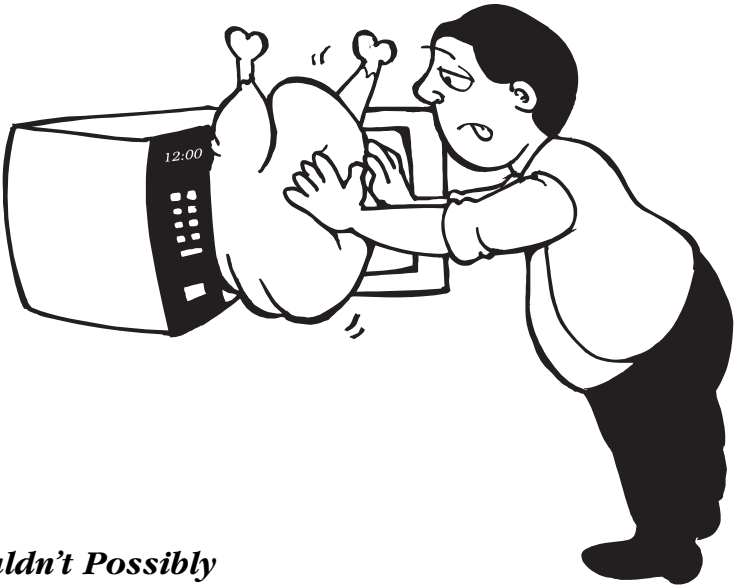


Mileposts

A Publication for MTA Metro-North Railroad Customers November 2009



We Couldn't Possibly Stuff Anymore In...

We're talking holiday service, not turkey. *(There's always room for more of that... and pie, too!)*

Our special Thanksgiving Weekend schedule is "bulging" with trains to get you to all of the activities you have planned for the long four-day weekend.

Of course every great "menu" features an appetizer, so on **Thanksgiving Eve (Wednesday, November 25)** we will operate extra early getaway trains, beginning at 1 PM, so you can "take flight" to start your holiday preparations. *(Because of decreased ridership in the PM peak, some trains will be combined or eliminated. See a current October 18 timetable for details on early getaway service.)*

For a main course, we will operate a holiday schedule on **Thanksgiving Day (Thursday, November 26)** with extra AM inbound service for those of you going to the Macy's Parade. *(See a Holiday Timetable for details.)* We hear a new, more muscular Spider Man is "crawling back" into the line-up this year *(and there will still be the old, non-threatening, jiggly Santa, too).*

There will also be lots of late morning/early afternoon outbound service, so after the parade you can get where you need to be to consume "super-human" amounts of turkey and trimmings.

Stay as late as you want at your host's house. Pick that turkey carcass clean... watch football... enjoy the day. Don't rush; we're operating plenty of evening service to get you back home, too.

Hopefully, you have left room for dessert — **the day after Thanksgiving (Friday, November 27)** we will operate a "Saturday" schedule with a lot of extra service during the AM and PM peak time periods. So if you are going shopping to take advantage of those early holiday sales, or just going to work to pay your credit card bill, we have you covered. *(See a Holiday Timetable for details.)*

Just when you say, "there couldn't be anymore," there is... our weekend *Shoppers' Specials* service will be in effect through January 2. *(See a regular timetable for details on additional New Haven and Harlem Line "specials.")*

And the "after-dinner mint" (or "cherry on top," if you prefer) is that off-peak fares will be in effect for the entire four-day holiday period. And you can take advantage of free parking at many of our stations. (Check for signs, or call 212-532-4900 for more information.)

A few more morsels for you: You buy a turkey before Thanksgiving, right? You should purchase your train tickets before the holiday, too.



Pigskin Complements Turkey Nicely...

Try WebTicket at **www.mta.info**. While not affiliated with the more muscular Spider Man, it will provide fast, free, home delivery of your ticket, and you'll save 5% on any ticket (except a monthly) you purchase online. We recommend a ten-trip off-peak if you are traveling with the family. You'll save an additional 15% off the one-way off-peak fare, and it can be used by more than one person, even when you are traveling together.

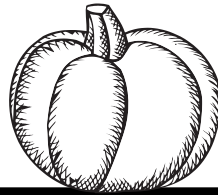
You can also use one of our convenient ticket machines. We suggest this because on Thanksgiving Day (*hint — one of the busiest travel days of the year*) you must have your train ticket before boarding the train at Grand Central Terminal or Harlem-125th Street Station.

Thanksgiving Holiday Timetables are available at the Grand Central Information Booth, at outlying ticket offices, and at **www.mta.info** beginning the week of November 16.

Football is as much a fall tradition as Thanksgiving. And the best way to enjoy it without being tackled by the tolls and traffic is to take our service to Jets/Giants games at the Meadowlands Sports Complex.

It's a one-ticket ride all the time! And three New Haven Line trains provide direct "through service" (one-seat ride) from major stations to NJ TRANSIT's Secaucus Junction (via Penn Station-NY) for all Sunday, 1 PM home games.

From Secaucus Junction, it's an easy transfer to the new Meadowlands Rail Line for an express ride to the new Meadowlands Sports Complex Station.



The Frost Is On The Pumpkin...

...and you don't need a Farmer's Almanac to tell you that means winter is almost here. We are prepared to deal with whatever the season throws our way. And to make sure you are, too, we present the following important phone numbers to help you stay informed of any changes to your commute. Keep these with you for easy reference, and be sure to look for a copy of our *Winter Weather Travel Tips* coming soon to your train seats and our homepage at **www.mta.info** in early December.

For Your Winter Travel Information

**MTA Metro-North 24-hour
Customer Information Center**
212-532-4900

MTA Website
www.mta.info

MTA New York City Transit
718-330-1234
Hearing impaired: 718-596-8273
(TTY)

Westchester County Bee Line Bus
914-813-7777
Hearing impaired: 914-995-7397
(TDD/TTY)
<http://www.beelinebus.com>

Transport of Rockland
845-364-3333

Putnam County Transit
845-878-7433

Dutchess County Loop
845-485-4690

New York Waterway
800-53-FERRY
<http://www.nywaterway.com>

Ulster-Poughkeepsie LINK
888-827-8228

Newburgh-Beacon Shuttle
845-565-7900 x315

**Housatonic Area Regional Transit
(HART)**
203-748-2034



Don't take the New Haven Line? Not going to a Sunday, 1 PM game? We still can get you to the gridiron with our regular non-direct service.

Take Metro-North to Grand Central Terminal, ride the subway to Penn Station-NY, then transfer to a NJ TRANSIT train for an express ride on the new Meadowlands Rail Line (connecting at Secaucus Junction) to the new Meadowlands Sports Complex Station.

If you live in Westchester, you can also get to the Meadowlands Sports Complex Station from Spring Valley, Nanuet, and Pearl River on the Pascack Valley Line — just a “hop” over the Hudson River in Rockland County. Check **www.mta.info** for the most current schedule details.

Purchase your round-trip rail ticket to the Meadowlands Sports Complex Station at any Metro-North ticket office, ticket machine, or through WebTicket (**www.mta.info**).

For complete details on our “Train to the Game” service, visit our home page at **www.mta.info**, or pick up a special Meadowlands brochure/timetable in Grand Central Terminal and at outlying stations.



Just In Time For The Busy Holiday Travel Season...

...we have opened our new Ticket Machine Center, situated on the southeast side of Grand Central's Main Concourse, across from Hudson News.

This new facility will help alleviate the lines at our ticket windows and in the 42nd Street Passage where ticket machines were formerly located, giving you a quicker and more comfortable purchasing experience.

The new center houses 10 machines (one for MetroCards only), and is well-lit, climate-controlled, and monitored by security cameras.

It looks good, too, featuring a “Mon-tauk” black floor, and the original



Courtesy Corner

Eating turkey wasn't the only thing the Pilgrims were known for... they were also known for flu-like illness sweeping through their community, which delayed their homebuilding efforts. (Hence, the first Thanksgiving was held outdoors. No wonder these folks were always getting sick...)

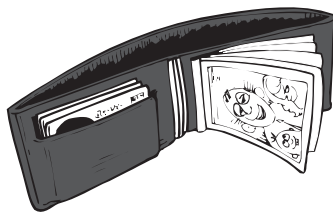
In this modern era of the H1N1 (Swine) Flu, we ask that while commuting (and doing anything else, for that matter), you remember to cover your nose and mouth when you cough. (And if you don't have a tissue, please cough into your upper sleeve, but not into your hands.)

It's the courteous thing to do because spreading illness is one Thanksgiving tradition that can go the way of the Pilgrims.



façade's large rectangular windows and bronze transom (the half moon grating above the windows).

We think it fits nicely with our other “ticket” center, situated across from Track 34. (As we mentioned in an earlier issue of *Mileposts*, about 60% of our tickets are purchased via ticket machines. So this is truly a case of giving the people more of what they want...)



Jack Frost Nipping At Your Wallet?

The cold, hard fact is that holiday entertainment can be expensive. By the time you buy your tickets, drive into the city, pay for parking... it's enough to bring out the Scrooge in anyone.

Luckily, Metro-North can save you money and get you to the season's

September 2009 On-Time Performance*

Line	AM	PM	Off-peak		Total	YTD**
			Weekday	Weekend		
Harlem	98.9%	98.4%	98.0%	98.0%	98.2%	98.6%
Hudson	98.7%	99.3%	98.0%	98.1%	98.5%	97.9%
New Haven	98.1%	97.4%	98.3%	98.3%	98.1%	97.2%
System	98.5%	98.2%	98.1%	98.2%	98.2%	97.8%

*Arrivals within 5 minutes, 59 seconds of schedule.

** Year to date.

best holiday entertainment for free – and at the same time.

Just mention the code “METRO” when ordering full-price tickets to select performances of Cirque Du Soleil’s “Wintuk” at the Theater at Madison Square Garden (November 11 – January 3) or the Radio City Christmas Spectacular (November 13 – December 30), and for each ticket you purchase you will save \$10 and receive a free round-trip rail ticket good for travel to the show on Metro-North!

Just call the Ticketmaster Holiday Hot Line at 866-858-0007, or visit radiocitychristmas.com or cirquedusoleil.com.

(REMEMBER: This offer is valid ONLY when you use code “METRO.”)

For more information about all our discount promotions and “Getaway” packages, call 212-532-4900, or visit our home page at www.mta.info and click on Destinations, Deals, and Getaways.

Safety Rule of The Issue

Only turkeys should trot... highly developed humans should walk, never run, for their train.

That’s because running only increases your chances of slipping, tripping, and falling. And who wants to be injured during the holidays.

Remember: Another train always comes along — and fairly quickly, too! Leave the trotting to the turkeys.

We bring you these reminders because your safety is always our first priority.

Did You Feel That?

As you may know, construction of the MTA’s East Side Access Project, which will bring the Long Island Rail Road into Grand Central Terminal, is proceeding. Part of this project requires construction of new tunnels under Park Avenue, which will connect to a new terminal situated beneath Grand Central.

As part of the work, small, contained, and tightly controlled blasting will take place weekdays during off-peak hours.

Depending on where you are, you may hear a muffled burst of noise or feel a slight vibration. Rest assured that all proper safety precautions are being taken – including closely monitoring all noise and vibration levels.

If there is any impact to your commute — such as limiting access to certain platforms, we will let you know. Be sure to look for signs and listen for announcements.

Published by
Corporate & Public Affairs
MTA Metro-North Railroad
345 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10017
www.mta.info

