

The Connection

JULY 2021



Grab a Blanket and Celebrate National Picnic Month

Food tastes better when eaten outside, even if a few flies join your family and friends for the feast. So make sure your July activities include a nod to National Picnic Month. Pack up your favorite foods—whether fried chicken and salad or sandwiches and chips—then head for the park, put down a blanket, and kick off your shoes. Picnics are summer at its best!

Contact Us

100 Runestone Drive / PO Box 336
Hoffman, MN 56339

Phone: 320-986-2013

Office Hours: M–F 8 am to 4:30 pm

Email: rtaoffice@runestone.net

Visit Us: www.runestone.net

Holiday Observed

Runestone Telecom will be closed on Monday, July 5th in observance of Independence Day. Trouble calls will be handled by our on-call technicians.



Count on the area's
**FASTEST
AND MOST
RELIABLE**
fiber broadband
service



Runestone Telecom offers fiber broadband service to residential and business customers inside our fiber footprint, which covers much of West Central Minnesota. No other Internet infrastructure even comes close to fiber in terms of its speed and reliability.

Sign up for our fiber broadband service now to start enjoying:

- **ROBUST SPEEDS UP TO A GIG** – Get the upload/download bandwidth you need to work more efficiently and enhance your streaming experience.
- **CONTINUITY OF SERVICE** – Due to the high reliability of our fiber network, service issues are rare. Should a trouble occur, we'll work to resolve it the same day, based on your schedule.

Call 320-986-2013 or visit www.runestone.net to learn more about our fiber broadband service including available plans and pricing.

Speed availability varies depending on location. Contact us for details.

Runestone Telecom Annual Meeting

The 71st Annual Meeting of Runestone Telecom Association will be held on Wednesday, July 14th at West Central Area School in Barrett at 7 pm. Entertainment begins at 6:30 pm with pianist Shirley Hanson. Pie and ice cream will be served by the FCCLA following the meeting. The 2021 Annual Report is available to view online at www.runestone.net. If you would like a printed copy, you can pick one up at our office, or call us at 320-986-2013 to have one mailed to you.

New Members

Barrett

Butcher, Kathleen 320-528-3500

Donnelly

Gausman, Joyce 320-246-2006

Elbow Lake

Anderson Fitness 218-685-4348

Kratochwill,

Lyndon L. & Kay 218-685-4571

Kensington

Kottke, Tammi
& Robbie 320-965-2007

Lowry

Larson, Duane
& Patricia 320-283-5190

Schumacher, Marc 320-283-5626

Wheaton

Wheaton
Commercial LLC 320-563-4002

Rate Changes

The TAM (Telecommunications Access Minnesota) rate will be changing from \$.07 to \$.06 effective July 1st, 2021. The FUSC (Federal Universal Service Contribution) will also decrease from 33.4% to 31.8% effective July 1st, 2021.

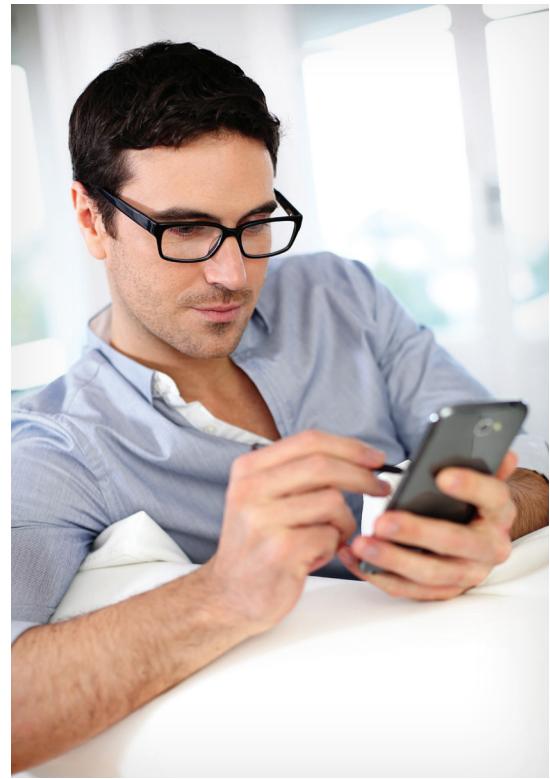
Watch Out for Phishing Text Messages

For many years, scammers have sent phishing emails to try and con you into providing personal information such as passwords, account numbers, or your Social Security number. Now many of them are sending phishing text messages instead.

These text messages may look like they're from a company you know or trust such as your bank, a credit card company, a social networking site, an online payment website or app, or an online store. But looks can be deceiving, so be cautious when reviewing new text messages you receive.

For example, scammers may supposedly alert you to suspicious activity on your account, a problem with your payment information, or an unauthorized purchase. Or they may promise free prizes or gift cards, offer you a no-interest credit card, or promise to help pay off your student loans.

Once scammers "rope you in" by generating concern or promising a reward, they might ask you to give some personal information to remedy the problem or pursue the offer. Or they may tell you to click on a link to learn more about the issue, which takes you to a spoofed website that, if you log in, can steal your user name and password.



If you get a text message you weren't expecting that asks for personal information, don't click on any links or provide any information! Legitimate companies won't ask for information about your account by text. If you think the message might be real, contact the company using a phone number or website you know is valid—not the information in the text message.

You can report unwanted text messages to the messaging app you use, or to the Federal Trade Commission at ftc.gov/complaint.

What You Need to Know About Internet Speed Tests



It's a good idea to check your Internet speed from time to time to verify that your service is performing optimally. The process is easy—you can do a speed test anytime on Runestone Telecom's website at speed.runestone.net.

How do speed tests work?

Speed tests measure the network performance between your device and a test server, using your device's Internet connection. The test mimics your online activity in a controlled setting by downloading sample files and recording performance. By using speed.runestone.net, you're testing the segment of the Internet connection that Runestone Telecom is responsible for and can assist with.

What data does a speed test give you?

You'll typically learn three things:

- **Download speed** – A measure in “Megabits per second” (Mbps) of how quickly data can be received by your device over the network.
- **Upload speed** – A measure in “Megabits per second” (Mbps) of how quickly your device can send data over the network.
- **Ping** – Measured in milliseconds, this is the round-trip time it takes for data to travel between two devices on a network.

What can be done to get the most accurate results?

If you're serious about getting an accurate measurement of your Internet speed, run multiple speed tests under consistent conditions:

- **Over a hard wired connection** – Running a speed test over WiFi will generally yield slower results with greater variation between tests than running a test over an Ethernet cable.
- **Minimize network devices** – The number of devices connected to your network can affect your speeds. Run a test with just one device connected and verify that the device is relatively idle.
- **Minimize other network activities** – Running a speed test during other network activities (such as listening to music, streaming a TV show or playing an online game) will result in a slower and inaccurate test.
- **In the same rooms** – If you must use WiFi, the strength of your wireless signal will weaken as you get further away from your router. Try running a speed test in the same room and in close proximity to your router.

Call Runestone Telecom at 320-986-2013 for answers to your other speed test questions, or advice on getting an Internet speed upgrade.

New WiFi 6 Can Handle Many Devices on a Single Network

WiFi 6 is the next generation of WiFi, and we can all be grateful for its simple name. Until recently, WiFi generations were referred to by an arcane naming scheme that required you to understand whether 802.11n was faster than 802.11ax. To fix that, the WiFi Alliance renamed the generations with simple version numbers. The current generation, 802.11ac, became WiFi 5. This new generation, previously called 802.11ax, is WiFi 6.

WiFi 6 introduces technologies to help mitigate the issues that come with putting many WiFi devices on a single network. It lets routers communicate with more devices at once and send data to multiple devices in the same broadcast.

For the past year, Runestone Telecom has leased the GigaSpire managed router that's compatible with WiFi 6. One or more remote devices can be added to form a mesh network to cover hard-to-reach areas. We have 1000+ GigaSpire units in the field, and they've performed well. What little maintenance is required, along with changes you might request, can be done from our office through a management console.

For details, or to lease a managed router from us, call 320-986-2013.



Unclaimed Capital Credit Checks

The following is a list of previous members with an outstanding Capital Credit Check. Please have them contact our office at 320-986-2013. Thanks!

Barrett

Bear, Charles
Fossan, Sid
Harris, Kevin
Jacobson, Matthew
Kezar, James Jr.
Kezar, Melanie
Olson, Orlin C/O Lon Olson
Otto, Nikki
Parker, Sherry L.
Pikop, Anthony
Regstad, Debra
Rosser, Chris

Cyrus

Boe, Mrs. Layne
Gehring, Be
Gullickson, Jilene R.
Hall, Rebecca
Hulten, Amanda
Meyer, Karen E.
Meyer, Thomas & Angela
Moser, Howard
Netter, Tyler & Mikayla
Olson, Helen
Patterson-Pratt, Michael & Julie
Spieker, Jessica D.
Vale, Vickie
Waddell, Tawsha
Zumhofe, Gene (Buck)

Donnelly

Eselin, Laurie
O'Leary, Tully
Saxs Café/Mike Boerner

Elbow Lake

Ainsworth, Regina L.
Amundson, Ryan
Arth, George & Janice
Automated Wagering Inc.
Baker, Denise M.
Bakken, Dennis
Camas Minndak
Carlson-Stueve, Melissa
Carr, Bill
Davis, William
Edwards, Ardis
Eklund, Eric & Melissa
Ellert, Roger
Fisher, Jody
Goldsworthy, Robert L
Handy Ramp Mfg Co
C/O Mark Miles
Harvey, Amy
Henry, John & Inez
Hilde Trucking
Johnson, Karen
Johnson, Michele
King, Yvonne C/O Diana Hollister
Larson, Cory C/O Susie Huffman
Larson, Lem
Lindholm, Tim & Hope
Linehan, Shawn T
Lubarski, Gerald
Lundberg, Gina
Matz, Patrick A & Stephanie
McCann, Shirley
Raeker, Autumn
Scherr, Patty
Schlichting, Brittany
Severud, Helen

Strom, Steven

Taylor, Gene
Tommerdahl, Jesse
Trendsetters Construction
C/O Trevor Westrom
United Health Group/
Tanya Isaacson
Wells, Ronald D. & Ann M.
Wilcock, Bonnie
Willemsen, Thaine & Donna
Young, David A.

Glenwood

Falkner, NJ
Kittelson, Mark A.

Herman

Wood, Shawn

Hoffman

Best, Mildred A.
Blom, Kris
Carlson, David E.
Demo, Dennis Howard
Johnson, Hazel C/O Curtis Loschy
Karlstad, Dan & Dawn
Liebl, Melonie
Lohse, Wallace
Marquardt, Eric
Mueller, Angela
Proudfoot, Kathleen
Roering, Thomas

Kensington

Beliveau, David
Coleman, Betty J.

Eldredge, Michael & Cathy

Hvezda, Shanon L.
Johnson, Mrs Reuben
Martin, Dorothy
Mielke, Carol
Nelson, Edrald & Ruby
Nicholas, Dale E.
Petermann, Gary B.
Schumann, Randy
Simmons, Anthony
Simonson, Renae
Smith, Bruce W. & Joyce
Strommen, Dale

Lowry

Carlson, Linda & Eric
Conn, Aaron
Foner, Clifford
MacDonald, Bradley J.
Schmidt, V Z

Norcross

Resendez, Eleazar Sr.

Tintah

Lancaster, Randolph R.
Ricks-Kumm, Shanen
Seiffert, Betty

Wendell

Bergan, L A
Conlon, Tim
Mathews, Marie
Nelson, Steve
Olson, Annette
Pellman, Reino

Get ready for
**10-DIGIT
DIALING**
for local calls



In July 2020, the Federal Communications Commission adopted an order approving the designation of 988 as the 3-digit dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. To facilitate implementation, area codes across the country where the 988 prefix is a working prefix and which now use 7-digit local dialing must transition to 10-digit local dialing. This includes the 218 & 320 area codes in our service area.

Starting October 24, 2021, you'll need to dial the 218 or 320 area code, plus the 7-digit phone number to make local calls. In addition to changing your dialing routine, you'll also have to reprogram 7-digit local numbers to 10-digit numbers if you use speed dial or any other system that automatically makes calls for you.

For more details, call us at 320-986-2013.