



Wilkes Communications, Inc. NEWS

a subsidiary of Wilkes Telephone Membership Corporation

March 2016

New & Noteworthy

- March 13 – Daylight Savings Begins
- March 17 – St Patrick's Day
- March 20 – Spring Begins
- March 25 – Good Friday (Offices Closed)
- March 27 – Easter Sunday
- If you find your account number in the newsletter, you will receive a \$20 credit on your next bill.

Office Hours & phone numbers

Commercial Office Hours

336-973-3103

8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday - Friday

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday

Repair Office Hours

336-973-4000

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Saturday

Wilkes Internet Technical Support

336-957-TECH (8324)

Open 24/7



Wilkes

Communication News is published monthly for members of Wilkes Communications (the trade name of Wilkes Telephone Membership Corporation). Wilkes Communications was established in 1951 as a member-owned cooperative serving four exchanges in Wilkes County: (Boomer (921), Clingman (984), Champion (973) and Lomax (957, 928). Wilkes Communications provides complete communication services such as local telephone access, business telephone systems, high-speed Internet and long distance services. Security services are provided through its subsidiary, RiverStreet Networks.

Offices Closed Good Friday

In honor of Good Friday, Wilkes Communications will be closed March 25. Normal operating hours will resume on Saturday, March 26.

Ten Digit Dialing Changes

In April, all local calls will need to be dialed as ten digits as a new 743 area code is assigned to new numbers in the current 336 area code region. This means that all local calls in the 336 area code that are currently dialed with seven digits will need to be dialed using the area code + telephone number. The same will apply to telephone numbers assigned to the new 743 area code.

When will the change become mandatory?

All customers should begin using the new dialing procedure now. Beginning APRIL 23, 2016, you must dial ten digits for all local calls. Otherwise, your call will not be completed, and a recording will instruct you to dial again using the area code + telephone number.

Who will be affected?

The 336 area code generally covers the Piedmont area, including High Point, North Wilkesboro, Winston-Salem, Greensboro, Kernersville, Burlington, Roxboro, and Asheboro. The new 743 area code will serve the same geographic area. New telephone lines will begin to be assigned the 743 area code starting on May 23, 2016. Existing numbers will not be changed.

What will you need to do?

REMEMBER: In addition, all services, automatic dialing equipment, or other types of equipment that are programmed with a 7-digit number will need to be reprogrammed to dial ten digits. Some examples are life safety systems, PBXs, mobile phone contact lists, fax machines, alarm and security systems, gates, speed dialers, call forwarding settings, voicemail services, etc. You may also want to check your business stationery, website, or advertising materials, and your pet's or your personal ID tags to ensure the area code is included.

What will remain the same?

- Your telephone number, including current area code, will not change.
- The price of a call, coverage area, or other rates will not change.
- A local call: what is local now will remain local regardless of the number of digits dialed.
- 911: you can still dial just three digits to reach 911.
- 211, 311, 411, 511, 611, 711 or 811: if these numbers are currently available in your community, you will still dial them using just three digits.

For questions, please call Wilkes Communications or visit the North Carolina Utility Commission website: <http://www.ncuc.net/>.

Advantages of Having a Home Phone

A landline phone is the most reliable device on the market today and offers these valuable advantages:

- Provides security in an emergency with reliable 911 communications.
- Gives you superior sound quality and clarity.
- Eliminates need to charge batteries.
- Provides unlimited local calling.
- Never drops your calls.
- Can't be hacked.
- Saves you money when you bundle services.
- Provides you with a directory listing.
- Works even during an electrical outage.

Make a corded phone part of your storm plan. When bad weather hits, will your family be prepared? Severe storms and heavy winds can easily disrupt electrical service. Or a power outage could occur for other reasons. One item to be sure to have is a corded landline phone, since it does not require electricity and could be your backup method of communication during and after a storm. 25242-4

Slow Cooker Potato Soup

INGREDIENTS:

- 8 slices precooked bacon, chopped
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, minced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1-1/2 Tsp fresh minced thyme (or 1/2 Tsp dried)
- 2 Tbsp all-purpose flour
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 6 medium russet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1/2 inch pieces
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese, plus extra for serving
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- Salt & pepper to taste



PREPARATION:

1. In a skillet, cook onion, garlic and thyme in olive oil until onions are softened and lightly browned.
2. Stir in flour and cook for 1 minute.
3. Slowly whisk in 1 cup of chicken broth, scraping up any brown bits from skillet, then transfer to slow cooker.
4. Stir in remaining broth and potatoes into slow cooker. Cover and cook until potatoes are tender (4-6 hours on low or 3-4 hours on high).
5. Using potato masher or mix-n-chop, mash potatoes until mostly smooth.
6. Stir in cheddar cheese until melted.
7. Stir in cream and let sit until heated (5 minutes).
8. Heat chopped bacon in microwave for 1 minute to crisp.
9. Season soup with salt and pepper to taste and serve topped with cheese and bacon.

 Follow our Facebook page to see our recipe videos!



140 Years Ago: 'Mr. Watson, come here.'

This year celebrates the 140th anniversary of Alexander Graham Bell's patent for the telephone. A turning point in telecommunications history, Bell sent the first intelligible speech transmitted over the device to his assistant, Thomas A. Watson, transcribed as "Mr. Watson, come here."

Bell had been researching ways to send multiple telegraph messages at the same time over a single wire, which ultimately led to the invention of the telephone. His patent request was filed only a couple of hours before a similar one by Elisha Gray. In the years to come, the Bell Company went through many legal challenges to eventually be known as American Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T).

His invention and the approval of his patent created the foundation for today's telecommunications industry.

Wilkes Communications now on YouTube

Wilkes Communications' productions studio, RiverStreet Productions, now has its own YouTube channel. Be sure to visit the channel and check out some of our videos. RiverStreet Productions has been working with the Sports Editors of Wilkes Journal Patriot to produce their weekly sports highlight clips. Enjoy a virtual tour of the studio area, recipes, and more.

