

# The Connection

JANUARY 2020



## Together We'll See What This Decade Brings

The 1920s were called "roaring." Aren't you curious how the 2020s will later be described?

Whatever this new decade has in store, Runestone Telecom will keep you connected to communications solutions to enhance your life. We appreciate your support of our company in past years and look forward to building this relationship in the years ahead.

### Contact

**Runestone Telecom Association**  
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PO Box 336  
Hoffman, MN 56339  
Phone: 320-986-2013  
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**Office Hours**  
M-F 8 am to 4:30 pm

**Email**  
rtaoffice@runestone.net

**Visit Us Online**  
www.runestone.net

**Office Closure**  
January 1st for New Year's Day



HERE'S TO



VISION

Runestone Telecom wishes you a wonderful 2020. May you stay focused on your goals and look forward with joyful anticipation.

We encourage you to keep an eye on your household's growing internet usage and watch for signs – such as frequent buffering when streaming – that it's time for a speed increase to more fully enjoy your online experiences.

**CALL 320-986-2013 NOW TO UPGRADE YOUR INTERNET PLAN**

**WE OFFER INTERNET SPEEDS UP TO 1,000 MBPS.\***

\*Service availability and internet speed will depend on location. Contact us for complete details.

## New Members

### Barrett

Doren, Angela.....320-528-6211  
Fleischfresser, Greg ..... 320-528-4052  
Kral, Melissa .....320-528-2246

### Elbow Lake

Barnard, Dwight ..... 218-685-6126  
Blomgren, Kristen ..... 218-685-8335

### Hoffman

Olson, Robert .....320-986-2335  
Sannes-Venhuizen, Jeremy ... 320-986-3014

### Lowry

Meyer, Mark & Bonita .....320-283-5295  
Topel, Keith.....320-283-2086  
Trousil, Bradley  
& Samantha ..... 320-283-2175

## January 28 is Data Privacy Day

Given the frequency and magnitude of identity theft, it's vitally important to do what you can to protect your personal information. The National Cyber Security Alliance offers these tips to help manage your privacy:

- **Secure your devices:** Use strong passwords, passcodes, or touch ID features to lock your devices.
- **Think before you app:** Information about you has value, just like money. Be thoughtful about who gets that information and how it's collected through apps.
- **Stay up to date:** Make sure your security software, web browser, and operating system are updated regularly, which is the best defense against viruses, malware, and other online threats.

Learn more at [staysafeonline.org](http://staysafeonline.org).



## Check Out These College Scholarship Opportunities

Runestone Telecom is proud to offer these scholarship opportunities through the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS), in cooperation with NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association. They seek to enhance the quality of life in America by advancing an understanding of rural issues and strongly support the continuing education of rural youth.

### Here are the scholarships available:

- Four \$5,000 Staurulakis Family Scholarships (*Preference is given to students majoring in math, science, engineering or medicine.*)
- One \$7,000 Everett Kneece Scholarship
- One \$5,000 Herbert and Isabel Bitz Memorial Scholarship
- \$2,000 scholarship from FRS, with a \$500 match from Runestone Telecom (*Scholarships will be awarded per geographic region of the NTCA membership and one sponsored NTCA Associate member. The awards are distributed proportionate to the number of applications received per region.*)

### Each scholarship applicant must:

- Be a graduating high school senior
- Be a US citizen
- Be accepted by an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school
- Have at least a C grade point average (GPA)
- Express interest to return to a rural community following graduation
- Have a parent with at least one Runestone Telecom service

The application must be postmarked to FRS no later than March 6, 2020. A signature from our general manager, board of director or designated employee of Runestone Telecom is required, so please apply early.

You can find the application on our website at [www.runestone.net](http://www.runestone.net) or on the FRS website at [www.frs.org/programs/youth-programs/scholarships](http://www.frs.org/programs/youth-programs/scholarships).

# Hilarious Predictions About 2020 Made Long Ago

For decades, thinking about the year 2020 has brought out the imaginations of futurists, engineers, science writers, and others. Here are a few of their funnier predictions:

## Roads will become tubes.

According to a 1957 article in *Popular Mechanics*, the family vehicle of 2020 would only need enough power to get from home to the nearest tube in a network of pneumatic tubes. Then, by the calculations of a Honeywell engineer, “vehicles will be pneumatically powered to any desired destination.” (Picture the tube at your bank’s drive-through lane, only much bigger.)

## Human feet will become just one big toe.

During a lecture to the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1911, a surgeon named Richard Clement Lucas made the following curious prediction: “Human beings in the future will become one-toed. The small toes are being used less and less as time goes on, while the great toe is developing in an astonishing manner.” Lucas believed that by around 2020, our outer toes would gradually disappear.

## Vacuums will be nuclear-powered.

Alex Lewyt, president of Lewyt vacuum company, wanted the world to be excited about vacuum cleaners. But he may have missed the mark when he predicted in 1955 that nuclear-powered vacuum cleaners would become a reality and every household in 2020 would insist on cleaning floors this way. We can be grateful that the mini-Chernobyl-waiting-to-happen vacuum did not end up on store shelves.

## We'll live in flying houses.

Inventor Arthur C. Clarke believed the boring houses of 1966 would be radically different by the time we reached 2020. He wrote, “The house of the future would have no roots tying it to the ground. Gone would be water pipes, drains, power lines; the autonomous home could therefore move, or be moved, to anywhere on earth at the owner’s whim.” Clarke also predicted, “Whole communities may migrate south in the winter, or move to new lands whenever they feel the need for a change of scenery.”

**While you won't be living in a flying house in 2020, you probably will have internet usage that keeps going up. To meet your increasing internet needs, call 320-986-2013 and sign up for one of our faster plans.**



## National Popcorn Day is a Tasty Tradition

Everyone agrees that National Popcorn Day is celebrated in January, although its exact date is a matter of debate. Some sources say it's held on January 19 each year; others claim it takes place on whatever day the “big game” falls. When it comes right down to it, does it really matter? Since popcorn is high in fiber and low in calories, it's a snack that's always worth celebrating.

According to the Popcorn Board, most U.S. popcorn is grown in the Midwest, primarily in Indiana, Nebraska, Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, and Missouri. It's interesting to note that popcorn comes in two basic shapes when it's popped: snowflake and mushroom. Snowflake is used in movie theaters and ballparks because it looks and pops bigger. Mushroom is used for candy confections because it doesn't crumble.

If you want to spice up your popcorn beyond butter and salt, try sprinkling on Parmesan cheese, dry taco seasoning mix or ranch-style dressing mix, lemon pepper, or a combination of brown sugar, cinnamon, and nutmeg.

**Know what goes great with popcorn? Watching TV shows and movies using your favorite technology. Runestone Telecom offers cable TV plans and high-speed internet to support streaming. Find out more at [www.runestone.net](http://www.runestone.net).**



## 20 Reasons to Have a Home Phone in 2020

When you ring in the New Year, make sure some of the ringing is coming from a home phone! You'll get these benefits:

1. Address displays with 911 calls.
2. Better sound quality and clarity.
3. Consistent signal strength.
4. Works during electrical outage.
5. No need to charge battery.
6. Unlimited local calling.
7. Never drops your calls.
8. Can't be hacked.
9. Saves money with a bundle.
10. Provides a directory listing.
11. Offers better security.
12. Serves as cell phone backup.
13. Won't get lost at home.
14. No searching when it rings.
15. Easier for children to use.
16. Keeps you reachable when cell phone is silenced.
17. Streamlined dialing.
18. No worries about dead battery.
19. Durable even if dropped.
20. No software upgrades needed.

Call 320-986-2013 to ask about our affordable options for home phone service.

# Put Some Tasks on Autopilot to Simplify Your Life

You have enough on your plate already. So grab every opportunity to automate a household task. It will automatically cut down on stress and save you time.

### Automatically save when online shopping.

You don't need to manually search for the best deals and promo codes. Get the free Honey browser extension with just two clicks at [www.joinhoney.com](http://www.joinhoney.com). Honey will automatically apply the biggest savings to your cart when you make a purchase.

### Automatically manage household tasks.

It's easy to set up timers to handle tasks such turning on and off lights and watering your lawn. You can also use a robot vacuum to clean your floors.

### Automatically back up your smartphone's photos and videos.

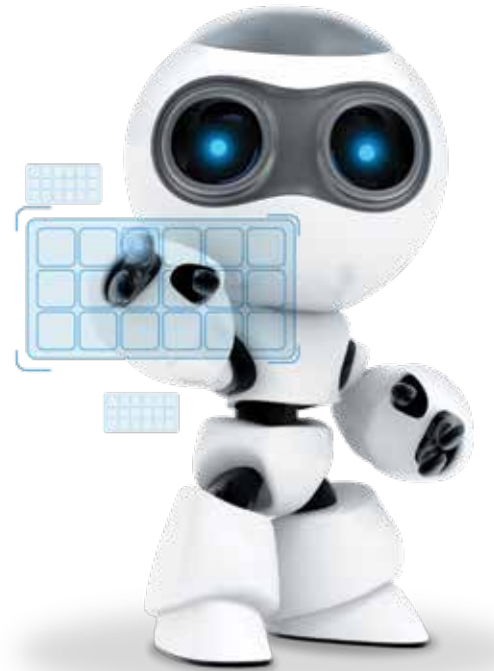
You don't want treasured images to be lost. If you have an Apple device, you can set up iCloud Drive to use the iCloud Photo Library to store and back up your photos and videos. And if you have an Android device, you can use your Google Drive account to do the same using Google Photos.

### Automatically sync your to-do list with your calendar.

When you add things to whatever calendar app you use, they typically don't automatically show up on your to-do list app when the day arrives. Same goes for when you add something to your to-do list and it doesn't show up on your calendar. For a solution that achieves both, check out the gTasks app.

### Automatically pay your bills.

Most online banking platforms have automatic payments that you can set and forget. You can also use a finance and budgeting app such as Mint to have automatic reminders sent to you when due dates for bills come up.



**Runestone Telecom offers eBilling and AutoPay options. For more details, call 320-986-2013, or visit [www.runestone.net](http://www.runestone.net).**

**FUSC Rate Change:** The FUSC (Federal Universal Service Contribution) is scheduled to decrease from 25% to 21.2% on January 1st, 2020.