

# MILEPOSTS

A Newsletter for MTA Metro-North Railroad Customers

December 2017

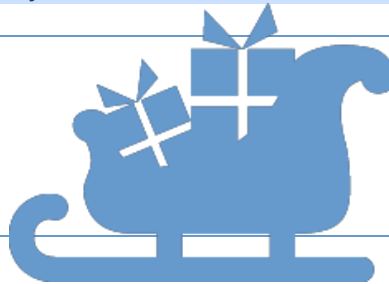
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## A Holiday Pop Quiz

What's the best way to get around during the holidays?

Is it:

- A) Riding Flying Reindeer
- B) Hitching a Ride On Santa's Sleigh
- C) Taking Metro-North's Special Christmas / New Year's Holiday Service



Of course, the answer is C).

*(Flying reindeer don't really exist, and Santa's sleigh only travels one night, makes local stops and is too full to provide a seat for you!)*



To make your yuletide travels even easier...

You can access all of our schedule information by downloading the [Train Time App](#) on your [iPhone](#) or [Android](#) or by going to our [schedules page](#).

Or click the link next to any date to go to our [timetable menu for Weekday, Weekend, Christmas and New Year's Holiday Schedules](#)

[We start things off with our Early Christmas Getaway Service on Friday, December 22.](#)

[See Weekday Schedule](#)

It features extra trains departing Grand Central beginning at 1 PM. Some evening trains will be cancelled or combined because of reduced ridership later in the day. *(Hopefully, you don't work for a Scrooge and they let you go home early!)*

[On Christmas Eve which falls on Sunday, December 24,](#) [See Weekend Schedule](#)

and we will operate a regular Sunday schedule, with additional Shoppers Specials. *(Tip for a Merry Christmas: We recommend you do all your shopping before then...)*

[On Christmas Day, Monday, December 25,](#) [See Holiday Schedule](#)

we will operate a special holiday schedule with hourly service on most line segments, and regular weekend service on all branch lines.

[For the week between Christmas and New Year's \(Tuesday – Thursday, December 26 – 28\),](#)

[See Weekday Schedule](#)

we will operate a weekday schedule with reduced AM Peak service and additional inbound service operating in the late morning. PM peak service will operate normally.

So if you are taking family and friends to see the tree at Rockefeller Center, planning to stroll by the holiday window displays along Fifth Avenue, or just re-gifting that knitted bearded beanie Mom got you *(yes, it really exists)* we will be able to get you there.

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!)*

And we recommend you use [MTA eTix®](#), the mobile ticketing app that enables you to purchase those ten-trip, one way, round trip, weekly and monthly passes on your smartphone or mobile device.

[On Friday, December 29,](#)

[See Weekday Schedule](#)

we will operate reduced weekday AM Peak service with additional inbound trains in the late morning.

In the afternoon, look for our early getaway service (same as **Friday, December 22.**)

**On New Year's Eve, Sunday, December 31,** [See Holiday Schedule](#)

Whether you are putting on your top hat, tails, or evening gown (*or all three*) for a sophisticated evening out, or just throwing on some sweat pants and a parka and heading to Times Square to watch the ball drop, our New Year's Eve Service on Sunday, December 31, is for you!

It includes extra inbound late afternoon and early evening service to get you to your party. And there is "overnight" New Year's morning service that will get you safely home when that party is finally over!

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 service will have your tickets collected prior to boarding trains at Grand Central.

Again, start the New Year off right and resolve to use **MTA eTix®**.

**Finally, on New Year's Day, Monday, January 1, 2018,** [See Weekend Schedule](#)

we will operate hourly service on most line segments, and regular weekend service on branch lines.

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

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## Connecticut's New Haven Line Fare Increase Effective January 1, 2018

A Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) **fare increase** of 1% goes into effect **for stations on the Connecticut portion of the New Haven Line** on January 1, 2018.

This is the last of seven consecutive annual fare increases that were previously authorized to fund the purchase of M8 rail cars.



**The changes will affect ticket prices for travel:**

- Between stations within Connecticut;
- Between stations in Connecticut and New York stations.

The fare increase does not affect travel to/from stations within New York State.

**See sample fares for:**

**Connecticut New Haven Line Station Fares**

between [Connecticut Stations](#) and [Grand Central Terminal](#)

**New Haven Line Connecticut Intermediate Fares:**

- [To Greenwich](#)
- [To Stamford](#)

**See complete [Fares & Ticket Information.](#)**

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## A Guide to Winter Weather Travel

on  **Metro-North Railroad**



## A Wet & Snowy Winter All Around...

...is what the Old Farmer's Almanac is predicting. (But you didn't really need to read a copy to know that, did you?)

That is why we present **Our Guide to Winter Weather Travel** to help you stay informed about any changes that inclement weather may have on your commute.

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## ...and When Jack Frost is Nipping at Your Nose...

...and everyone else's, you should know the following phone numbers and web addresses to get the latest on how other services you use may be affected:

### MTA Metro-North Railroad Customer Information Center

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

(from Connecticut, dial

1-877-690-5114)

### MTA New York City Transit (Including MTA Bus)

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

### Westchester County Bee Line Bus

1-914-813-7777 [transportation.westchestergov.com/bee-line](http://transportation.westchestergov.com/bee-line)

### Transport of Rockland (TZ Express)

1-845-364-3333 [www.rocklandgov.com/departments/public-transportation/](http://www.rocklandgov.com/departments/public-transportation/)

### Putnam County Transit

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

### Ulster-Poughkeepsie LINK

1-845-340-3333 [ulstercountyny.gov/ucats/bus-schedules](http://ulstercountyny.gov/ucats/bus-schedules)

### Housatonic Area Regional Transit (HART)

1-203-744-4070 [www.hartransit.com](http://www.hartransit.com)

### Dutchess County Loop

1-845-473-8424 [www.dutchessny.gov/CountyGov/Departments/PublicWorks/19242.htm](http://www.dutchessny.gov/CountyGov/Departments/PublicWorks/19242.htm)

### Newburgh-Beacon Shuttle

1-800-MAGIC17 [www.leprechaunlines.com](http://www.leprechaunlines.com)

### LAZ Parking (Metro-North owned/operated facilities)

1-888-682-PARK [www.rrparking.com/map/](http://www.rrparking.com/map/)

### New York Waterway

1-800-53-Ferry [www.nywaterway.com/FerryRoutesSchedules.aspx](http://www.nywaterway.com/FerryRoutesSchedules.aspx)

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## You Don't Have to Worry About the Grinch Stealing Christmas

He isn't real! (*Unlike Santa...*)

It's all those other bad characters who believe "it is better to take than to give" that you have to be wary of this holiday season.

That is why we recommend you take the following precautions while traveling:

• **Keep your property in sight at all times.** Never put anything of value in the overhead racks of our 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 and ticket vending 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 for 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 888-NYC-SAFE (888-692-7233).



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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 **Wednesday, December 27 at 5:15 PM.**

While we may not know who is playing yet, we do know the best way to get to see the "gridiron greatness" 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.



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## Let's work together to connect the homeless to the help they need.

In 2016, MTA businesses in Grand Central donated almost 10 tons of food to City Harvest to feed the homeless.

### Here's what you can do:

- Call the Homeless Helpline at **212-533-5151**. They will dispatch an MTA Connections Outreach Team.
- Donate to a homeless charitable organization/service provider.
- Visit [www.networkforgood.org](http://www.networkforgood.org) for a full list of charities.



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## Please Help Keep New Yorkers Warm!



New York Cares 

# COAT DRIVE

Bring your used coats to:  
Graybar Passage,  
Track 15  
Monday thru  
Friday  
7:00 AM - 9:30 AM  
Dec. 1 – 29

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## Safety Rule of the Issue



# A safety reminder from Metro-North:



## During the winter season, please remember to...



- Watch for icy conditions in station parking lots and on sidewalks, stairs and platforms (including temporary platforms).
- Always use stair handrails.
- Use caution when you enter and exit your train - train floors and platforms may be slippery.
- Avoid moving from car to car, especially on a moving train.
- Please allow extra time for travel during inclement weather.



**Your safety is always our first priority.**



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## Better than Sweat Socks and a Fruitcake!

Our discount Getaway packages make the perfect stocking stuffer for that special person (we mean difficult) who makes gift shopping a challenge.



**Go traditional, and get them our package to the Radio City Christmas Spectacular.**

You'll **save up to 20%** on tickets to select performances! And who wouldn't want to see the Rockettes do their famous "Parade of the Wooden Soldiers?"



**them to something sweet**

and get them a package to make their own gourmet chocolates at **Voilà Chocolat!**

**Why not treat**

**Or give them the gift of culture**

with our getaway to **Dia: Beacon** featuring a collection of art from the 1960's to the present as well as special exhibitions, new commissions, and public and education programs.



They can do more than just stop and smell

the flowers

when they take our Getaway to **The NY Botanical Garden's Holiday Train Show**, featuring enchanting model trains zipping through a display highlighting the soaring skyscrapers of midtown Manhattan re-created with nuts, bark, leaves, and other natural materials.



And it is a safe bet

they will enjoy our getaway to **Empire City Casino**, where they will find a "wonderland" with electronic Blackjack, Three Card Poker, Craps, Roulette, 5,300 of the hottest slots and more. Nightly entertainment includes live bands, DJs, top comedians, bowling, and year-round harness racing.

See all our Getaways, which are great not just during the holidays but all year-round.

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## Other Holiday Happenings

Don't miss taking the train to **Westchester's Winter Wonderland** (through Sunday, December 31)

and experience a one-of-a-kind holiday extravaganza that brings the best of Bryant Park and Rockefeller Center to Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla, NY!

*Getting there is easy: Take our Harlem Line to Valhalla Station. Kensico Dam Plaza is a short walk from the station!*



And while you are in Grand Central, be sure to see **The New York Transit Museum's Annual Holiday Train Show**.

Located next to the Stationmaster's Office, the show features a 34-foot-long, "O gauge" layout with Lionel's model Metro-North M7s, New York Central, and vintage subway trains running on eight separate loops of track. **Admission is free!**

## Courtesy Corner

Just in time for the holidays, we present a handy guide to "Naughty or Nice" behavior while riding on Metro-North.



### Naughty:

Putting Your Feet and Bags on the seats.

### Nice:

Using the overhead racks to store your packages and keeping your feet on the floor!

### Naughty:

Leaving your garbage on the train for the next person to deal with.

### Nice:

Taking your garbage with you and throwing it out in the proper receptacle. *(Don't forget to recycle—that's very nice!)*

### Naughty:

Talking loudly while riding in a Quiet Car. *(Make that "Very Naughty!")*

### Nice:

Speaking in a subdued voice, and obeying all the **Quiet Car rules**.

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 (and nice) thing to do!

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

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