

# CONNECTIONS

FEBRUARY 2016

Published monthly for customers of SkyLine Membership Corporation and SkyBest Communications

[www.SkyLine.org](http://www.SkyLine.org)  
[www.SkyBest.com](http://www.SkyBest.com)



## FRS Scholarship Program Deadline Approaches

SkyLine Membership Corporation is proud to be a local sponsor of the 2016 Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Scholarship Program. FRS was established in 1994 by the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA), of which SkyLine is a member. The FRS promotes, educates and advocates rural telecom issues in order to sustain and enhance the quality of life within communities throughout rural America. Through its various programs and initiatives, the foundation strongly supports the continuing education of rural youth.

This year, 30 one-time, \$2,500 scholarships will be awarded to rural high school seniors: one per geographic region of the NTCA membership and one to a student sponsored by a NTCA associate member. The remaining 19 awards will be distributed proportionate to the number of applications received per region. FRS will fund \$2,000 of each scholarship, with the sponsoring cooperative of each winning student providing a \$500 match.

Additional scholarships to be awarded through this program include the following:

- Four \$5,000 FRS Staurulakis Family Scholarships. Students who are majoring in math, science, engineering or medicine will be given preference.
- Two TMS Scholarships, worth \$1,500 each.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



## Directory Drive Continues

With the recent delivery of the new regional telephone directory, please give your old telephone directory to a school in your community for the 24th annual Directory Collection Drive, sponsored by SkyLine. Seventeen area public schools are participating in this year's drive, and for each old directory collected, SkyLine will donate 25 cents to the participating schools. Throughout the calendar year, SkyLine also receives directories at its Customer Service locations in Banner Elk, Seven Devils, Sparta and West Jefferson, with credit given to the schools. The drive officially runs from January 1 through March 31.

Since the program began in 1993, SkyLine has donated more than \$113,000 to the schools for their efforts. Please support recycling and our public schools through this special initiative. For more information, please contact your local SkyLine Customer Service Center at 118.

## Check Out Highlights of New 2015-16 Telephone Directory New This Year: Separate Sections for Business and Residential Listings

Be sure to check out the Customer Guides (front section) of the new telephone directory. Here you can see how to contact your local provider (SkyLine/SkyBest), Directory Assistance/Operator Services, the latest info on the new Area Code for North Carolina, Regional Calling, Time Zone/Area Code information by State and so much more.



In the SkySource section (page 29), you will find detailed instructions on how to use various calling features and general information on other services we provide. Following the SkySource section is a Community Connections section, which provides helpful information and telephone numbers for a wide range of services, including Utility, Telephone, Water, Driver's Licenses and Tags/Registration, along with contact information for area Public Schools, City/County/State/Federal Offices, area hospitals, libraries and more.

This year's directory features separate sections for residential and business listings. Previously, they were published together, and now, residential listings are just behind the Community Connections section, followed by the business listings section and the Yellow Pages section.

## Directory Corrections/Omissions

### White Pages Omissions/Corrections

North Carolina State Government  
Alleghany Courthouse  
District Attorney 336-372-3910  
Magistrate 336-372-4911

North Carolina State Government  
Department of Transportation 336-246-5287  
296 Buffalo Road, West Jefferson

### Yellow Pages Omissions/Corrections

Dereka's Sugar Mountain  
Accommodations 828-898-9876  
106 Sugar Mountain Drive, Sugar Mountain

Dereka's Sugar Mountain  
Accommodations & Realty 828-898-6887  
106 Sugar Mountain Drive, Sugar Mountain

Longevity Electrical Services, Inc. 828-264-4971  
108 Queen Street, Boone

Sugar Mountain Accommodations 828-898-9475  
106 Sugar Mountain Drive, Sugar Mountain

Sugar Mountain Accommodations  
& Realty 828-898-9483  
106 Sugar Mountain Drive, Sugar Mountain

Sugar Mountain Realty 828-898-9430  
106 Sugar Mountain Drive, Sugar Mountain

Sugar Mountain Realty-Dereka's 828-898-9411  
106 Sugar Mountain Drive, Sugar Mountain



**SkyLine**  
**SkyBest**

## NEED TO CONTACT US?

### CUSTOMER SERVICE

LOCAL

118

TOLL-FREE

1-800-759-2226

### REPAIR SERVICE, 24/7

LOCAL

611

TOLL-FREE

1-877-475-9546

Additional Local  
Repair Service Numbers:

ALLEGHANY

336-372-4444

ASHE

336-982-3111

AVERY

898-9250

WATAUGA

297-4811

JOHNSON

739-4500

### INTERNET TECH SUPPORT, 24/7

TOLL-FREE

1-866-759-7591

### WORTH NOTING:

**Friday, February 12**  
FRS Scholarship Deadline

**Monday, February 15**  
SkyLine & SkyBest Close  
for Presidents Day

**Saturday, February 20**  
Annual Heart Breakfast,  
Winner's Circle Restaurant  
[www.asheheart.org](http://www.asheheart.org)

### STAFF:

Jimmy Blevins  
Chief Executive Officer

Kim Shepherd  
Executive Director of Customer  
Operations

Angie Poe  
Customer Service Manager

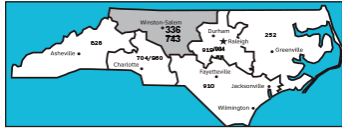
Jamey Jenkins  
Retail Sales Manager

Karen P. Powell  
Public Relations Administrator  
& Editor



## Reminder: Don't Forget to Start Dialing 10 Digits for Local Calls in 336 Area

To ensure a continuing supply of telephone numbers, the new 743 area code has been added to the area served by 336. Because this is an area code overlay, ALL callers in the 336/743 geographic region must dial 10 digits for local area calls. The new 743 area code serves the same geographic area currently served by the existing 336 area code, which includes Allegheny and Ashe counties in SkyLine's service area.



The new area code went into effect on October 24, 2015, so you should begin using the new dialing procedures whenever you place a call from the 336 area code. If you forget and dial just seven digits, we are currently in the temporary grace period, which allows seven or 10-digit dialing for local calls, and your call will still be completed. However, beginning April 23, mandatory 10-digit dialing begins in the 336/743 calling area.

### What will you need to do?

**REMEMBER:** In addition to changing your dialing procedures, all services, automatic dialing equipment, or other types of equipment that are programmed with a seven-digit number will need to be re-programmed to use the new dialing procedures prior to April 23, 2016. Some examples are life safety systems, PBXs, mobile phone contact lists, fax machines, Internet dial-up numbers, 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 and services will not change due to the overlay.
- What is a local call now will remain a local call regardless of the number of digits dialed.
- You can still dial just three digits to reach 911.
- If 211, 311, 411, 511, 611, 711 or 811 are currently available in your community, you will still dial these codes with just three digits.

### Avery & Watauga Counties Continue with Seven-Digit Dialing for Local & Regional Calls

The new 10-digit dialing pattern WILL NOT affect SkyLine/SkyBest customers in the 828 area code, which includes Avery and Watauga counties. In these two counties, callers may continue to use seven-digit dialing for local and Regional Caller calls. If you have any questions about Regional Caller and the new Area Code, please call your local SkyLine/SkyBest Customer Center at 118 or 1-800-759-2226.

Beginning May 23, 2016, new telephone lines or services may be assigned numbers using the new 743 area code. Existing numbers will not be changed.

### Who may you contact with questions?

Please call us at 1-800-759-2226.

FRS SCHOLARSHIP CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

- One \$2,500 Everett Kneece Return to Rural America Scholarship.
- The Colt Ford Scholarship, awarding up to \$15,000 to rural students.

Application packets are available at all area high school guidance departments and at SkyLine Customer Service Centers in West Jefferson, Banner Elk, Seven Devils and Sparta. Scholarship information and application forms also may be accessed through our Web site ([www.skyline.org](http://www.skyline.org)). Completed applications must be submitted to SkyLine's corporate offices by Friday, February 12. All applicants must be sponsored by SkyLine, and completed applications received by this deadline will be endorsed by a SkyLine official and submitted to the FRS for consideration by the March 1 postmark deadline.

If any SkyLine-sponsored students are named winners, they will be announced in May, in conjunction with area high school awards day programs. For the past few years, there have been winners of this scholarship from our area, so we encourage graduating high school seniors to apply again this year.

For more information about the FRS Scholarship, please contact Karen Powell, SkyLine Public Relations Administrator, at 1-800-759-2226.

Note: Children of SkyLine/SkyBest employees or directors are not eligible for this scholarship.

### A Note about the Frank James-SkyLine Scholarship

Application packets for the 2016 Frank James-SkyLine Scholarship and other SkyLine-sponsored youth programs will be available in March at area high school guidance departments and at all SkyLine Customer Service Centers. See next month's newsletter for details.

### Recipe of the Month

## Black Bean Soup for Two

### Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 (15 oz. can) tomato sauce
- 1 (15 oz. can) black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 (14 oz. can) vegetable or beef broth
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 to 2 tablespoons lime juice
- 1/8 teaspoon hot pepper sauce
- Pepper to taste

### Instructions:

In a large saucepan, sauté onion and garlic in oil until tender. Stir in the cumin, oregano and chili powder; sauté 2 minutes longer. Add tomato sauce, beans, broth and bay leaf. Bring to boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 45 minutes. Stir in lime juice; simmer 10-15 minutes longer. Discard bay leaf. Add pepper sauce and pepper.

Submitted by Carol Skroch of Ashe County

### Schools Participating in 2016 Directory Collection Drive

- Allegheny High • Glade Creek Elementary
- Piney Creek Elementary • Sparta Elementary
- Ashe County High • Ashe County Middle
- Blue Ridge Elementary • Mountain View Elementary
- Westwood Elementary • Avery County High
- Banner Elk Elementary
- Freedom Trail Elementary • Bethel Elementary
- Cove Creek Elementary • Mabel Elementary
- Valle Crucis Elementary
- Shady Valley Elementary



Like



on

facebook®

[www.facebook.com/SkyLineSkyBest](http://www.facebook.com/SkyLineSkyBest)

**FRS Scholarship Program  
Applications Available This Month**