

Connections

MAY 2025

Win a \$25 Credit on Your Bill

Look for your own account number hidden somewhere in our newsletter. There are **two** account numbers hidden. When you find your account number, let our office know by May 19th, and you'll get \$25 off your next bill! Email rtaoffice@runestone.com or call us at 320-986-2013.

Office Closure

We'll be closed on Mon., May 26th for Memorial 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

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

helpdesk@runestone.net

Visit Us: 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!



Runestone
Telecom Association

MOMS *are* WINNERS

(and so are our
Internet connections)

LET'S CELEBRATE EVERY IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE

In addition to caring for their children, every mom excels at different things. Some are winners at video games, social media, or photography. Others are winners at multi-tasking, household management, or learning new skills. The list goes on and on.

To handle it all, moms need the mother of all Internet technology — our super-fast and reliable fiber Internet, with speeds up to 1 Gig. Is it time for an upgrade?

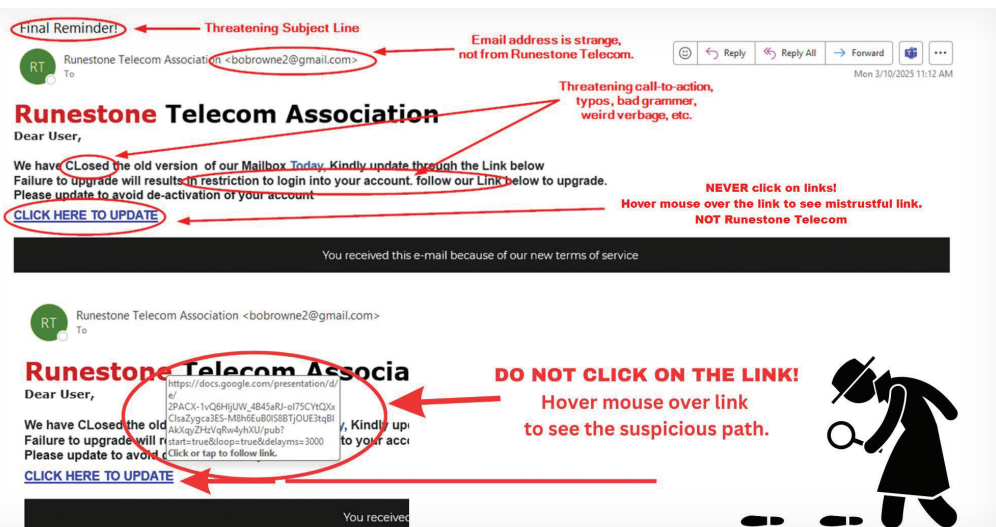
**FOR WINNING INTERNET,
CALL 320-986-2013**

Happy
MOTHER'S DAY!



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

Be on Alert for Phishing Scams



Runestone Telecom works hard to keep our customers' private information secure, but we know scammers use phishing scams to try to trick people into giving out personal or financial data. Since we care about you, we're sharing tips on how to recognize these scams and avoid identity theft.

Above is an example of an email you may have seen come through your inbox. It fraudulently claims to be from Runestone Telecom. Take a look at the telltale signs of a phishing scam noted in red.

Scammers may try to steal your passwords, banking and credit card information, or Social Security numbers — anything they can get to tap into your identity. They typically present themselves as a company you know and trust, then ask for this private information. When successful, scammers may infect your computer with malware, steal your money, and wreak havoc on your credit standing.

Phishing emails will tell you a story to get you to click on a link or open an attachment. They may claim there's a problem with your account, demand confirmation, include a fake invoice, require payment, or offer a coupon to get your attention. DO NOT click or open anything in an email like this. Delete it immediately, then delete it from your trash. Clicking on links even after it's in your trash will not protect you.

If you accidentally respond to a phishing email and think a scammer has your information, change your password as soon as possible and contact the institution involved (such as your bank, credit card company, or Runestone Telecom). For further help, go to [IdentityTheft.org](https://www.identitytheft.org). Also update your computer's security software and run a scan, then report it to reportphishing@apwg.org. If you get a phishing text message, forward it to SPAM (7726).

Sizzling Summer Fun

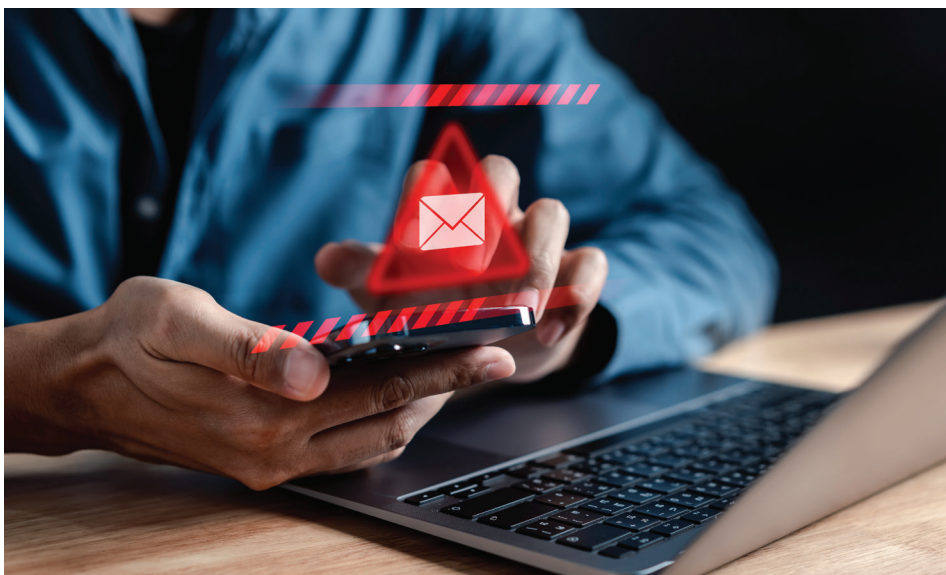
We can't wait for summer 2025! Watch for Runestone Telecom in area parades and events including:

- 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

Runestone Telecom Celebrates 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 pork chop meal and ice cream. Bring your family! Following the meal, our Annual Meeting will update our members with the report on Runestone Telecom. Prizes and RTA swag will be given away after the meeting. 00007453-1





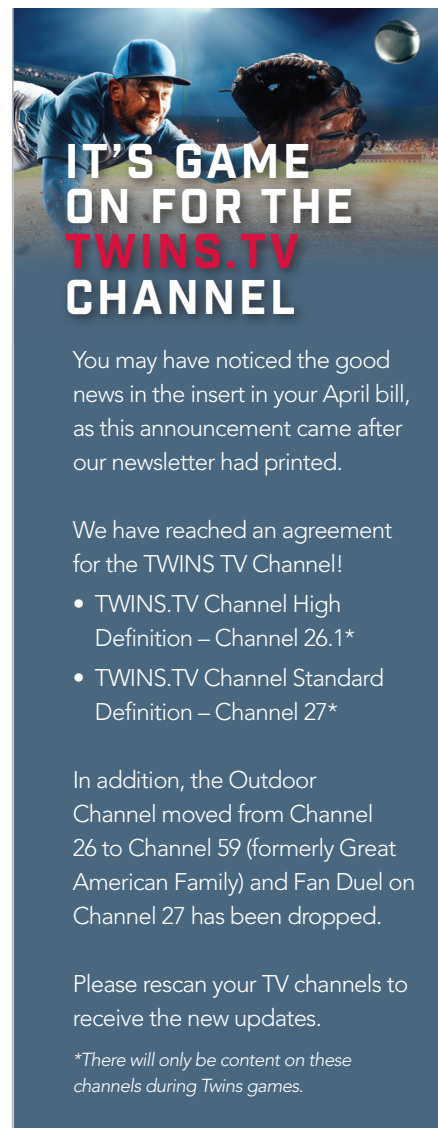
How to Get Less Spam in Your Inbox

While most spam emails are relatively harmless and just annoying, keep in mind that scammers also use them to unleash phishing attacks and expose you to malware. That's why it's important to take steps to reduce the number of spam emails that get through to your inbox.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) recommends using these strategies:

- **Use an email filter.** Check your email account to see if it has a tool to filter out unwanted emails or to funnel them into a junk email folder. Many email providers (like Gmail or Yahoo) have strong spam filters turned on by default. But there are ways to make them work even better. For example, if any spam makes it through to your inbox, mark it as spam or junk. Filters aren't perfect, so even emails that make it past the filter might still be spam. Also, check your spam or junk folders occasionally to make sure non-spam email didn't end up in there.
- **Block unwanted emails.** Check your email provider's settings for steps to block unwanted emails. Try blocking specific email addresses or email domains (the part of the address after the @).
- **Check to see how companies will use your email address.** Different websites and apps handle your privacy differently. When you give a company your email address, it might share or sell it to third parties. Checking a company's privacy policy might help you see how they'll share your contact information.
- **Unsubscribe from unwanted emails.** Many email providers have features that help you unsubscribe from email lists. They may show up as a banner or as a button when you open the email. To find out what options your email provider has, search online for the name of your email provider, plus "how to unsubscribe from unwanted emails."

Here's an added bonus: When you reduce spam emails, it's easier to manage the emails that are important to you.



IT'S GAME ON FOR THE TWINS.TV CHANNEL

You may have noticed the good news in the insert in your April bill, as this announcement came after our newsletter had printed.

We have reached an agreement for the TWINS TV Channel!

- TWINS.TV Channel High Definition – Channel 26.1*
- TWINS.TV Channel Standard Definition – Channel 27*

In addition, the Outdoor Channel moved from Channel 26 to Channel 59 (formerly Great American Family) and Fan Duel on Channel 27 has been dropped.

Please rescan your TV channels to receive the new updates.

*There will only be content on these channels during Twins games.

Congrats to Grads, Thanks to Teachers

As the school year winds down, Runestone Telecom recognizes the hard work of local students who will graduate and the teachers who have educated them. We congratulate all our graduates and wish them luck with their next chapters. We also express our thanks to teachers, and encourage you to do the same, during Teacher Appreciation Week, May 5th-9th.



Fiber Build Updates

Our construction crews are bringing fiber-optic Internet to Western Stearns County. Get more information at www.runestonewesternstearns.com.



- 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

Barrett

Dahl, Thomas 320-528-2570

Kensington

Dobbs, Dennis ... 320-965-2366

Olson, Debby 320-965-2394

Lowry

Muzik, Robert L.. 320-283-2055



Before You Dig, Know How Public and Private Utilities Differ

We often remind you to call 811 before you dig to have underground utilities located, such as electric, water, gas, communications, and sewer lines. These are all public utilities and are responsible for maintaining their underground facilities. Part of that responsibility includes registering with 811 so their lines may be located for free. 00007196-9

A private utility, however, is owned and maintained by the property owner and is not registered with 811. It's the responsibility of the homeowner to have their private utilities located at their own expense.

Common examples of private utilities include:

- Sprinkler or irrigation systems
- Electric running to a detached garage or shop
- Lines connected to a propane tank or septic system
- Gas lines underground for grills and outdoor fire pits
- Electric dog fence

If you have private utilities on your property, you must contact a private utility locating company to have those lines marked. This is in addition to calling 811 to have public utilities located.



Here's Why the Poppy Is a Symbol of Memorial Day

On the last Monday in May, we observe Memorial Day to honor the men and women who have died while serving in our military.

The symbolism of the poppy dates back to World War 1. The seeds of the common red field poppy were scattered in the wind and sat dormant in the ground, only germinating when the ground was disturbed — as it was by the brutal fighting in Europe's battlefields. John McCrae, a Canadian soldier and physician, witnessed the war and wrote the famous poem, "In Flanders Fields," in 1915. It reads, in part: "In Flanders fields the poppies blow between the crosses, row on row."

In 1918, an American professor named Moina Michael wrote her own poem, "We Shall Keep the Faith," inspired by McCrae's "In Flanders Fields." Her poem mentions wearing the "poppy red" to honor the dead, and with that, the tradition of adorning one's clothing with a single red poppy was born.