

MILEPOSTS

A Newsletter for MTA Metro-North Railroad Customers December 2015

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Who Needs Flying Reindeer?



Our special Christmas/New Year's Holiday timetable has all the service you'll need for getting around Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day. *(And you don't have to feed or clean up after us!)*

Here's what we have "under the tree" for you:

- **Early Getaway Service on Christmas Eve (Thursday, December 24)** Our regular weekday schedule will feature more cars on trains at key travel times and 18 additional early getaway trains (5 on the Hudson Line, 3 on the Harlem Line, and 10 the New Haven Line) departing Grand Central between noon and 4:10 PM. See a regular timetable for details.

- **Christmas Day (Friday, December 25) and New Year's Day (Friday, January 1, 2016)** Because most of you will be busy unwrapping gifts *(or recovering from New Year's Eve)*, we will be providing hourly service on all lines. See a Holiday timetable for details.

- **Christmas-New Year's Week (Monday, December 28 – Wednesday, December 30)** If your plans include seeing the tree in Rockefeller Center, strolling by the holiday window displays adorning the store windows along Fifth Avenue, or just returning that sweater with the "Santa Yoda" your parents gave you, we will be able to get you there.

During our heaviest travel times (10 AM – 2 PM) we will provide longer and extra trains on all lines. See a regular timetable for details.

If you are traveling with family and friends, we suggest purchasing an off-peak ten-trip ticket. In addition to the discounted price, it is transferable, so everyone riding with you can use it. *(It is like the gift that keeps on giving!)*

New Year's Eve (Thursday, December 31) On New Year's Eve, we will provide modified weekday AM and PM Peak service, with an early afternoon getaway schedule.

- There will be some train consolidations in the AM Peak, extra outbound service between noon and 4 PM, and consolidated service during the PM Peak.
- For those of you planning to party in Times Square (or anywhere else in Manhattan), our New Year's Eve schedule will include extra inbound late afternoon and early evening service.
- And when the party truly is finally over, our "overnight" New Year's morning service will get you home from your New Year's celebrations.

Please remember that drinking alcohol on Metro-North trains and at our stations is banned from noon New Year's Eve until noon New Year's Day. *(Because there comes a time when the party really is over...)*

Your first resolution for the New Year should be to buy your tickets in advance: Those of you taking our early morning New Year's service will have your tickets collected prior to boarding trains at Grand Central.

See our Christmas/New Year's Eve Holiday Timetable for full details or visit our [schedules page](#). Look for our [special Christmas/New Year's Timetable online](#), in Grand Central, and at

All of us at Metro-North wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

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Connecticut DOT New Haven Line Fare Increase Effective January 1, 2016



A Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) **fare increase of 1%** goes into effect on the Connecticut portion of the New Haven Line on January 1, 2016.

This is the fifth of seven consecutive annual increases requested by CTDOT to help finance the new M8 cars.

This increase will affect ticket prices for travel:

- Between stations within Connecticut
- Between Connecticut and New York stations
- Some fares may not change due to rounding and the small percentage of the increase.

The fare increase does not affect travel to/from stations within New York State. [See new fare tables.](#)

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Get Ready For Winter's Worst

Don't consult the Farmer's Almanac. Read our [Guide to Winter Weather Travel on Metro-North.](#)

Severe winter weather can create hazardous travel conditions throughout our region. It can also hamper our ability to provide you with your regular service.

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It can be very difficult to predict the severity of a storm 24 – 48 hours before it hits. But that is how far in advance we have to start planning changes to your service in response to a severe winter storm.

In anticipation of any storm, we must not only determine appropriate levels of staffing, but we must also begin to take precautions with both our trains and with our infrastructure. If the storm



is predicted to be severe, we must consider what an appropriate level of service would be. We try to anticipate customer demand and the impact of the weather on our fleet.

We have to decide whether to reduce service, and when to put those service reductions into effect. If we reduce service, we try to base it on the current weekday or weekend schedule.

While decisions on service are made in advance, please be aware that during a storm, we may need to make further changes to our schedule depending on the condition of our track and power systems, the number

of train cars available, and the location of our crews. While we strive to communicate these changes to you as quickly as possible, it is not always easy given rapidly changing weather conditions.

We want you to understand and be prepared for any service changes we make based on winter weather conditions, which is why we have created this [Guide to Winter Weather Travel on Metro-North.](#)

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When Jack Frost Is Nipping At More Than Your Nose...



...it is a sure sign winter is almost upon us. That is why we present the following information to help you stay informed about any changes inclement weather may have on your commute.

Clip and keep the phone numbers and web addresses for easy reference, and once again be sure to read our [Guide to Winter Weather Travel on Metro-North](#). Also be sure to sign up for [free email/text service alerts](#) or download the [Metro-North Train Time App](#) for real-time train information on your smartphone or computer.

MTA Metro-North Railroad Customer Information Center

511 www.mta.info/mnr
(from Connecticut,
dial **1-877-690-5114**)

MTA New York City Transit (Including MTA Bus)

511 www.mta.info/nyct/

Westchester County Bee Line Bus

1-914-813-7777 transportation.westchestergov.com/

Transport of Rockland (TZ Express)

1-845-364-3333 www.rocklandgov.com/departments/public-transportation/

Putnam County Transit

1-845-878-7433 [www.putnamcountyny.com/planningdept/
putnam-transit-schedules/](http://www.putnamcountyny.com/planningdept/putnam-transit-schedules/)

Ulster-Poughkeepsie LINK

1-845-340-3333 ulstercountyny.gov/ucat/bus-schedules

Housatonic Area Regional Transit (HART)

1-203-744-4070 www.hartransit.com

Dutchess County Loop

1-845-473-8424 [www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/
MassTransit/PLLoopSchedules.htm](http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/MassTransit/PLLoopSchedules.htm)

Newburgh-Beacon Shuttle

1-800-MAGIC17 www.leprechaunlines.com

LAZ Parking (Metro-North owned/operated facilities)

1-888-682-PARK www.rrparking

New York Waterway

1-800-53-Ferry www.nywaterway.com

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Hark! The Herald Angels Don't Sing!

Metro-North's quiet CALMmute



Not if they are riding on **Metro-North's Quiet Cars®**, available on all inbound AM Peak and outbound PM Peak trains as part of our "Quiet CALMmute" program.

For those customers who have never taken one of our trains featuring a Quiet Car® please be an "angel" when riding on them and keep in mind:

- During the **AM Peak** (inbound to Grand Central), the **LAST TRAIN CAR** will be designated a Quiet Car®.
- During the **PM Peak** (outbound from Grand Central), the **FIRST TRAIN CAR** will be designated a Quiet Car®.
- Reverse Peak trains are not included in our Quiet CALMmute program.

Customers traveling on Quiet Cars® should:

- Not use cell phones.
- Disable sound features on computers & other electronic devices.
- Conduct conversations in a subdued voice.
- Use headphones at a volume that cannot be heard by fellow passengers.

Please Note: All regular announcements will continue to be made in the designated Quiet Cars®.

For those of you who wish to travel in our Quiet Cars® this holiday season—and year round—we say enjoy the "CALMmute." For more information, call Metro-North Customer Service at 511 (in CT, 877-690-5114).

Quiet Car® is the registered service mark of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) and is being used by permission.

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Pinstripes Are for Football, Too!



Yankee Stadium will be the venue for NCAA college football, the **New Era Pinstripe Bowl Game on Saturday, December 26 at 3:30 PM.**

And the best way to get there is to take a Metro-North "Train to the Game." We will provide direct service to Yankees-E. 153rd Street station on the Hudson Line; shuttle service between Grand Central Terminal, Harlem-125th Street and Yankees-E. 153rd Street, and convenient connections for those of you taking the New Haven and Harlem Lines at Harlem-125th Street station.

[Check our homepage for schedule info.](#)

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Safety Rule of the Issue

While walking in a winter wonderland, ice, snow, and sleet can create slippery situations during your commute.

Remember to "put your best foot forward" while traveling on Metro-North. Always:

- Watch for icy conditions in station parking lots, sidewalks and platforms.
- Use stair handrails. Water dripping from overcoats, boots, and umbrellas can ice up quickly, making stairs very slippery.

- Watch for slippery conditions even after you board your train. Snow, slush, and ice from boots make train floors slippery.

- Avoid moving from car to car. Icy conditions can exist in the areas between cars.

We bring you these tips because your safety, no matter the temperature, is always our first priority.

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Courtesy Corner



He knows when you've been sleeping, he knows when you're awake, he knows when you've been bad or good...

Just who is this "he" and why is he so worried about what you're doing during the holidays?

Since you are being watched, make sure you are on your best behavior while traveling on our trains and:

- Keep your feet and bags off the seats.
- Take your litter with you.
- "Turn down" the volume when listening to music or talking on your phone.
- Let people exit the train before trying to board.

Doing all of the above will ensure you do not get coal in your stocking, and that everyone's commute is more pleasant. It's the courteous thing to do!

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Stocking Stuffers & Holiday Happenings

Wondering what to get that person who has everything?

Wonder no more. Get them one of our discount Getaway packages to some of the region's hottest happenings. They'll be surprised by your unique gift, and you'll save money! (*You can thank us later...*)

Here are some suggestions:



- Get your "holiday kicks" and take Metro-North to the **Radio City Christmas Spectacular** through January 3. You'll save 20% on tickets to select performances.

- The **NY Botanical Garden's Holiday Train Show** is newer and bigger than ever, featuring enchanting model trains zipping through a display of 150 landmarks re-created with nuts, bark,



leaves, and other plant parts.



- After a few hours when the kids are tired of their presents, why not take them to **FunFuzion**, Westchester's only INDOOR amusement park conveniently located in New Roc City in downtown New Rochelle.

See more details on these and all our Getaways.

And don't forget to visit the Holiday Train Show at the Transit Museum in Grand Central.

Also, the Museum's store and booth at the Holiday Fair in Vanderbilt Hall (along with 76 other vendors) offer great gifts for your holiday shopping!

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Because There Are Some Who Believe It

Is Better To Take Than To Give...

...this holiday season, we present the following reminders to help keep your stuff safe and secure:

- **Keep your property in sight at all times.** Never put anything of value in the overhead racks of trains.
- **Make sure your handbag closes tightly** and carry it close to your body at all times.
- **Carry your wallet in your inside coat pocket**, or better still, your side pants pocket. *(We'd like to see somebody try and get in there!)*
- **At cash machines, make sure no one is looking over your shoulder** to get your bank card or Personal Identification Number (PIN).
- **Never leave your packages unattended.** Unattended packages are subject to search by MTA Police. This often results in delays to your fellow commuters *(and an embarrassing situation for you).*

Finally, if you see something, say something.

During the holidays, it is especially important that you remain vigilant. As always, you should inform a police officer or MTA employee if you see anything unusual, or call the

MTA Police at 1-888-682-9117.



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

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