

MILEPOSTSWEST

A Newsletter for MTA Metro-North Railroad Customers

Fall 2018

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Only Turkeys Trot...



... but every Thanksgiving those in the know take Metro-North's special Pascack Valley & Port Jervis Line **holiday service!**

Here's what we'll be serving up:

Early getaway trains will operate on both the Port Jervis and Pascack Valley lines on Wednesday, November 23.

The regularly scheduled departure from Hoboken at 2:41 PM, stopping at Secaucus Junction, and all stops between Suffern and Middletown/Town of Walkill, **will be extended to stop at Otisville and Port Jervis.** Customers from Manhattan wishing to connect to this train should be on the **2:29 PM departure from Penn Station-NY to connect at Secaucus Junction.** To accommodate this service, the 6:15 PM departure from Hoboken to Port Jervis will not operate.

The regularly scheduled Pascack Valley Friday-only train will depart Hoboken at 2:58 PM, and stop at Secaucus Junction, select stations in New Jersey, and Pearl River, Nanuet and Spring Valley. Customers from Manhattan who are wishing to connect to this train should be on the **2:51 PM departure from Penn Station-NY to connect at Secaucus Junction.** To accommodate this train, the 7:20 PM departure from Hoboken to Spring Valley will not operate.

On Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 24

a regular holiday/weekend schedule will be in effect for both lines. For those heading in to the **Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade**, there will be a 6:22 AM departure from Port Jervis arriving in Hoboken at 8:30 AM (a connection at Secaucus Junction arrives at Penn Station-NY at 8:39 AM) and to get home, there's a 12:21 PM departure from Hoboken (12:14 PM from Penn Station-NY) that operates express to Suffern, then makes all stops to Port Jervis.



On Friday, November 25

a regular weekday schedule will be in effect, and

On Saturday and Sunday, November 26 – 27

a regular weekend schedule will be in effect on both Port Jervis and Pascack Valley lines.

See our schedules page for details.

Or visit www.njtransit.com.

All of us at Metro-North wish you and your family a happy and safe Thanksgiving!

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Know Before You Go!



Port Jervis & Pascack Valley Line customers should sign up for **My MTA Alerts®** our **free real time email and text message alerts**.

You'll receive updates on pre-planned and emergency service changes. And, it's easy to customize when you get alerts and where you see them. **Select the days and times you want to receive messages**. Choose to see them in an email or text alert or both! You can turn them off when you're on vacation and reactivate upon your return.

How My MTA Alerts® works:

- **Sign up for an account**
- Provide at least one email or cell phone number to receive alerts
- Select the MTA service or services you wish to receive alerts about
- Pick the days and times you want to receive alerts
- Activate your account to start receiving alerts & advisories



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Dog Food from the Past

There's Dog Food, Corn Oil, Four Story, East Red Onion and West Red Onion, and Turners, to name a few. These are just some of the names of the siding switches on the Port Jervis Line.

For those of you not familiar with the term, a siding switch is a portion of track used to deliver or pick up a train car for a commercial customer that uses the railroad to receive and ship their products.

Perhaps you could call it an occupational affliction, but why do engineers, so practical by virtue of their trade, use names that represent a call back to the past? Perhaps the secret is that in every railroad employee lurks the soul of a real train romantic. You'll see what we mean in a minute.



Let's start with Dog Food just west of milepost 31.3:

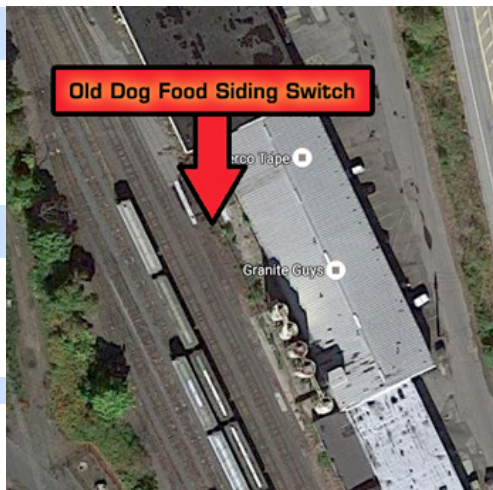
Yes, it was an old dog food company (*brand name now gone and forgotten*). The plant is no longer operating, and the siding switch lays dormant.

Ditto for Corn Oil (also just west of MP 31.3):

gone by the wayside (*no pun intended*) it was the plant that used to manufacture and ship corn oil across America.

East and West Red Onion

used to be the home of — you guessed it — red onions being shipped out from the plant. Now, two manufacturing companies have taken their place. That says something about the economic changes that have come to Middletown, NY and surrounding areas, once home to farming and livestock.



It's the names like, "Turners" and "Four Story" that really get us.

They have histories so intricate that their recounting is as layered as the vines overtaking the abandoned stations of railroads past.

The Turners siding switch at Harriman station

was named to evoke the old Turner Station that until 1910 was the first station on the original Erie Railroad Main line west of Harriman, NY, constructed by Peter Turner in 1838. The three-story, hotel-station burned down and was replaced by a small, one-story structure. Many years later, after the line was abandoned in 1983, the old station was eventually torn down and its remains taken to a dump in Hillburn, NY. A despicable end to a glorious past for sure, so it's probably a good thing the name persists to honor its memory.

The Four Story siding switch west of Middletown,

was so named when the old New York Ontario and Western Railway (1868 – 1957) tracks that crossed over the Erie's Graham line were abandoned and a switch was cut into the main and

the rise to the O&W line was almost a four story rise. The O&W track was then renamed the Crawford Branch.

"By virtue of its superb online scenery and anachronistic operations, O&W retains 'cult status,' among railroad and history buffs more than 50 years after its abandonment, with periodic bus tours of remaining railroad artifacts," writes Wikipedia.

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Courtesy Corner



Wild turkeys have quite the extensive grooming regime. They usually take a dust bath as part of their plumage maintenance (*got to keep those feathers in top condition*), followed by some sunning and preening.

Why they would like to look so good when someone is hunting them for dinner is beyond us!

We ask that you please do not behave like a turkey while traveling on your train this holiday season. Perform your preening — hair brushing, nail clipping, flossing, dust-bathing, etc.—in the privacy of your own home, where your fellow commuter can't see it.

It's the courteous thing to do!

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