

The Connection

OCTOBER 2021

Happy Halloween!

Whether you carve out some time to make jack-o'-lanterns, or invite your favorite ghosts and goblins over for a party, Halloween can be frightfully fun for the whole family. If you need costume ideas, look around online for ones you can easily put together yourself. Speaking of the Internet, Runestone Telecom can provide your home with a scary-fast connection. Call 320-986-2013 for details.

Unclaimed Capital Credit Checks

We have a large list of previous members with an outstanding Capital Credit Check. To view the list, visit our website at Runestone.net. If you see someone you know on the list, please have them call our office at 320-986-2013. Thank you!

Contact Us

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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, October 11th for an all staff meeting. Trouble calls will be handled by our on-call technicians.



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.

October is Co-op Month

Happy Co-op Month from all of us at your local cooperative, Runestone Telecom! As a customer, you earn capital credits each year from the service(s) you subscribe to from us such as phone, Internet and/or cable TV. Capital credits accumulate each year that you have active services from Runestone Telecom. Our Board of Directors meets annually to decide on paying out certain portions of capital credits to our customers. That means not only are you a customer at Runestone Telecom, you're also a cooperative member and part owner in the company!

We thank you for choosing Runestone Telecom and extend our warmest welcome to our new members listed below. We look forward to serving you!

New Members

Barrett

Vetsch, Angela..... 320-528-2022
Ziemer, Raymond 320-528-2036

Cyrus

Thompson, Kayla..... 320-795-2769

Elbow Lake

Bertrand, Mary..... 218-685-2156
Wiltse, Kathy..... 218-685-2319

Hoffman

Hutchings, Robert 320-986-2102

CLEC

County Line Liquor..... 320-762-8880
Dumont Agronomy..... 320-563-8822
Prchal, Gerald..... 320-815-4296
Wheaton Dumont Coop
Elevator - Dumont
Elevator..... 320-563-8020

Wendell

Myron, JT 218-458-2058

Now's the Time to Enjoy Iconic Autumn Movies

When autumn brings a chill to the air, curl up under a cozy blanket and enjoy your choice of these classic movies. They each celebrate the season by including an autumnal theme such as the start of a school year or football games. Before you start watching, don't forget to fix yourself a hot apple cider or pumpkin spice latte to set the mood!

Dead Poets Society

There's something innately autumnal about going back to school. In this 1989 classic, a prep school teacher (Robin Williams) sets out to inspire his students to shake off stuffy tradition and come into their own.

Election

Starring a young Reese Witherspoon, this spirited tale of high school politics in a suburb is filled with all the sweater vests the season could ask for.

Good Will Hunting

Written by Matt Damon and Ben Affleck, who also star along with Robin Williams, this 1997 movie is about Will Hunting, a janitor at M.I.T. He has a gift for mathematics, but needs help from a psychologist to find direction in his life.

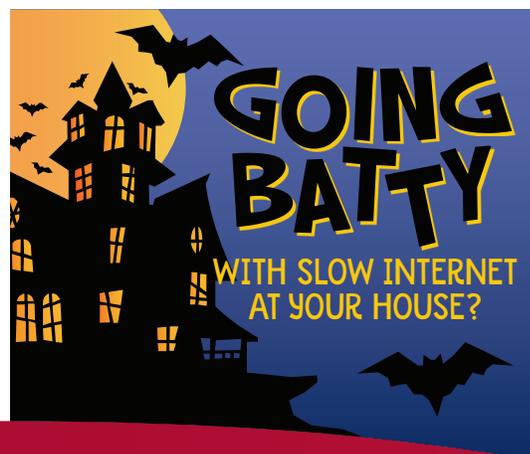
Remember the Titans

Denzel Washington plays a coach tasked with galvanizing a newly integrated high school football team in this popular movie based on a true story.

You've Got Mail

"Don't you love New York in the fall? It makes me wanna buy school supplies. I would send you a bouquet of newly sharpened pencils if I knew your name and address," says Joe Fox (Tom Hanks) in this Nora Ephron classic that also stars Meg Ryan.

To find out how to access these or other movies, simply do an online search that includes the title plus "how to watch." Should you decide your home's Internet connection isn't fully up to the demands of streaming, call 320-986-2013 to discuss a speed upgrade.



Sign up for one of our super-fast Internet plans. We offer speeds up to 1,000 Mbps.*

CALL 320-986-2013 TODAY TO FLY UP TO A HIGHER SPEED

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



5 Ways to Repurpose Your Old Phone

When it's time to get a bright and shiny new phone, what will you do with your old one? You may decide to trade it in with your cellular carrier, give it to a family member, sell it online, or take it to an electronics recycling organization.

But those aren't your only options. Check out these great uses for old phones:

#1: Security Camera

Download a security camera app like AlfredCamera or Presence on your old and new phones, then mount the old phone where you want to keep an eye on your home. You can use something as simple as a suction cup mount for a car. Then use your current phone to log in and view the feed from your old phone.

#2: Digital Photo Frame

An old phone can easily be turned into a photo display. Simply get a phone stand and run your favorite photos through on a slideshow.

#3: Child's Device

If you're not yet ready to buy your child his/her own phone with a cellular plan, you can instead repurpose your old phone for more limited use. You don't need cellular connectivity for the camera to work. Once the phone is secure, connect it to Wi-Fi and your child can send pics, search the Internet, download apps, make VoIP calls, and play games.

#4: Gaming System

There are many different mobile games for iPhone and Android, and you only need a Wi-Fi connection to download them. If you have an extra phone lying around, repurpose it as a dedicated gaming system. That way, you'll never have to worry about storage space while you're in the heat of a battle or the middle of an adventure.

#5: Donation to a Good Cause

If you don't have a use for your old phone, think about donating it. For example, Cell Phones for Soldiers sells refurbished or recycled phones to buy troops prepaid international calling cards and provide emergency funding to veterans — they'll wipe your old phone clean of all your personal information first. HopeLine from Verizon accepts devices in any condition from any service provider to benefit victims and survivors of domestic violence.

Check Your Phone Book Listing

It's time to check how your listing appears in our phone book. We're working on updating listings for the upcoming 2022 Vikingland Regional Telephone Directory. Your 911 address (street address) is automatically listed, but you may also list a mailing address.

Take a careful look at your listing in the current phone book. If you'd like us to make any changes, complete this form and return it to Runestone Telecom.

Please list my name as:

This is my telephone number:

Add this mailing address to my listing:

Sun Outages May Affect TV Picture

For a few minutes a day in early October, you may experience a fuzzy TV picture, sparkles, tiling, freeze frame, or total loss of channels. This occurs due to sun outages, when the orbital positions of the satellite and the sun are in one line.

FUSC Rate Change

The FUSC (Federal Universal Service Contribution) is set to decrease from 31.8% to 29.1% on October 1, 2021.

How Technology Can Help Seniors Live Independently

Technology is available to provide a safer, more intuitive home environment for older adults living alone, making it possible for them to address their challenges and live more independently.

Examples include:

Smart Detection Devices –

Stove alarms alert older adults to potentially dangerous situations and help prevent potential fire hazards. Devices are also available to detect water leaks and air quality issues.

Smart Medication Pillboxes –

These offer audible or visual cues to prompt older adults to take their medications at the proper time. They can also send remote alerts to caregivers.

Motion-Activated Lights – Tripping is a common concern. To prevent fumbling around in the dark, motion-activated lights can be installed.

Smart Doorbells and Security Systems – Doorbells provide a video picture of visitors to help older adults decide whether or not to answer the door. Security systems can be programmed to automatically lock doors and alert homeowners and caregivers if issues arise.

Other Assistive Technologies –

There are phones with large, high-visibility displays that are easy to see and use, keyless entry locks for those with arthritic hands, and curtains or blinds that can be operated with a remote control.



This One Process Can Fix Many Wi-Fi Issues

We've all been there. The Wi-Fi connection in your home stops working, and you can't access the Internet. It's a frustrating situation, but one that often has a quick and easy solution.

The next time this happens to you, restart your router using the process below:

1. Unplug or power off your router.
2. Wait 2-5 minutes before plugging it back in.
3. Wait 5 more minutes and retry the connection.

(If your home uses a router and a modem, follow the same steps for both pieces of equipment.)



In many cases, this should fix your Wi-Fi issue and allow you to get back online. Why is this so? Because unplugging the equipment gives it a chance to clear memory banks and restart tasks, similar to why restarting your computer is the number one troubleshooting strategy when it isn't working correctly.

It's also important to understand how your router communicates with you. Most routers have a series of icons that illuminate to convey different status messages at a glance. Though these icons can vary from brand to brand, they typically include ones to indicate the status of whether the modem is connected to the Internet, whether Wi-Fi signals are being broadcast, and whether Ethernet cables are connected and functioning.

When everything is working properly, you can expect the icons to be solid or blinking green or blue light. This signals that a device is plugged in and functioning normally. When there's a connection issue, the icons may turn red or orange/amber. An orange/amber light may indicate a problem or limited connectivity, whereas a red or unlit icon may signal there's no current connection.

In order to be clear on what your router is communicating to you, refer to the user manual for a more detailed explanation. You can usually find a digital copy of your router's manual by doing a Google search using the device's name and model number followed by "user manual."

Should you continue to experience Wi-Fi issues with your Runestone Telecom Internet service after doing basic troubleshooting, call us at 320-986-2013 for assistance.