

MILEPOSTS

A Newsletter for MTA Metro-North Railroad Customers

May 2016

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Gang Activity Has Been Sighted On Our Upper Harlem Line...



No, the "Sharks" and the "Jets" aren't at it again. *(They are probably all in their late 70s by now.)*

We're talking about our Stations Gang, and word has it that they are doing some "damage" — to all the wear and tear that comes with time and use.

This year, these expert enhancers will begin applying "muscle" at

Patterson and work their way north to Pawling, Harlem Valley-Wingdale, Dover Plains, Tenmile River and Wassiac.

It's a long list of jobs — depending on what each station requires.

Enhancements include:

power washing, repairing/resealing platform expansion joints, repairing the right-of-way fencing, repairing platform edge boards, installing all new wire benches, upgrading recycling containers, replacing station and/or directional signage, repairing gutters & drain pipes, inspecting & repairing roofing, polishing shelter house glass, replacing "scratchitti" film on all windows (and replacing damaged ones), fixing ADA safety warning strips and renewing "Watch the Gap" stenciling on the platforms.



As if that list weren't extensive enough, gang members will also apply a fresh covering of the traditional cedar green paint to the station exterior.

Speaking of "green," electricians will also replace old lighting with LED lighting to reduce energy consumption.

As always, the work is scheduled for minimal impact on customers' commutes. So if you ever ride the Harlem Line, keep an eye out for "gang-related" activity — much needed and appreciated by customers — at our stations!



All Good Things Come to an End... and a Beginning



Demolition is underway on the aged Main Shop at our Croton-Harmon Maintenance Facility – known as Building #6 — paving the way for its much larger, more efficient successor (thanks to funding from the MTA Capital Program).

Crews have already torn down more than a third of this 100-plus-year-old structure. And while we can't help but feel a twinge of nostalgia, in its stead will be an improved equipment maintenance facility where our mechanical department employees will be able to write some new "history."



Approximately 966 feet long, the future Consist Facility that will stand on the site will be a **state-of-the-art electric inspection and repair shop**, capable of supporting 10-car train consists on two tracks with the ability to remove undercar/side mounted components, such as air compressors, electric boxes and traction motors.



Fork lift access will be provided on both sides of the consist tracks, with overhead crane coverage to facilitate component and material handling.

The double-ended shop will have fixed rooftop-level platforms for access to roof-mounted equipment, ramps for accessing depressed floor areas, and will be equipped with convenient receptacles for air, electricity and water access. It also will have a partial mezzanine and second floor for utilities, office rooms, locker rooms and a lunchroom.



This complex project also includes construction of the future EMU (Electric Multiple Unit)

Annex support shop, which will be home to the railroad's vital wheel set operations.

But one of the most unique aspects of this project is the demolition itself — located adjacent to the active eastern portion of the shop — and what we're doing to keep employees safe.

Since this shop is so critical to the railroad, it's impossible to put operations on hold for the duration of construction. So a temporary barrier was constructed...one that would be up to the task of effectively protecting our employees during a full-fledged demolition process.

Looking like the set of an old Pink Floyd concert, a temporary "wall" — with a surface area of approximately 12,600 sq. ft. — is constructed of flame retardant plywood and clad on the interior. The exterior features a waterproof siding with insulation.

Work is expected to be completed for Phase 1 in January 2018. The final demolition of Building #6 will begin shortly thereafter to be followed by the construction of Stage 2, slated for completion in 2022.

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80,000 Feet and Counting...



Metro-North's Rail Train is laying down the tracks to our future — literally.

This 1,600 ft. long workhorse has one sole purpose: to "drop" continuous welded rail (CWR; formed by welding many short rails) up the line. This spring, it cruised the New Haven Line, on a mission to deliver 80,000 feet of reliable rail between Cos Cob and Stratford Stations.

Hauled by two locomotives moving at a slow pace, the Rail Train leaves behind string after string of CWR (for a total of 50).

Our CWR is formed at a foundry for six months before it's delivered to us, neatly loaded up and ready to be dropped. CWR's biggest appeal is that it eliminates the use of rail joints — this

provides a smoother ride and requires less maintenance.

Strings of fresh rail are chained to the old and as the train pulls away, they are passed through a threader car located at the rear — here a team of employees ensure it's being aligned properly and at a safe speed.

This refitting is in response to some rail on the line that's reached the end of its useful life, and the potential challenges that can result from that.

Old rail has a higher chance of containing defects, which increases the occupancy time for maintenance forces. The fitting of brand-new rail creates a more reliable track for our trains to ride on. Reliable track leads to reliable service, which makes for a more satisfied you.

By 2017, the old will be swapped with the new.

[Watch the video to see our employees in action...](#)

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A Council Meeting...

The **Metro-North Railroad Commuter Council** (MNRCC) will hold a **"Meet the Council"** session on **Thursday, May 19** from approximately **4:30 PM to 6:30 PM** near the Grand Central Terminal Station Master's Office.

Council members will be on hand to listen to your concerns and suggestions, and to explain the work of the MNRCC.

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April Showers Bring May Flowers...



...and if that cliché is at all true, you should be taking our discount package to the **New York Botanical Garden**. *(This year marks their 125th anniversary!)*

Experience the Garden's renowned landscapes, collections, and architecture through a variety of themed tours and nature walks, enjoying the vibrant colors of early spring.

The exhibit **Impressionism: American Gardens on Canvas** opens May 14, and features a stunning Garden-wide interpretation by their renowned curator and designer Francisca Coelho of the alluring gardens that influenced iconic artists such as Childe Hassam and John Singer Sargent. In the Art Gallery, view a beautiful complementary display of more than 20 paintings and sculptures by these famed artists and their contemporaries that capture the colors, shadows, and ephemeral quality of light they observed in the natural world.

Getting there is as easy as a bee pollinating a flower: Take our Harlem Line to Botanical Garden Station and follow signs to the Garden.

Purchase your rail/admission ticket from any Metro-North ticket office or full-service ticket vending machine (excluding Botanical Garden Station) [or online](#).

For other "spring flings," check out full details on [all our discount Getaways](#).

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Safety "Foot" of the Issue



**Wiggle
Your Toes in
The Grass...**



**...But Always
"Put Your Best Foot
Forward" When Traveling
On Metro-North.**

Slips, trips, and falls are the #1 reason for customer injuries. Remember to:

- Glance down and step over "the gap" when getting on and off your train.
- Don't get distracted by your smartphone.
 - Walk, never run for your train.
 - Use handrails, especially after it rains, when steps can become wet and slippery.
 - Use extra caution when crossing bridge plates (the temporary metal walkways used to cross over tracks taken out of service).



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Courtesy Corner



May is the month we celebrate National Hummus Day (*at least we do... it's May 24th for those wanting to pay homage with us*), and when we begin dining "al fresco."

And for many of you, "al fresco" means grabbing a snack for the train. (*It literally means "in the cool air."*)

We ask that when you finish your pita, or whatever you prefer to "nosh," that you take any bags, wrappers or containers with you when you leave the train and dispose of them properly.

It's the courteous thing to do!

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BLOOD DRIVE

All Aboard to Save Lives

Monday, May 9, 2016 • 8 AM - 8 PM
Grand Central Terminal • Vanderbilt Hall



To schedule an appointment to donate call 1-800-933-2566 or log onto www.nybc.org. The first 250 presenting donors will receive a pair of tickets to the New York vs. Toronto baseball game on Thursday, May 26 at 4:05 p.m.*

 **New York Blood Center**
1-800-933-BLOOD (2566)
www.nybc.org



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**Metro-North
Railroad**

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Free! Bring the Kids!



**Metro-North's
Getaway Day**

**Staycation Showcase
in Grand Central!**

Saturday, May 21
10:30 AM – 5 PM



Featuring the hottest Summer Getaways in
New York City, the Hudson Valley, Connecticut
and beyond!

- Enter to win Hotel and Getaway Packages
- Enjoy exhibits & activities for families who like to
get out and go!

For event details and Metro-North's Deals & Getaways
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