

# The Connection

MARCH 2024



## You're One of Our Favorite Peeps

We hope you enjoy a sweet Easter season this year! All of us at Runestone Telecom feel lucky to be able to call you a customer, neighbor, and friend. It's always a pleasure to see you — whether in our office or out and about in the community — and help keep you connected to today's technology.

### 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](mailto:rtaoffice@runestone.net)

Visit Us: [www.runestone.net](http://www.runestone.net)

Find Us:   

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!



## OUR BROADBAND MEETS GROWING NEEDS

### EQUIP YOUR FARM OR RANCH WITH ROBUST CONNECTIONS

Smart technology—including precision agriculture, autonomous machinery, and water management hardware—can significantly increase output and lower costs. Taking full advantage of this technology, however, requires fast and reliable broadband throughout your rural property. That's where Runestone Telecom comes in.

We can install fiber Internet service with speeds up to 1 Gig and design a customized WiFi network to cover every acre and every outbuilding. Our goal is to support your growth.

**CALL 320-986-2013 TO DISCUSS INTERNET AND WIFI OPTIONS. DOUBLE YOUR SPEED FOR AS LITTLE AS \$3 A MONTH!**



*Service availability and Internet speed will depend on location. Certain restrictions apply. Contact us for details.*

## Solar Satellite Interference Can Disrupt TV Signals

Each year in early March, cable TV customers may experience some degree of television disruption due to a phenomenon known as solar satellite interference. This occurs as the sun passes directly behind the satellites that transmit cable signals to TV providers. When the sun is aligned with a transmitting satellite, solar flares and radiation emitted by the sun can disrupt the satellite's signal and cause brief signal issues.

The most common time for this to occur is between the hours of 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For up to 15 minutes, you may experience pixelated TV pictures, picture freezes, or audio distortions on a certain channel. You don't have to do anything to restore your cable TV service. Simply wait for the event to end. Local broadcast stations and streamed content are not impacted.

**If you have trouble with your Runestone Telecom TV service that lasts longer than a few minutes, call us at 320-986-2013.**

## See TV Guide

You can always find the most up to date show listings on our website at [www.runestone.net](http://www.runestone.net) > Cable Television > Additional Services > TV Guide or scan this QR code to go directly to the TV Guide.

You may also opt to purchase a subscription directly from [www.tvguidemagazine.com](http://www.tvguidemagazine.com).



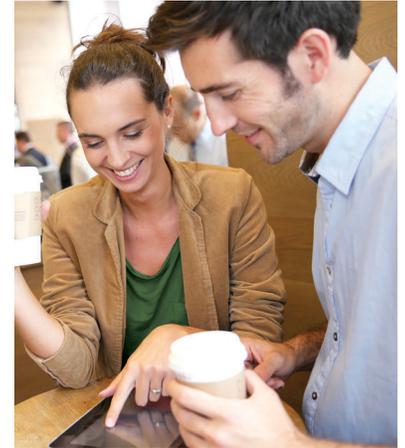
## How to Find a Free WiFi Hotspot When You Need One

Maybe you're out sightseeing for the day, away from your hotel's WiFi network. Or maybe you're staying at your grandma's house, and she doesn't have Internet service. There are times when finding a free public WiFi hotspot nearby becomes imperative.

Your best bet is to seek out these types of locations, which virtually always make WiFi available at no cost to visitors and customers:

- Restaurants
- Coffee shops
- Public libraries
- University campuses
- Hospitals
- Schools
- Airport terminals

City parks and other publicly funded facilities may also offer free public WiFi hotspots, but the connection may not be the best, especially in outdoor areas.



If you aren't having luck on your own, consider using a WiFi finder app for help. These apps display a map of the area with a list of free public WiFi hotspots available, and may also provide login requirements, information about security and signal strength, and user reviews.

While there are many apps on the Google Play Store and Apple App Store that claim to provide details about nearby WiFi hotspots, not all of them are reliable. Some show hotspots that are no longer available or give outdated passwords. For the best experience, stick to these highly rated WiFi finder apps:

- Instabridge - Free WiFi
- WiFi Map
- SpeedSpot WiFi Finder
- WiFi Finder + Map
- WiFi Space

Once you've arrived at a location with a free public WiFi hotspot, you may be able to simply choose the WiFi name and connect. If it's a secured connection, you'll have to enter the password that's posted or ask an employee for help. Some businesses require you to agree to their terms of service or provide an email address before they'll let you use their free WiFi.

**Is the WiFi you have at home everything you want it to be? If not, call us at 320-986-2013 and ask about Managed WiFi for improved coverage, reliability, and security.**

# 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. Thank you!

## Barrett

Bear, Charles  
Brogger, Theresa A  
Citizen's Agency Bank  
Elrite, Elizabeth  
Fossan, Sid  
Harris, Kevin  
Jacobson, Matthew  
Jacobson, Mrs Odin  
Kezar, James Jr  
Kezar, Melanie  
Ober, Lori  
Parker, Sherry L  
Pikop, Anthony

## Cyrus

Anderson, Betty L  
Anderson, Clifford  
Brustuen, Gail  
Decker, Lorrie R  
Gehring, Be  
Gullickson, Jilene R  
Hulten, Amanda  
Jensen, Gary  
Lopez, Kevin  
Patterson-Pratt,  
Michael & Julie  
RCC Network Inc  
Roberts, Douglas  
Spieker, Jessica  
Wersinger, Joseph & Doris

## Donnelly

Eselin, Laurie  
Giese, Kristi  
Olson, Jed

## Elbow Lake

Access Anywhere  
Arth, George & Janis  
Automated Wagering MN  
Benson, David R  
Berding, Ms Lee  
Best, Sharon  
Brewzers Inc %Kari Peters  
Buttke, Christopher M  
Camas Minndak  
Carlson-Stueve, Melissa  
Carr, Bill  
Davis, James  
Edwards, Ardis  
Ellert, Roger  
Endreson, Mark

Erie, Irene  
Fisher, Jody  
Gilmartin, Peter D  
Handy Ramp Mfg  
Co %Mark Miles  
Holter, Matthew & V L  
Johnson, Karen  
Larson, Cory  
Larson, Lem  
Linehan, Shawn T  
Lubarski, Gerald  
Lundberg, Gina  
Matz, Patrick A & Stephanie  
McCann, Shirley  
McSorley, Jeffrey  
Mueller, Jill  
Saunders, Cody  
Scott, Beverley  
Sereno, Ricardo  
Severud, Helen  
Smith, Lisa F  
South, Nancy  
Strom, Steven  
Taylor, Gene  
Wells, Ronald D & Ann M  
Westrom, Trevor  
Wilcock, Bonnie  
Willemsen, Thaine & Donna

## Hoffman

Best, Mildred A  
Blom, Kris  
Burgess, David & Melonie  
Ciaramitaro, James  
Demo, Dennis Howard  
Goldsworthy, Beverly  
Johnson, Hazel  
Johnson, Joyce & Chris  
Liebl, Melonie  
Moe, James  
Mueller, Angela  
Mulville, Michael & Wendy  
Petermann, Gary B  
Proudfoot, Kathleen  
Schermeister, Michael  
Schumann, Randy  
White, Carl  
Williams Machine & Design

## Kensington

Beliveau, David  
Christ, William & Julia  
Coleman, Betty J

Eldredge, Charles T  
Eldredge, Michael & Cathy  
Erickson, Jessica  
Hvezda, Shannon L  
Johnson, Mrs Reuben  
Kroupa, Carol  
Mielke, Carol  
Nicholas, Dale E  
Nissila, Beverly  
Pollock, Judy Lynne  
Russell, Daniel  
Schmidt, Valerie  
Simmons, Anothony  
Simonson, Renae  
Smith, Bruce W & Joyce  
Strommen, Dale  
Swenson, Kevin James  
& Lisa Marie  
Tollefson, Thor & Angela  
Zimmerman, Randy & Lois

## Norcross

Amundson, Calvin K

## Tintah

Abul Express  
Bredeson, E Scott  
Broesder, Maynard  
Courbat, Calvin  
Lancaster, Randolph R  
Lilly, Christina J  
Niesche, Scott & Stacie  
Ricks-Kumm, Shanan  
Roach, Leland Jr  
Seiffert, Betty  
Spent, Alvina

## Wendell

Bergan, L A  
Doughty, William A  
Kurtz, Robert & Roshelle  
Mathews, Marie  
Olson, Annette



Chris Veldhouse and Ryan Schonhardt unload the new generator in the bitter wind.

## Runestone Telecom Gets a New Generator

Our old generator gave us challenges for many years. It needed to be manually reconnected and started, and it was too small to power our entire office. This new generator is fully automatic and will power our entire space, enabling us to continue normal operations during extended power outages. We'll be better prepared to avoid downtime when our servers are without power and able to keep bringing you the best service possible.

## New Directory Mailed

We mailed out the 2024 Viking Regional Directory in February. You may also pick up a copy at our office.

Minnesota law requires all discarded telephone directories to be recycled. Please return your directory to our office, put it in your normal recycling bins, or bring it to your local recycling center.



## National Ag Day Celebrates Growth

On March 19, 2024, we celebrate National Ag Day and join with producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies, and individuals to recognize the importance of agriculture in the U.S. This year's theme is "Growing a Climate for Tomorrow," in recognition of the commitment of America's farmers to protect soil, air, and water as they raise crops and livestock.

National Ag Day was founded by the Agriculture Council of America (ACA) and was first celebrated in 1979. Since then, the ACA has continued to build awareness about the role of agriculture in modern society and make sure none of us take agriculture for granted.

As a communications provider, we offer the Internet service required for local farmers to increase efficiency and productivity through smart farm technology.

## New Members

### Barrett

Albertsen, Dorothy..... 320-528-4211

### Cyrus

Bird Island Bean  
Company LLC..... 320-795-2468

### Elbow Lake

Johnson, Linda J ..... 218-685-2244  
Norby, Ron & Pat ..... 218-685-2044

### Hoffman

Heinrich, Mitchell  
& Serenity..... 320-986-2051

### Lowry

Farwell Feed &  
Supply LLC..... 320-283-5154  
Mamma G's..... 320-283-5377



## Hot Bounty on Local Gophers

If you grew up in a rural farming community or now live in one, you may be familiar with the trapping of gophers. These animals can be a gold mine to trappers, as townships may pay well for the evidence of a gopher who has met its demise.

Gophers don't just wreak havoc in lawns, ditches, and fields with their mounds of soil, they also create major problems underground. While they do a very good job producing tunnels that aerate the packed earth, their soil mounds can also damage farm and lawn equipment. Not only are they nature's menace on the surface, but they can cause expensive problems underground to buried fiber-optic lines, leading to major disruptions to Internet services.

When crews plow the fiber-optic cables into the ground, they carve into the earth, creating easy access for the gophers to the cable. Even though the delicate glass wires are encased in rodent-resistant armor protection, this may be no match for the generations of gophers who have figured out how to chew through fiber lines over the years.

These menacing creatures may think they're invincible, but you can help reduce their population by taking advantage of our Gopher Bounty Program. Runestone Telecom works with the local townships by matching bounty dollars for each gopher trapped in our service area. Only current Runestone members or their children are eligible. Townships are responsible for paying the gopher bounty to the individuals. Runestone Telecom does not pay the individuals directly but will reimburse the township upon request.

**Contact your local township for details on how to exchange your gopher feet for cash. Please do not bring your gophers to our Runestone Telecom office.**

## Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is Winding Down

Without additional funding from Congress, the allotted \$14.2 billion to fund the ACP program, which provides Internet discounts to eligible households, is projected to run out in April 2024. For more information about the wind-down process, you can call the ACP Support Center at 877-384-2575.