

# Connections

JULY 2025

## Sizzling Summer Fun

Watch for Runestone Telecom at events including:

- Grant County Fair, July 17th–20th, Herman, MN
- Stearns County Fair, August 6th–10th, Sauk Centre, MN
- Traverse County Fair, August 21st–24th, Wheaton, MN

## Office Closure

We'll be closed on Friday, July 4th for Independence Day. Trouble calls will be handled by our on-call technicians.

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

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

[helpdesk@runestone.net](mailto:helpdesk@runestone.net)

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

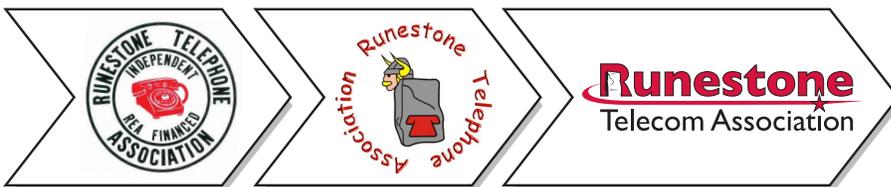
Find Us:   

## 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!



# 75 Years of Keeping You Connected



## Join us on July 16th as we celebrate 75 years!

Save the date of Wednesday, July 16th and plan to join us as we celebrate 75 years of service to our communities! This event will be held at West Central Area High School in Barrett and will include a Lion's Club pulled pork meal and ice cream. Bring your family! Following the meal, our Annual Meeting will update our members with the report on Runestone Telecom. Twins Tickets, Cash, prizes, and RTA swag will be given away after the meeting.





## A New Baby and a New Adventure

Congratulations to Christian & Morgan McGaffey! Grace Elsa joined their family on May 23rd, and we're so excited for them. Sadly, Runestone Telecom also has to say goodbye to Christian, as he's left our team to embark on a new life adventure — returning to a career as a lineman, yet still working in fiber. We'll miss you in our community, Christian & Morgan, and wish you the best of luck.

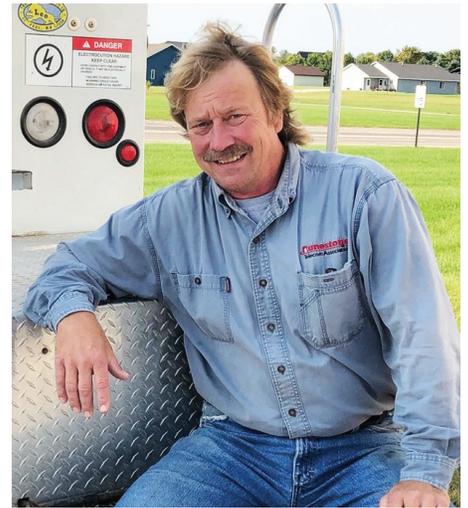
## Do You Use a Runestone Email Address?

If your email address contains runestone.net, we have an announcement for you. Runestone Telecom will be migrating to a new email server at the beginning of August, so our webmail and spam filter interface will have a new look. Those checking with an email client (Outlook, Thunderbird, etc.) shouldn't notice any difference.

If you have questions about your email, call our Internet Department at 320-986-6655.

## Brad Frank Retires

We thank Brad Frank for his dedication of 32 years of service to our organization. It's been a pleasure to work with Brad over the years; his willingness to help his coworkers and loyalty to our customers does not go unnoticed. Brad has been invaluable to our team and we appreciate the time he has dedicated to our company. Brad, with gratitude of your service, we wish you the best of everything as you venture into your retirement! You will be missed.



## Returning Marvin Perkins

We welcome Marvin Perkins back! He has returned to our Runestone Telecom crew for the summer season to help with our many plowing projects. Marvin always has a smile & brightens up even more when you ask him about his baby daughter. We're happy to have him back!

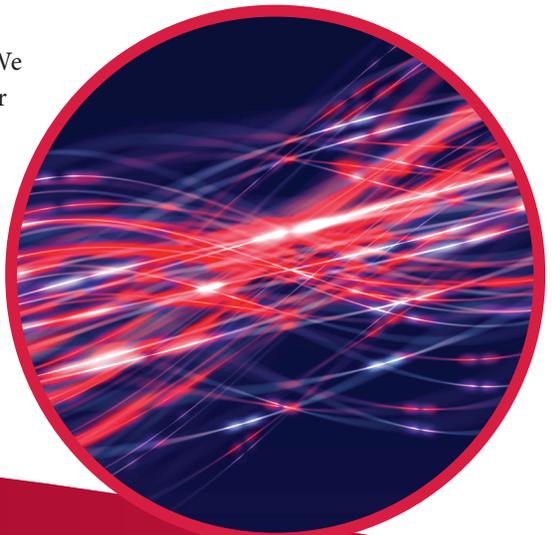


## Need a Faster Connection? Our Internet Technicians Can Help!

Is your internet feeling sluggish? Have you recently added security cameras, medical devices, or a gamer to the household?

It might be time for a speed upgrade! We now include a high-performance router with your Internet service—perfect for handling today's connected homes.

Give our Internet Technicians a call at 320-986-6655 to check your current speed and ensure you're getting the most from your service.



# Local Student Awarded Statewide Scholarship

Rebecca Femrite and Kent Hedstrom



The Minnesota Telecom Alliance (MTA) is proud to announce that it received 117 scholarship applications from students across Minnesota — and one of the winners is right here in our community. Ms. Rebecca Femrite has been selected as the recipient of a \$2,000 general scholarship, presented by the MTA Foundation. The award was announced by Kent Hedstrom of Runestone Telephone Association, who's a proud supporter of the scholarship program.

“We’re honored to support Ms. Femrite’s educational journey,” said Mr. Hedstrom. “It’s incredibly rewarding to see one of the statewide winners come from our area. Rural communities depend on bright, talented young people to become the leaders of tomorrow, and this scholarship is an investment in that future.”

The MTA Foundation is part of the MTA, a trade association representing more than 44 telephone companies and cooperatives across the state.

## Community Is Our Middle Name

Living and working in the same community as your Internet Service Provider (ISP) may be even more beneficial than you realize. Runestone Telecom offers many advantages over national competitors including these:

- **We know the community.** As your local ISP, we’re deeply rooted here and have the connections, relationships, and local knowledge other companies simply do not have. We understand how to get things done efficiently.
- **We lend a hand to help.** As a company and as individual employees, you’ll see Runestone Telecom actively involved in the community through donations and volunteering.
- **We provide personal customer service.** You’re not just a customer to us. You’re also a neighbor and someone our employees will run into at the grocery store or at community events. We genuinely care about you, your satisfaction, and your success.

Runestone Telecom is proud to be your local ISP and honored to serve you. To learn more about our community involvement, follow us on Facebook.



## Capital Credit Checks Coming

Capital Credit checks will be mailed out in November, refunding approximately \$2,000,000. We’ll be refunding the remainder of 2006 and 30% of 2024. Allocation statements were mailed out to our customers on June 11th, 2025. Runestone Telecom Association is a cooperative that distributes net income earned back to its patrons. Your allocation statement explains that your share of the net income is based on services (telephone, cable TV, and/or Internet). It summarizes the share of the 2024 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) will decrease from 36.6% to 36.0% effective July 1st.



- Conveniently pay your bill with eBill and AutoPay.
- Pay your bill by the 20th of the month to avoid late fees and disconnection. Please don't use staples to attach your checks.
- Scan to go directly to the TV Guide.



## New Members

### Cyrus

Ettesvold, Jere.....320-795-2281

### Elbow Lake

Koob, Stephanie.....218-685-2024

Ludwig, T L.....218-685-4009

Naughter, John &

Dorothy.....218-685-5492

### Herman

Weiser, Rodney.....320-677-2365



# 5 Downsides of 5G Home Internet



As the saying goes, "If it seems too good to be true, it probably is." Some customers who switched to 5G home Internet are feeling buyer's remorse for these reasons:

1. **Service is less stable.** Signals for 5G travel through the air rather than in cables underground, and speeds tend to fluctuate more often.
2. **Actual speeds are often slower than advertised ones.** Factors such as network congestion, buildings and other obstructions, and inclement weather can slow down speeds.
3. **During peak usage times, your connection may be deprioritized.** This is because 5G home Internet is a connection shared by many users.
4. **The farther you are from the radio towers, the weaker your Internet signal will be.** Since 5G home Internet uses radio frequencies, the travel distances of the signals are limited.
5. **5G home Internet isn't as good as fiber Internet.** Fiber is the fastest, most reliable Internet available.

Call 320-986-2013 for details on our fiber Internet.

# How to Safeguard Your Personal Data



Data breaches are increasingly common, so taking steps to protect yourself from identity fraud is essential. Here's what you can do to decrease your risks:

1. **Place a security freeze on your credit accounts** with the credit bureaus Experian, Equifax, and Transunion. This prevents anyone from opening a new credit line in your name. It's also a good idea to take advantage of the free credit reports you're entitled to yearly. That way you can notify the bureaus if you see activity you don't recognize.
2. **Set up banking alerts on your accounts.** You'll get real-time notifications of unusual activity in your accounts, so you can stay on top of your account security and respond quickly to potential threats.
3. **Use strong and unique passwords for every online account.** While it may be tempting to have common, easy-to-remember passwords, doing so makes things easier for cybercriminals. Consider using a password manager that creates complex passwords and stores them securely.