

Connections

MARCH 2026

Handy Reminders

- 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.

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!



Bounty Out for 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 your 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.

Cable Channel Update

Effective February 16, 2026, Channel 18.3 getTV has become GREAT! TV

Sun Outages May Affect TV Service

In early March, cable TV customers might see some brief signal glitches thanks to a cosmic quirk called solar satellite interference (aka sun outages).

This happens when the sun lines up directly behind the satellites beaming your TV signal. Around the spring equinox (late February through mid-March), the sun's intense radiation temporarily overpowers the signal, which can cause pixelation, frozen pictures, audio dropouts, or even short blackouts on certain channels. The interruptions usually last just 5 to 15 minutes per day during daylight hours, and they fade away after a week or so. There's no need to call anyone or reprogram your TV; just wait it out.

If you have trouble with your Runestone TV service that lasts longer than 20 minutes, or after the sun has set, please call us at 320-986-2013.

New Members

Welcome to Runestone Telecom!
We're pleased to have you with our cooperative.

Barrett

Getz, David..... 320-528-6617

Elbow Lake

Red River Sales
& Agronomy Inc..... 218-685-6100

Wheaton

Bock, Barbara..... 320-422-1146
Hasbargen, Cynthia... 320-422-1064
Hasbargen, Fred..... 320-422-1065

APWA Uniform Color Code		Facility operators are required to mark all underground utility lines with standard color codes as established by the American Public Works Association (APWA) .	
WHITE	Area of Proposed Excavation	ORANGE	Communication, CATV, Fiber
RED	Electric	PURPLE	Reclaimed Water, Irrigation
PINK	Temporary Survey Markings	BLUE	Water
YELLOW	Gas, Oil, Steam, Propane	GREEN	Sewer

www.gopherstateonecall.org

Call 811 Before You Dig to Protect Buried Lines

Before starting any digging project, it's important to remember what lies beneath your yard. Underground utilities—including natural gas, electric, water, sewer, and communication lines—are essential to daily life and are often closer to the surface than expected. Even small projects like planting shrubs, installing fence posts, setting a mailbox, or creating a garden bed can cause damage if utilities aren't located first.

You must contact 811 or submit a request online through gopherstateonecall.org in Minnesota at least 48 hours before digging, excluding weekends and holidays. This is required by state law and coordinated through Gopher State One Call (GSOC). Utility companies in your area will be notified and will mark, for free, the approximate locations of their buried lines using colored paint or flags. Refer to the chart to see the standard color codes.

After submitting your request, allow at least two working days for utilities to respond. Before locators arrive, mark your planned digging area with white chalk, white paint, flags, or stakes. This helps ensure markings are limited to your project area and improves accuracy.

Before beginning your digging project, confirm that all utilities have marked or cleared your ticket by verifying online through GSOC. Remember—utility markings show approximate locations and digging should be done with care. When digging within two feet of marked lines, use hand tools only. Striking a line can result in costly repairs, service interruptions, and serious safety hazards. If markings appear unclear or incomplete, contact 811 again before continuing.

Please note that private underground facilities are not marked by utility operators. Property owners or tenants are responsible for locating private utility lines or hiring a professional to do so.

Taking a few extra steps before digging helps protect vital services and keeps projects moving safely and smoothly.

Unclaimed Capital Credit Checks

The following is a list of previous members with outstanding Capital Credit Checks. Please contact our office at 320-986-2013.

Barrett

Angen Transportation
Barrett Locker C/O Stephen J Bayerl
Bear, Charles
Elrite, Elizabeth C/O William Elrite
Frost, Madison
Getz, Gerrit
Harris, Gary & Lynda
Harris, Kevin
Jacobson, Matthew
Kezar, James Jr
Kezar, Melanie
Nordquist, Lon
Ober, Lori
Parker, Sherry L
Pikop, Anthony
Robinson, Sue

Cyrus

Anderson, Clifford
Boelter, Alexander Charles
Boysen, John
Boysen, John & Pamela A
Decker, Lorrie R
Ellingson, Jennifer
Froese, Anna
Gehring, Be
Hamre, Mavis
Hjellming, Steven M
Hoffman, Matthew/Melissa
Hulten, Amanda
Kalberer, Ryan
Larson, Dan & Pam
Matson, Robert & Audrey
Moyle, Todd
Olson, Mae C/O Eugene Olson
Patterson-Pratt, Michael & Julie
Payne, Brian
Perrine, Aaron A & Stephanie J
RCC Network Inc
Roberts, Douglas
Sellner, Cole
Stock, Brandon
Wrolson, Ruth
Zumhofe, Gene (Buck)

Donnelly

Anderson, Bertha
Eselin, Laurie
Giese, Kristi
Goodwin, Christopher
Lantz, Don
Pace, Kristi
Pashen, Casey
Sorensen, Teresa
Weatherly, Michael J
Wooldridge, Sayge

Elbow Lake

Access Anywhere
Anderson, Heather
Anderson, Katelyn
Anderton, Cheryl
Arth, George & Janice
ATC Microwave
Bachman, Stacey L

Berding, Ms Lee
Best, Sharon
Bond, Jason L
Byrne, Eamon T
Camas Minndak
Carlson-Stueve, Melissa
Carr, Bill
Chambers, Carolyn A
Country Inn Motel Or
Robert Anderson
Davis, James
Denardo, Chad
Edwards, Arcis
Ehlers, Nevin Or Neil Ehlers
Ellert, Roger
Erickson, Roger
Erie, Irene C/O Judy Hunter
Fischer, Zach
Fisher, Jody
Gilmartin, Peter D
Gordon, Zach
Handy Ramp Mfg Co C/O Mark Miles
Hilde, Cindy Louise
Hodgkins, Christopher H
Holm, Reese
Holter, Matthew & V L
Human Performance
Systems Attn: Pat Romo
IMX-ETI Life Partners Inc
Jennen, Nathan & Elizebeth
Johnson, Hazel C/O Curtis Loschy
Johnson, Karen
Johnson, Kelsi
Kramer, Brian
Ladwig, Marie C/O Dean Ladwig
Larson, Cory C/O Susie Huffman
Larson, Lem
Lindenberg, David
Lindholm, Tim & Hope
Linehan, Shawn T
Lubarski, Gerald
Lundberg, Gina
Manns, Haily
Matz, Patrick A & Stephanie
McCann, Shirley
Mohagen, Harold
Moran, Phillip
Mueller, Jill
Norris, Heather
Rau, Ryan
Rustan, Ryan & Melissa Myron-Rustan
Scott, Beverley
Sereno, Ricardo
Severud, Helen C/O
Kenneth Severud
Springer (Kowalski), Abby
Strom, Steven
Taylor, Gene
Thompson, Jordan
Tofer, Kristian
Uram, Katherine
US Postal Service-Elbow Lake
WebMd-Attn:AP Scan Dept
Wells, Ronald D & Ann M
Wetherbee, Robert & Mary
Wilcock, Bonnie

Hoffman

Amore, Melissa
Anderson, Chris
Byrne, Eamon T
Best, Mildred A
Blair, Lewis
Blakesley, Paul
Blaskowski, Mark & Joni
Bluser, Christina M
Bodde, Dwayne L
Bukkila, Keith & Kelly
Burgess, David & Melonie
Cauthren, Maggie Jo
Ciaramitaro, James
Demo, Dennis Howard
Goldsworthy, Beverly
Heemstra, Tammy
Kaminsky, William R
Larson, Morgan C/O Virgil Holtz POA
Lesnau, Charleen
Liebl, Melonie
Lopez, Fernando B
Moe, James
Moravec, Joseph
MTS/AAT LLC
Mueller, Angela
Mulville, Michael & Wendy
Nieland, Dorothy M
Odden, Allen
O'Neill, Sandra
Orcutt, Dan E
Petermann, Gary B
Peterson, Leilani
Proudfoot, Kathleen
Rinkenberger, Josiah
Saurer, Ryan
Schumann, Randy
Stavick, William A
White, Carl C/O Rosie Grammentz
Williams, Wade

Holmes City

Brickweg, Bryce

Kensington

Anderson, James E
Ball, Winston
Beliveau, David
Blascyk, Thomas
Bosma, Justin & Abigail
Christ, William & Julia
Dorman, Erica
Dropp, Raymond & Deanna
Eldredge, Charles T
Eldredge, Michael & Cathy
Greenwaldt, Troy
Hall, Melodie
Heller, Matthew
Hvezda, Sharon L
James, Gary
Johnson, Mrs Reuben
King, Patricia
Koloski, Andrew
Kroupa, Carol
Mickelson, Steven
Midwest Grain Systems

Mielke, Carol
Nelson, Edrald & Ruby
Nessman, Joey & Kristie
Nicholas, Dale E
Nissila, Beverly
Paczkowski, Brad & Pam
Pollock, Judy Lynne
Schmidt, Valerie
Simonson, Renae
Swenson, Kevin James & Lisa Marie
Zimmerman, Randy & Lois
Zobel, Larry

Lowry

Guhlke, Jeremy & Sarah
Hoffart, Kate
Johnson, Melissa
Jones, Michael
Kurkosky, Sean
Olson, Brandon
Richards, Tina
Risnes, Scott
Thompson, Jenifer & Scott
Walker, Dean

Norcross

Amundson, Calvin K
Beck, Forrest & Marilyn
Castillo, Alma
Coleman, Nick
Gunderson, Steve & Deb
Michaels, Rodney
S & J's Heating And Air LLC
Scheiterlein, Gayle

Starbuck

Brown, Michael

Tintah

Abul Express
Bredeson, E Scott
Broesder, Maynard
Fritz, Roger R
Heyda, Amanda
Krause, Martha
Lancaster, Colette Madsen
Lilly, Christina J
Ray, Robert
Ricks-Kumm, Shanan
Roach, Leland Jr
Seiffert, Betty
Spentz, Alvinaw

Wendell

Aurdahl, Bradley K
Bergan, L A
Doughty, William A
Hardin, Irving & Joy
Kurtz, Robert & Roshelle
Mathews, Marie
Peterson, Katie L
Resler, Loretta

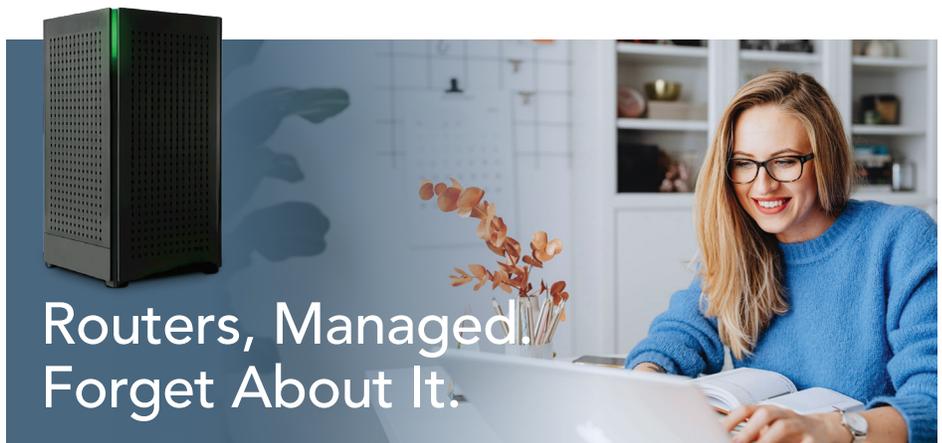
FCC Adopts Rule to Combat Foreign Robocalls

The FCC wants to give consumers more caller ID data to help combat a rising number of robocalls, particularly from overseas. A rule adopted in late 2025 will:

- Broaden the definition of “caller identity information.”
- Implement new requirements for service providers.
- Mandate that providers alert consumers when calls are coming from overseas.
- Block the use of U.S. area codes for calls that originate in foreign countries.
- Require voice providers to verify that caller name and other information transmitted to consumers is accurate.

Robocalls are the top consumer complaint to the FCC. Under the new rule, providers will not only be required to display a verified caller name but also other useful data like a brand logo or the reason for a call.

FCC Chair Brendan Carr said, “With more information, people can stop guessing and start making better informed decisions. We focused some of the new rulemaking on foreign originated robocalls because a large number of fraudulent calls come from overseas.”



Let Runestone Telecom do the heavy lifting when it comes to choosing a router. There’s no need to turn router shopping into a research project. While it can be tempting to order a router online, that decision often leads to frustration. Compatibility issues, mismatched performance, wasted time, and unnecessary expense can quickly add up. Your time and money are valuable—let our technicians take care of router selection for you.

We include a high-quality, managed router with your Internet service from us. If your home or business needs an extra boost, our experienced technicians will help you find the right fit, including extended mesh units available at a low lease fee. Our routers are designed specifically for our network, ensuring true plug-and-play simplicity. There’s nothing for you to program, no setup guides to decipher, and no passwords to fight with — we handle it all. Plus, when one eventually wears out — as all technology does — we’ll replace it at no charge.

Because our routers are managed, our technicians can remotely troubleshoot and resolve issues if a glitch pops up. No research, no YouTube videos, and no trial-and-error resets. Just one call to our IT experts, and we’ll get you back online quickly.

Security is another major advantage. Threats evolve daily, and our routers include built-in protections tailored to our services, along with automatic firmware updates to keep you protected. Many off-the-shelf routers require manual updates (which are easy to forget), leaving you vulnerable. Our routers also support advanced features like parental controls and guest networks without extra apps or added fees.

When you use our router, you’re backed by a dedicated local support team. If there’s an issue, one call puts us to work — no generic forums, no waiting on hold with a manufacturer, and no warranty hassles that could leave you offline for days.

When you factor in performance issues, repair costs, or replacing a router sooner than expected, the “cheaper” option often isn’t cheaper at all. Skip the research, the setup, and the frustration. Use a Runestone Telecom router and have one less thing to worry about. Call 320-986-6655 to get started.