

The Connection

JULY 2024

Whatever You Do, Make It Red, White, and Blue

Happy Independence Day from Runestone Telecom! We love to be part of our community's patriotic celebrations and experience the collective pride we have in our great nation.

Contact Us

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Hoffman, MN 56339
Phone: 320-986-2013

Office Hours: M-F 8 am to 4:30 pm

Email: rtaoffice@runestone.net

24/7 HelpDesk for Internet
Outages and Technical Support:
320-986-6655

helpdesk@runestone.net

Visit Us: www.runestone.net

Find Us:   

Office Closures

Our office will be closed
Thursday, July 4th and Friday,
July 5th. On-call technicians will
be available for trouble issues.

Review Us on Google

Please let others
know about your experience as
a Runestone Telecom customer.
Scan this code and leave a
review on Google. Thanks!



FIBER INTERNET

elevates your experience

ENJOY A HIGHER LEVEL OF SPEED AND RELIABILITY

With fiber Internet from Runestone Telecom, everything becomes elevated. Your download and upload speeds go up. The reliability of your connection goes up. And your online experience — whether streaming, gaming, working, shopping, or socializing — goes up.

Don't settle for the same old Internet with lower speeds and lower reliability. After all, you don't need tech troubles bringing you down. Upgrade to one of our fiber Internet plans today with speeds up to 1 Gig and 99.9% reliability.

**CALL 320-986-2013 TO DOUBLE YOUR
SPEED FOR AS LITTLE AS \$3 A MONTH!**

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



Facebook Marketplace Scams Target Buyers and Sellers

Facebook Marketplace is a go-to destination for people to buy and sell personal goods online, primarily because Facebook doesn't charge a fee for listing on the service. Unfortunately, its popularity also makes it an attractive destination for scammers.

Whether you're buying or selling, avoid communicating with the other party privately outside of Facebook and Messenger, since having a record of your conversations is important should a problem arise. Here are additional tips for using Facebook Marketplace without getting scammed:

Buyers

- Research before you buy by reviewing a seller's business profile, along with product reviews and ratings.
- Beware of bargains that seem too good to be true.
- Be wary of sellers who want you to use a difficult-to-trace payment method, such as gift cards.
- Be wary of emails saying there was something wrong with your payment through checkout on Facebook, and avoid clicking suspicious links.

Sellers

- Be on the lookout for fake buyers. If the person has posted only limited information and doesn't have a profile picture, that's reason for caution.
- Be wary of buyers who pressure you to do an immediate transaction or try to rush the process. That haste is a red flag.
- Don't agree to pay with a personal check. It can take weeks for a bank to figure out that a check is a fake, and by then the scammer is long gone. Ask to use a different payment method.



In addition, always be cautious when you go to meet someone to conduct a transaction. If you have \$500 in your pocket or are carrying a valuable item, you might be setting yourself up to get robbed. For safety, meet in a public place such as the parking lot of a local police station.

Should you see something on Facebook Marketplace that makes you suspicious, Facebook recommends you stop communicating with the seller or buyer and report the scam. Go to www.facebook.com/help and search for "Report a Facebook Marketplace scam" for step-by-step instructions.

10 Home Security Tips for the Summer Season

Did you know home burglaries are more common in the summer? Between longer daylight hours and homeowners going on vacations, summer is a burglar's favorite season.

Follow these tips to make your home less attractive to burglars:

1. Keep windows and doors locked and window coverings drawn.
2. Keep valuables out of plain sight.
3. Install a smart home security system.
4. Use indoor and outdoor security cameras.
5. Add outdoor motion-activated lights.
6. Don't promote your vacation on social media.
7. Make it appear as though you're home.
8. Ask a neighbor for help or find a reputable house sitter.
9. Be conscious of spare keys.
10. Don't forget about the garage and outdoor sheds.

From simple video doorbells to comprehensive smart home systems, Runestone Telecom encourages you to check out the many home security systems available in the marketplace. To keep these and other connected devices operating smoothly, count on our fast and reliable fiber Internet. Call 320-986-2013 for details.



Please Join Us for Our
ANNUAL MEETING ON JULY 17TH!

The 74th Annual Meeting of Runestone Telecom Association will be held on Wednesday, July 17th at West Central Area School in Barrett at 7 pm. Registration for cash and prizes opens at 6:30 pm with musical entertainment provided by Ken Elvehjem. (Ken works in Internet Network Support, so you may have spoken to him about an Internet question.) Refreshments will be served by the WCA Trap Team following the meeting. Please save the date and plan to join us!

The 2024 Annual Report will be 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.

2023 Capital Credits Allocation Statement

Allocation statements were mailed out to our customers on June 14th, 2024. Runestone Telecom is a Cooperative that distributes net income earned back to its patrons. This statement explains your share of the net income is based on services (telephone, cable TV, Internet). It summarizes the share of the 2023 net income and lists the total balance in your capital credits account. This amount is paid to you over time with the action of our Board of Directors, acting in accordance with the bylaws of Runestone Telecom Association.

FUSC Rate Change

The FUSC (Federal Universal Service Contribution) has increased to 34.4% effective July 2, 2024.

See TV Guide

Find the latest show listings on our website at www.runestone.net > Cable Television > Additional Services > TV Guide or scan this QR code to go directly to the TV Guide. You can also purchase a subscription from www.tvguidemagazine.com.



Cable Channel Update

Channel 51 – TLC
 (formerly The Learning Channel)
Channel 52 – Travel Channel
 (formerly Trvl Channel)

New Members

- Cyrus**
 Ettesvold, Jere 320-795-2281
- Elbow Lake**
 Merritt, James 218-685-6888
- Herman**
 Grieger, Sherry 320-677-2713
 Lachowitz, Joe & Therese 320-378-3010
- Hoffman**
 Gulbranson, Rachel 320-986-2510
- Lowry**
 Larson, Duane & Patricia 320-283-5190
 Lowry Transfer Inc 320-283-5308
 Muzik, Robert L 320-283-2055
 Schumacher, Marc 320-283-5626
- Wheaton**
 Larson, Linda 320-563-8674

Try eBill and AutoPay

Instead of mailing a check, use eBill for more security, lower costs, and less time required. Choose AutoPay and we'll automatically deduct your bill amount on the 20th of the month from the account you designate.

Visit www.runestone.net to sign up. Call 320-986-2013 if you need help.



Runestone Telecom Team News



Welcome, James

James Simonson, Network Administrator, has joined our team with a degree in Cybersecurity Virtualization and Networking. Waiting to greet him at home in Brandon are his two dogs, Snowball and Bear. In his downtime, James enjoys snowboarding, skiing, and playing board games.

Thanks to Our Summer Season Workers

Our many plowing projects require lots of help, so we appreciate these crew members.

Nate Hilbrand (left) returns to our Runestone Telecom crew this season. It's great to see him back!

We also welcome Marvin Perkins (center) and Laurel Norlien (right) to our summer season. We're excited to grow our team with such great people.



Expect Fast Internet and Neighborly Service

Runestone Telecom understands the importance of having dependable, high speed Internet service in our rural communities. We live and work in the neighborhoods that our customers reside in, and we treat our customers as we wish to be treated.

We have a simple process to get newcomers connected for service, and we don't have any contracts. If ever you need help, you aren't calling someone in another state. You're calling your neighbor, Runestone Telecom, a cooperative company that gives back to our customers and community.

You need your service to be there for you, and you don't want to have to think about it. With Runestone Telecom, we're here for you with super-fast and reliable Internet service — connecting you to what matters most.

Working at Eden Acres Resort

Christian McGaffey (pictured) and Braeden Long are in the process of installing wireless Internet at Eden Acres Resort. Our crews work diligently so local resorts can ensure their customers have the best vacation experience possible with Internet access.



Photos courtesy of Braeden Long