

MILEPOSTS

A Newsletter for MTA Metro-North Railroad Customers



September 2016

- [New Schedules](#) ▪ [Croton–Harmon Reno](#) ▪ [Park Avenue Viaduct](#) ▪
- [Train to the Game!](#) ▪ [eTix®](#) ▪ [They Said Something](#) ▪ [Getaways](#) ▪
- [Safety Rule](#) ▪ [Courtesy Corner](#) ▪

Look for New Timetables Effective Sunday, October 2



Our new timetables effective Sunday, October 2 look to improve on-time performance in peak periods and accommodate critical track and other infrastructure work to ensure the safety and reliability of your commute.

On the Hudson Line:

The final phase of a project to replace switches in the vicinity of Yankee Stadium will take place the weekend of **October 8 – 9**. The work at this critical location on the railroad requires two of the three main line tracks to be taken out of service. As a result, Hudson Line service will be reduced from half-hourly to hourly at most times for that weekend. A limited number of additional trains will be operated during the busiest travel times on both days the project is

taking place. In addition, some trains that operate between Grand Central Terminal and Poughkeepsie will operate in two sections – Grand Central/Croton-Harmon and Croton-Harmon/Poughkeepsie – and will require customers to transfer at Croton-Harmon. [See schedule for details.](#)

On the Harlem Line:

To improve on-time performance, adjustments of 1 – 2 minutes were made to eleven AM-Peak and ten PM-Peak trains. [Check the timetable](#) for possible minor changes to your commute.

Three Upper Harlem AM-Peak trains—the 6:58 AM from Southeast, the 6:51 AM from Wassaic, and the 8:08 AM from Southeast—will stop at North White Plains.

In an effort to build ridership and provide Bronx residents with more convenient travel options, a demonstration project to increase service at the Melrose and Tremont stations from the current two-hour frequency to hourly frequency will be implemented. This change will make service at Melrose and Tremont stations consistent with other Bronx stations.

In addition to the increased frequency, earlier inbound service will be provided on weekdays and significantly later outbound service will be operate on weekdays and weekends:

- **Weekday southbound service**
will expand from: 7:20 AM – 10:41 PM, to: 5:51 AM – 12:55 AM
- **Weekday northbound service**
will expand from: 5:38 AM – 9:25 PM, to: 5:38 AM – 1:16 AM
- **Weekend southbound service**
will expand from: 6:44 AM – 10:44 PM, to: 6:44 AM – 12:44 AM
- **Weekend northbound service**
will expand from: 6:25 AM – 9:25 PM, to: 6:25 AM – 1:16 AM

This demonstration project will continue through October 2017. If it is a success, the railroad will undertake the necessary steps to make the service permanent.

On the New Haven Line:

To combat train congestion in the vicinity of Stamford during the PM Peak, the 7:04 PM local to Grand Central will depart 3 minutes later. This change will help further streamline New Haven Line service in the PM Peak and improve the on time performance of several trains.

Six AM-Peak trains will be adjusted by 1 – 2 minutes to better reflect actual performance. See a timetable for details.

Timber replacement and catenary work at Devon bridge will be completed, and the temporary Devon Transfer station will close. Waterbury Branch customers will once again be able to transfer to/from trains at Bridgeport.

Be sure to check a new timetable for possible changes to your travel. They are available in Grand Central and at outlying stations, via [our free TrainTime App](#) for [Apple](#) and [Android](#) devices, and on our [schedules page](#).

Please keep in mind: While we are performing work along the right-of-way and Metro-North employees are either on or close to the tracks, [federal regulations require all train engineers to sound the train horn](#).

[Back to Top](#)

Croton-Harmon Reborn!

With the completion of \$3.6 million in renovations, our Croton-Harmon Station's north overpass and waiting area have been reborn! Structural and aesthetic improvements to the station include:

- **A whole new hunter green signage system** with coordinating gray walls and floors that has softened the look and feel of the station.
- **New wall panels, floor tiles, ceiling tiles, finishes, fixtures and air-conditioning** have also been installed throughout the station, including the waiting area and coffee and newsstand concessions, and the bathrooms have been renovated.
- **Modifications to stair portals now identify the tracks with sleek, illuminated overhead signage;** this upgrade makes tracks more visible and reduces commuter congestion.
- **The station layout is more efficient and streamlined.** Ticket vending machines have been relocated to the nearby ticket window, creating a self-contained ticket purchasing area. The ticket window has been completely torn down and rebuilt with improved lighting, new mill work, finishes and an ADA accessible counter.
- **The station's entrance marquee has new ceiling slats, lights, a freshly painted enamel exterior and accented fascia panels** in the front of the station entrance at the street level.



This functional work of "art" deserves some great art as well. So the MTA Arts and Design Program commissioned artist Corinne Ulmann to create two installations for the revitalized station.

The first, appropriately entitled *Croton Harmon Station*, is a series of laminated glass panels depicting views of Croton's trees and flowers through the seasons. Each window is paired with the window directly across, so that the overpass is sequenced into bands of seasons as you walk across the space.

Ms. Ulmann's second installation is a wall-to-wall, floor to ceiling glass mosaic that depicts the Croton Dam.

Of course, all these improvements at Croton Harmon Station were done in phases, resulting in minimal disruption to our customers' daily routines.

The work to rehabilitate the station waiting area was performed by Kapris, Inc., a small, minority-owned firm that received the contract after participating in the MTA's Small Business Development Program. This award-winning, innovative and model program offers emerging firms – especially those owned by women, minorities and military veterans – the unique opportunity to get access to capital, bonding, technical assistance, mentoring and the in-the-field training necessary to help their businesses learn, earn and grow.



[Back to Top](#)

Park Avenue Viaduct Update

It's hard to believe that it was just a few months ago, on May 17, when a large fire erupted underneath the Park Avenue Viaduct, shutting down the main artery that carries trains into and out of Grand Central Terminal.

In just two and a half days, our crews were able to quickly make temporary repairs to the viaduct's steel structure at 118th Street, which enabled us to restore regular service to you.

Additional temporary repairs were quickly completed and diesel locomotive trains were able to operate on all four of the viaduct's tracks, reducing congestion at this critical junction where trains from all three lines meet.

Metro-North's engineers and our consultants then determined the best course of action to take in order to make permanent repairs to this vital structure.



In July, under a "Declaration of Emergency" we expedited the procurement process for making permanent repairs to the viaduct.

The work involved a new temporary support system to the viaduct, installation of which was completed just before Labor Day. This allowed us to remove the speed restrictions of 30 miles-per-hour on two inside tracks through the affected area. And we plan to complete the permanent repairs to the structure by the end of the year.

The street under the viaduct is owned by the City of New York, and we are also working with their representatives to ensure the necessary corrective actions are taken to maximize safety and security in this area, and to prevent a similar incident from happening again.

As always, we appreciate your patience as our repair efforts continue.

[Back to Top](#)

Horsehide or Pigskin?

Baseball season isn't over yet, and football season is already upon us.

But it doesn't matter what type of "ball" you prefer, because you can take a Metro-North "Train to the Game."



For football fans, September 9 sees the return of direct New Haven Line "through" service to the Meadowlands for Sunday 1 PM Jets and Giants home games **from an expanded list of stations:** New Haven, West Haven, Bridgeport, Fairfield Metro, Fairfield, South Norwalk, Darien, Stamford, Greenwich, Rye and Larchmont.

Service takes you to Secaucus Junction, where it's an easy transfer to the Meadowlands Rail Line for an express ride to the stadium.

Hudson, Harlem, and New Haven Line customers from other stations can also take Metro-North to Grand Central Terminal, ride the subway to Penn Station-NY, then transfer to a NJ TRANSIT train to the Meadowlands (again connecting at Secaucus Junction).

Monthly ticket holders only need to purchase a round-trip ticket to the Meadowlands Sports Complex Station at Secaucus Junction.



And of course, our convenient **Yankee Stadium game-day service** continues until the final home game of the regular season.

Remember: Free weekend parking is available at many Metro-North stations. [See our Stations page for details.](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MTA eTix® For All!

MTA eTix®, the new free mobile ticketing app that allows you to purchase and use tickets directly from your mobile devices, is now available on the Harlem, Hudson and New Haven lines!

Using MTA eTix® is easy:

1. Download the **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

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

Download on the App Store GET IT ON Google play

© 2016 Metropolitan Transportation Authority MTA.INFO/ETIX MTA

[Back to Top](#)

Grand Theft Almost!

For three dedicated Metro-North employees, "If You See Something, Say Something." are words to live by!

And thanks to their quick actions, a car thief was caught at our Harlem Line's Southeast Station.



During a routine station inspection, our Service Quality employees John Daly, Daniel Thomas and Edward Jaeger observed a suspicious young man in the Southeast Station's commuter parking lot. (The three men had recently attended a voluntary seminar about security basics that's offered to all Metro-North employees.)

They noticed the individual walking up and down the lot, looking into vehicles and pulling door handles to see if any would open. Realizing that a crime was about to occur, the trio quickly called the MTA Police.

The men were in their car waiting for an MTA PD unit to arrive when they saw the suspect boldly attempting to drive a blue Honda Civic right out of the lot.

At the same time the employees noticed a New York State Trooper starting to patrol the lot. They waved the officer down, pointed at the Honda Civic and shouted, 'stop that guy!'

The Trooper proceeded to block the suspect, who was driving erratically, before he could escape. The man was arrested on a number of charges, including Grand Theft Auto.

The actions of John, Daniel and Edward serve as a strong reminder that when "You See Something, Say Something." Because these employees took that tagline to heart, they were recognized by the MTA Board for their actions – and one grateful Honda owner!

[Back to Top](#)

Get Fresh on the Farm With Us!

And by "fresh" we mean "wholesome" and "healthy."

We can't think of a better way to spend the day than exploring the wonderful, locally-produced food and drink of Dutchess County with Metro-North's **Farm Fresh Discount Getaway Packages**.

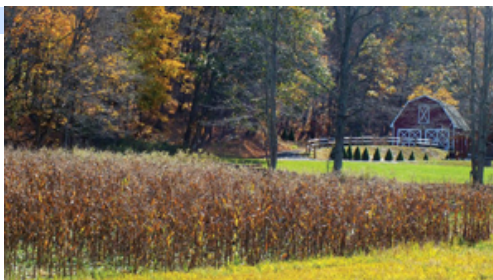
Enjoy a scenic ride to stations along our Hudson and Harlem Lines where you will board the Dutchess County Farm Fresh Link bus to various farms, shops and markets for a truly, tasty experience.

Farm Fresh Poughkeepsie

...with **Cheese & Bourbon** (now that's a healthy combo) on September 24 – 25.

and

with **Fall Harvest Wine & Cheese** on October 11 – 12 and 18 – 19.



Farm Fresh Wassaic

with **Tea, Coffee, Organic Produce & Maple Syrup** October 8 – 9.

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

[Back to Top](#)

Safety Rule of the Issue



TRACKS

Together Railroads And Communities Keeping Safe

www.mta.info/mnr/tracks

TRACKS (*Together Railroads and Communities Keeping Safe*) is a Metro-North program in partnership with the MTA Police designed to educate the community on safe behavior at or around railroad grade crossing and railroad tracks.

We offer **free** educational programs tailored to schools (Pre-K – 12), camps, libraries, community centers, busing and trucking companies, driving schools and more!

Contact Us TODAY To Arrange A FREE Presentation!

mnrTRACKS@mnr.org or 914-461-0459

[Back to Top](#)

Courtesy Corner



It's the perfect time of the year for a picnic.

For some of you, that means a romantic day out with a little basket filled with delicacies like roast chicken and potatoes with horseradish mayonnaise.

And for others, that means chocking down a chicken salad sandwich and some Pringles on the train.

For those who enjoy the latter, we ask that you:

- **Take your leftovers and garbage with you** when you are done, and dispose of them properly. (*Think of it as "keeping the park clean."*)
- **Try not to eat anything too "fragrant"** in your confined space. You may love to snack on liverwurst. But as hard as it may be to believe, there are some who may feel nauseous because of the smell.
- **Try to chew with your mouth closed.** And try to avoid smacking your lips, burping or any other "loud" displays of appreciation for the meal.

In closing we wish you bon appetit, and ask you to follow the above rules. It's the courteous thing to do!

[Back to Top](#)

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

www.mta.info

[Mileposts Archive](#)