

MILEPOSTS

A Newsletter for MTA Metro-North Railroad Customers

July 2016

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MTA eTix is Here!

MTA eTix is a new free mobile ticketing app that allows Metro-North Railroad customers to purchase and use tickets directly from their mobile devices.

MTA eTix is now available to HUDSON LINE customers.

It will be available to Harlem Line customers in late July and to New Haven Line customers in late August.

How do you access MTA eTix?

1. Download the FREE app on [iPhone](#) or [Android](#) and set up your account.
2. Purchase your ticket with your debit or credit card.
3. Activate your ticket on the app **just BEFORE boarding your train.**

What type of tickets can you purchase with mobile ticketing?

- One way
- Round-trip
- Ten-trip
- Weekly
- Monthly and
- CityTickets

...are available for purchase via the app.

For more information, visit www.mta.info/etix or contact customer service at 511 or 877-690-5114 in CT.

MTA eTix™

BUY METRO-NORTH TICKETS ANYTIME, ANYWHERE

AVAILABLE NOW:
HUDSON LINE
LATE JULY:
HARLEM LINE
LATE AUGUST:
NEW HAVEN LINE

WITH THE NEW MTA eTix™ APP, GETTING METRO-NORTH TICKETS IS EASY AS:

1 DOWNLOAD MTA eTix FOR FREE **2** BUY YOUR TICKETS **3** ACTIVATE BEFORE BOARDING

App Store | Google Play | MTA.INFO/eTIX

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Since It Is Hurricane Season...

This issue of *Mileposts* will look at some of our ongoing efforts to "fix and fortify" our infrastructure.

Also, don't forget to check our [Hurricane Travel Tips](#) (for those of you who didn't read them in the June issue) so you know what to do — and what we will do — in the event a storm hits our



region.

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Storm Born!

Those pesky summer storms...felling trees...blowing debris on our tracks...causing headaches for you and our employees.

Luckily we now have a faster and more comprehensive approach to our emergency response during and after a storm thanks to our newest "workshops on wheels."

Our three new Emergency Response Trailers are fully equipped to handle the mess left behind by just about any storm.

The trailers are self-contained workshops with equipment that is dry, clean and ready to go at a moment's notice, giving our crews the ability to make repairs on site. They can even shelter 8 to 10 employees if the weather gets really foul.



The trailers will be used to support the removal of debris from tracks and rights of way and to make emergency repairs caused by large weather events, so the trains can start running again.



Each one of these 2.5 ton babies measuring about 20 by 8 by 6 feet is fully equipped with small emergency generators, lighting, chainsaws, pole saws, ladders, fuel, Personal Protection Equipment, backup battery rechargers, portable radio gang chargers, and parts used to maintain the equipment.

You could certainly point at Sandy or Irene for inspiration.

As Sandy pulled away, New York City Transit was kind enough to lend us their response trailers to assist in our clean up. We liked them so much we decided to develop and build our own!

The idea of the trailers is simple but innovative: Gone is the need of having to gather assets from various locations at a moment's notice and pile them into pickup trucks and vans. They're available to all crews on all lines, ready to be towed to the next emergency and fully equipped with supplies and equipment that are kept in working order.

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Tag Teaming the Hudson Line



When Superstorm Sandy came crashing in along the Hudson line, she didn't just leave a mess. The storm destroyed expensive equipment, corroded signal, communication and power cables, and damaged other critical parts of our infrastructure.

Now efforts to restore the Hudson Line are being tackled by two teams (*no, they don't have cool nicknames like the Killer bees or the Road Warriors*), who have been working hard five to seven days a week—and often nights—when track time allows, to get the job done.

One project team is responsible for guiding the replacement of three substations that were heavily damaged during Sandy, in Croton-Harmon, Tarrytown and Riverdale.

Substations are the power source used for converting AC (alternating current) to DC (direct current) electricity that makes the trains run, and they are small buildings located near our tracks.

So far, workers have installed the elevated vault foundations to raise the three substations above the advisory base flood elevation level (ABFE), the expected flood levels provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) based on weather data and past flooding experience—the worst of which was Sandy. (As you could probably guess, the ABFE was changed to a higher level after Sandy.)

After prefabricated stations are delivered in the 3rd quarter of 2016, the project team will complete wiring, testing and commissioning –making the substations go live. At the same time, we will be building a new employee headquarter facility at Riverdale.

A second team is undertaking the first phase of the Communication and Signal and Power restoration for the first 15 of 30 miles most affected by Sandy.

That includes the design, construction and testing of the infrastructure along the upper portion of the Hudson Line right-of-way from Greystone to Croton-Harmon.

Among a number of changes, we are building new elevated equipment platforms; replacing third rail sectionalizing switches (the electronically-controlled breakers for turning power on and off between sections of the electric-powered, third rail as the train moves forward); and installing protective cable duct banks for signal power and new trough systems for laying new communications systems.

The second phase of the project will repair the remaining 15 of 30 miles that were affected, stretching from Greystone to Mott Haven.



We'll keep you posted on our progress in future issues of *Mileposts*.

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Going to the Dogs!

Everything about the new **MTA Police Canine Training Facility** in Stormville, New York is designed to teach dogs to meet the unique demands of patrolling the MTA's railroads, stations, subways, platforms and buses. That's why it is the only state-of-the-art 'mass transit specific' canine training center in the nation.

and platforms.

There's also a decommissioned train, classrooms, 24 kennels, a veterinary room with medical kennels, and administrative offices.

The outdoor and indoor training grounds provide the MTA Police with an unlimited number of scenarios to teach, drill and test the dogs. (Our regional partners in law enforcement can send their dogs to the facility for training as well.)

The canine training center will help the MTA honor its commitment to maintain the highest levels of safety and protection for customers, employees and system infrastructure.

The MTAPD has the largest mass-transit canine explosives detection force in the country, with approximately 50 dogs in service at any time.

Last year, the canine teams responded to over 26,000 requests for assistance, and inspected and cleared 2,748 unattended packages. The unit was established in 2002 to protect customers from terrorism and other criminal acts and to help reduce railroad service disruptions by expanding inspections of unattended packages.

Which brings us our next item...

The sophisticated 72-acre, 17,000-square-foot facility campus houses nine indoor-scenario training areas, multiple outdoor training fields and obstacle courses, and areas with train cars, buses,



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Calling All Chow Hounds!

Start salivating! No, Pavlov isn't ringing his bell... It's time for the **Putnam County Wine and Food Fest** (Saturday – Sunday, August 6 & 7) featuring wine, spirits, and cider tastings from New York and beyond. There are also children's activities, home goods, arts and crafts, and a chance to enjoy a cold craft or local beer in the Beer Garden!

The festival will feature a cooking demonstration by Celebrity Chef Johnny Ciao, and food trucks in addition to specialty food vendors. Bring a blanket and some lawn chairs and enjoy savory foods while rocking to the rhythmic sounds of live music.

Get more information and [tickets for Putnam County Wine and Food Fest online](#) or call **800-557-4185, ext. 3**.

Use Metro-North's promotional code **MNR2016** and save when you purchase your event tickets online before **11 PM on August 4**.



Getting there on Metro-North is easy. Take the **Harlem Line** to Southeast Station and catch the **FREE Shuttle** bus to Beaver Creek Equestrian Center and back.

[See full details on all our Getaways packages.](#)

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Courtesy Corner

In this day and age an unattended package is reason to take action.

Your forgotten backpack or suitcase can result in the deployment of our aforementioned, highly-trained canine explosives detection force to our trains or stations. *(And trust us, they are working like dogs already!)*



And that will lead to extensive delays for your fellow commuters.

So always remember to take your bags and packages... it's the courteous, and smart, thing to do!

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Safety Rule of the Issue



TRACKS

Together Railroads And Communities Keeping Safe

www.mta.info/mnr/tracks

Metro-North's Tracks Program promotes safety around grade crossings and trains by offering free presentations to schools (pre-K through 12th grade), civic centers, community groups, driving schools and busing and trucking companies.

Contact our Office of System Safety at mnrtracks@mnr.org for more info or to schedule a presentation.

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