern.**

### When the storm is over,

we know you will want us to return to regular service immediately, and we will do our best to recover quickly. Please keep in mind that sometimes getting back to normal requires some time. We may need to make repairs to our tracks, signal and power systems, or train cars due to storm damage.

We may also need to reposition employees and equipment to begin running service again.

### 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](http://www.mta.info/mnr) for updates. If severe weather requires us to change service, we will post that information on our website. (Also be sure to keep a current timetable handy. It will give you a frame of reference for train departure
- Download the [Metro-North Train Time App](#) for real-time train status and schedule information on your [Android](#) or [iPhone](#).
- Listen to radio and television news. During any storm or emergency, we are in touch with the news media, giving updates on the status of our train service.
- Call our Customer Information Center at **511** (in Connecticut call 877-690-5114).

times if you don't have power on your computer.)

They will also have a message giving you the current status of our service.

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## Since We Are On The Subject...

...of bad weather and how it impacts our railroad, who can forget the terrible nor'easters we had in March?

**But they will be remembered for more than the storms themselves, because more trees came down across Metro-North territory in that month than often comes down in a year (170 to be exact).**

A good number of those tall, leafy green giants were on the Harlem line. As it happens, when it rains it pours and literally in our case, when it snows, trees fall. That's when one giant tree located between Brewster and Goldens Bridge fell, creating a domino effect, and bringing down more than 30 of our power lines — and with them all of our power, signal, and communications lines in that area.



**What followed was weeks of repairs of the poles and lines,**

which took place mostly on Saturdays and Sundays. (*We'll tell you more about that work in the next issue of Mileposts.*) Our Maintenance-of-Way crews also used the weekend down-time to trim back healthy trees located mostly between Croton Falls and Brewster.

**Employees worked over eight weekends,**

from  
March 10  
to May 20

to eliminate trees and branches that were too close to our tracks.

They removed about 450 trees in all, working on average 12 hours a day, in hot and cold weather, and often well into the evenings with artificial lighting to get the job done.

And though we can't guarantee that more trees or their branches will fall during the next major storm that comes our way, we've done our best to remove the risk of future power and train service outages.



**For those of you who had to endure Harlem Line weekend busing while this work progressed, we thank you for your patience!**

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## We're Undercutting Ourselves...

...and in the case of the New Haven Line, it makes for good business!

**In past issues of Mileposts you've read about the extensive infrastructure improvements Metro-North is making to improve the safety and reliability of your service.**

**As part of that work,**

we use a machine that lifts the track slightly into the correct position and tamps the ballast (stone) beneath the railroad ties to secure it in place.

**But over time this process slightly raises the track's elevation.**

And this can cause problems for our trains as they travel under overhead bridges and overhead catenary wires and make station stops due to a decrease in clearance.



This is especially true on the New Haven Main Line, where our trains draw power from the overhead catenary, making maintaining the proper clearances from the top of trains to these electrified wires critical.

**In order to address these gradual track raises and restore the track to its proper level,**

we recently began an Undercutting Program on the two middle tracks of the New Haven Line between New Rochelle and Rye during off-peak hours. This initial phase of the work is scheduled for completion by October.

An undercutting machine will be deployed to remove all of the ballast in and approximately 8 inches below the tracks being lowered.

This operation requires extensive preparation before and restoration following the undercutter to ensure the integrity of train operations on adjacent tracks and to place the track back in service when complete.

#### During undercutting,

a train to catch the ballast and other debris that is being removed must occupy an adjacent track, requiring us to take two tracks out of service continuously during this project.

**We appreciate your patience during any delays you may experience during this important track maintenance project, and we will keep you updated on subsequent undercutting projects.**

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## Happy Anniversaries, Grand Central!

### **Grand Central Terminal celebrates two significant milestones**

that changed the course of history for the landmark building: the 40th anniversary this June of the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling that saved the Terminal and the 20th anniversary this October of a renovation that restored the iconic landmark.

The Terminal is marking these moments with **a series of events**, beginning with a 40th anniversary photo installation and tastings from Grand Central shops and restaurants in June and capping off the celebration with an exhibit in September.

#### **Anniversary events include:**

- **An exhibition in September by the Municipal Art Society of New York** in partnership with the New York Transit Museum in Vanderbilt Hall telling the story of the Committee to Save Grand Central's historic advocacy campaign and sharing before-and-after photographs of the 1998 restoration.
- **A series of tasting events** all summer long, starting with Taste of the Terminal June 26 through June 28 where the public can enjoy free food and product samples, a 40th anniversary photo installation, and live music in Vanderbilt Hall. Additional tasting events will take place in Grand Central Market in July and the Dining Concourse in September.
- **Musical acts** will entertain the public with the throwback sounds of the 1990s in the "Dining Concourse in Concert" lunchtime music series taking place weekly on Tuesdays in July and August.



For more information on Grand Central Terminal and this year's events, including dates, times, and up-to-date information, please visit [www.grandcentralterminal.com](http://www.grandcentralterminal.com).

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## CTrail's New Hartford Line Debuts...

With 17 trains a day between New Haven and Hartford, and 12 of those trains continuing to Springfield, CTrail's new **Hartford Line** quickly and easily connects you to Metro-North's New Haven Line service to New York City, Amtrak Northeast Corridor rail services, and Shore Line East service, as well as CTfastrak bus rapid transit service in the Hartford/New Britain area.

The Hartford Line is a fast, frequent, and reliable passenger rail service that connects communities along the I-91 corridor. With speeds up to 110 MPH, this passenger rail service offers customers a better alternative to driving on the I-91 corridor.



**HARTFORD LINE**

 **CT rail**

**METRO-NORTH CUSTOMERS:** You can purchase a **Hartford Line** connecting ticket when you purchase your New Haven Line ticket at a Metro-North ticket vending machine (TVM). Individual tickets will be generated for each leg of the trip.

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## Safety Rule of the Issue

**A safety reminder from Metro-North:**  
**It's Summer, so please remember to...**

- Walk, never run, for your train.
- Stand back from the platform edge.
- Watch the gap.
- Avoid moving from car to car, especially on a moving train.
- Keep off the tracks at all times.
- Stop using smartphones/tablets when walking on platforms, stairs & near crossings.

**TRACKS**  
Together Policies And Communities Keeping Safe  
mta.info/mnr/tracks

Your safety is always our first priority.

MTA

We bring you these rules because your safety is always our first priority all year long!

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## How Are We Gonna Keep Them Down on the Farm?

With our summer Farm Fresh Tours, of course! (*The will "moove" you, we promise...!*)



**Our next Dutchess Farm Fresh Weekend with Hop On/Off Shuttle Bus service takes place Saturday & Sunday, July 28 & 29.**

The hop on/off shuttle buses will meet you at our Poughkeepsie Station on both days so you can make a day trip or a whole weekend getaway out of your journey!

Explore the culinary mecca and historic town of **Rhinebeck** and visit the bountiful pick-your-own berry and fruit farms of Dutchess County.

Stops may include **Greig Farm, Rose Hill Farm** and **Mead Orchards**

(depending on fruit availability...). Pick blueberries, peaches and more to your heart's content. Plus, explore the friendly petting zoo and farm market at Kesicke Farm.

**Farm Fresh Bus Reservations are required and must be made at least 48 hours in advance**

and confirmed **BEFORE** you purchase a train ticket. Seats are limited and a \$1 per person non-refundable reservation fee will be required to reserve your space. A \$20 per person fee will be charged if you do not show up without emailing a cancellation notice to [reservations@escapemaker.com](mailto:reservations@escapemaker.com) by Wednesday at midnight (EST) the week of your tour.

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.

And you'll **save on rides and admission by taking Metro-North.**

#### Getting there is easy:

Take the [Hudson Line](#) to Poughkeepsie Station, where a shuttle will meet the trains arriving Poughkeepsie at 9:44 AM and 10:44 AM

## Meanwhile, Down in the Valley...

They are celebrating the legacy and future of jazz at the **17th annual Jazz in the Valley Festival** on the waterfront in Poughkeepsie Sunday, August 19.

And Metro-North gets you there with our **discount Getaway package!**

Swing to the sounds of some real "hep cats and kittens" while taking in a backdrop of breathtaking views of the Hudson River. The music begins at noon, featuring performances by jazz greats and new jazz voices. Past performers include Ahmad Jamal, Delfeayo Marsalis, Cyrus Chestnut and many more!



#### Getting there is easy:

Take the [Hudson Line](#) to Poughkeepsie Station. From there it's a short walk to Waryas Park.

## Speaking of All That Jazz...

Now in its 4th year in collaboration with Jazz at Lincoln Center, **Caramoor's Jazz Festival** returns July 21st with exceptional talent and music throughout their stunning gardens and historical venues. Our **discount package** lets you take in a full day of jazz, interactive activities for the kids, and expanded food and drink options! Artists include the Benny Green Trio, Jane Bunnett and Maqueque, the music of Miriam Makeba and Nina Simone, and more. Upgrade on site to see the amazing Dianne Reeves!

#### Getting there is easy:

Take the [Harlem Line](#) to Katonah Station where you can board the free shuttle bus to Caramoor starting at 10:30 AM and looping throughout the day

**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



What wouldn't smell after a long hot day encased in leather? (*Don't tell us... some things should remain a mystery!*)

So short of wearing a pair of "jellies" to the office, chances are your feet are going to be fairly "ripe" after a long, hot day walking in our shoes.

And while you may want to whip your footwear off and put your "dogs" up for a well-deserved rest the first chance you get, we ask that you refrain from doing so on our trains.

This allows your fellow commuters to breathe freely, and also keeps the seat across from you open so others may sit down. (*Your feet don't need to "sit."*)

**It's the courteous thing to do!**

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Published by  
Corporate & Public Affairs, MTA Metro-North Railroad  
420 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10170

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

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