

# News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## AMTRAK *BLUE WATER* & *WOLVERINE* TRAINS NOW SERVE NEW BUFFALO, MICH.

Two daily round-trips stop at new downtown station near lakefront;  
Complimentary casino shuttle to begin on Nov. 1

NEW BUFFALO, Mich. – Starting today passengers aboard the Amtrak *Blue Water* (Port Huron-East Lansing-Chicago) and *Wolverine Service* (Pontiac-Detroit-Chicago) trains can now travel directly to New Buffalo, Mich., with two daily round-trips to a new downtown station near the lakefront.

“We are confident the increased frequency and greater reach by this new service into Central and Eastern Michigan will result in additional passengers on Amtrak trains,” said Michael Franke, Amtrak Assistant Vice President, Policy and Development, noting the new service replaces the single daily round-trip previously offered by the Amtrak *Pere Marquette* (Grand Rapids-Chicago) which will no longer stop in New Buffalo.

He added that this project is the result of private initiative and public support between Amtrak, the City of New Buffalo and the local property owners who funded the construction of the new station at 225 North Whitaker Street.

"This is an exciting time for the City – through our good relationship with Amtrak, the new station will have twice as many train-stops," said New Buffalo Mayor Rusty Geisler. "This is of great benefit to the community. It will bring more visitors to New Buffalo; opening Harbor Country to fifteen more destinations than the old station."

Also today, Amtrak and Four Winds Casino Resort announced that complimentary shuttle service for Amtrak passengers arriving in New Buffalo will begin November 1. The Four Winds Shuttle will take passengers to the casino and also return them to the Amtrak station for each of the four *Blue Water* and *Wolverine* arrivals and departures.

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For the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, a total of 3,952 passengers used the now-closed former station at 517 South Whittaker Street.

### **About Amtrak**

As the nation's intercity passenger rail operator, Amtrak connects America in safer, greener and healthier ways. Last fiscal year (FY 2009), the railroad carried 27.2 million passengers, making it the second-best year in the company's history. With 21,000-route miles in 46 states, the District of Columbia and three Canadian provinces, Amtrak operates more than 300 trains each day - at speeds up to 150 mph - to more than 500 destinations. Amtrak also is the operator of choice for state-supported corridor services in 15 states and for four commuter rail agencies. Visit [Amtrak.com](http://Amtrak.com) or call 800-USA-RAIL for schedules, fares and more information.

### **About New Buffalo** (from the Amtrak *Blue Water* Route Guide)

New Buffalo is situated along the Lake Michigan “gold coast” shoreline and has become a popular resort town due to its refuge harbor, around-the-clock public boat launch, shops, antiques, casinos, restaurants, recreational opportunities, and its proximity to Chicago. Catering to tourists, the city sponsors several festivals throughout the year, many incorporating the town’s marine economy. It has some of the best game fishing on the Great Lakes, with boat fishing arranged by charter. It also offers City Beach and Lakefront Park, the Sima nature preserve, the Turtle Pond Nature Trail, and the New Buffalo Railroad Museum.

### **About Four Winds Casino Resort**

Four Winds Casino Resort is owned by the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and is located at 11111 Wilson Road in New Buffalo. Managed by Lakes Entertainment, Inc., the resort offers 130,000 square feet of gaming with 3,000 slot machines and a large selection of table games including poker. It also features four restaurants, entertainment bars and retail venues, and a 165-room hotel, making it a premier destination resort for Midwest tourism. Please play responsibly. You must be 21 years of age to gamble. More information can be found at [www.fourwindscasino.com](http://www.fourwindscasino.com).

# (schedule attached) #

## Amtrak Service in New Buffalo, Mich., Effective October 26, 2009

<i>Blue Water Train 365</i>	↓	Daily
Port Huron, MI	<b>ET</b>	6:00 AM
Lapeer, MI		6:45 AM
Flint, MI		7:11 AM
Durand, MI		7:47 AM
East Lansing, MI		8:28 AM
Battle Creek, MI		9:54 AM
Kalamazoo, MI		10:23 AM
Dowagiac, MI		10:54 AM
Niles, MI		11:09 AM
<b>New Buffalo, MI</b>	<b>ET</b>	<b>11:34 AM</b>
Chicago, IL	<b>CT</b>	11:59 AM
<i>Wolverine Train 355</i>	↓	Daily
Pontiac, MI	<b>ET</b>	5:35 PM
Birmingham, MI		5:48 PM
Royal Oak, MI		5:55 PM
Detroit, MI		6:18 PM
Dearborn, MI		6:40 PM
Ann Arbor, MI		7:17 PM
Jackson, MI		7:53 PM
Battle Creek, MI		8:48 PM
Kalamazoo, MI		9:18 PM
Dowagiac, MI		9:47 PM
Niles, MI		10:00 PM
<b>New Buffalo, MI</b>	<b>ET</b>	<b>10:25 PM</b>
Michigan City, IN	<b>CT</b>	9:38 PM
Hammond-Whiting, IN		10:25 PM
Chicago, IL	<b>CT</b>	11:03 PM

<i>Blue Water Train 364</i>	↓	Daily
Chicago, IL	<b>CT</b>	4:10 PM
<b>New Buffalo, MI</b>	<b>ET</b>	<b>6:23 PM</b>
Niles, MI		6:51 PM
Dowagiac, MI		7:03 PM
Kalamazoo, MI		7:42 PM
Battle Creek, MI		8:17 PM
East Lansing, MI		9:29 PM
Durand, MI		10:15 PM
Flint, MI		10:40 PM
Lapeer, MI		11:09 PM
Port Huron, MI	<b>ET</b>	12:11 AM
<i>Wolverine Train 354</i>	↓	Daily
Chicago, IL	<b>CT</b>	6:00 PM
Hammond-Whiting, IN		---
Michigan City, IN	<b>CT</b>	7:04 PM
<b>New Buffalo, MI</b>	<b>ET</b>	<b>8:16 PM</b>
Niles, MI (South Bend)		8:43 PM
Dowagiac, MI		---
Kalamazoo, MI		9:32 PM
Battle Creek, MI		10:02 PM
Jackson, MI		10:52 PM
Ann Arbor, MI		11:32 PM
Dearborn, MI		11:59 PM
Detroit, MI		12:34 AM
Royal Oak, MI		12:55 AM
Birmingham, MI		1:02 AM
Pontiac, MI	<b>ET</b>	1:31 AM