

Connections

JUNE 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

technicalsupport@runestone.net

Visit Us: www.runestone.net

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Runestone
Telecom Association



OUR 2026 ANNUAL MEETING PROMISES TO BE A WINNER!

SAVE THE DATE OF JULY 8TH

Runestone Telecom's 76th Annual Meeting is set for **Wednesday, July 8th** at West Central Area High School in Barrett. **Registration opens at 5:30 pm, and the meeting begins at 7 pm.**

PLAY BINGO FOR CASH

Bingo kicks off at 6:00 pm, and you won't want to miss this opportunity to go home with extra money in your pocket. Plus, we'll be giving away Twins baseball tickets, Runestone swag, and other prizes to lucky winners throughout the evening.

TREAT YOURSELF

Stick around after the meeting to enjoy refreshments served by the WCA Trap Shooting Team.

All of our cooperative members are winners, and we look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting!

Have Fun in the Sun

Runestone Telecom can't wait for all of these summer events:

76th Annual Meeting

July 8th at West Central Area School in Barrett, MN

Registration - 5:30pm

Bingo - 6pm

Meeting - 7pm

Grant County Fair

July 16th-19th

Traverse County Family Fun Night

July 27th

Traverse County Fair

August 27th-30th

Grant County Get Together

September TBA

Watch for us in the parades too!



When you're planning a project that involves digging, call 811 or visit 811beforeyoudig.com. A locator will come out and mark underground utilities so you can avoid them safely — at no cost to you. You might even spot one of our local Runestone Telecom technicians helping with the process. Calling is a simple step that protects your project, your property, and your community.



Did you know that Alexander Graham Bell debuted the telephone at the 1876 World's Fair? As a telecommunications company, that bit of fair trivia caught our attention.

There's more where that came from, so check out these fun fair facts:

State fairgoers might catch a megastar in the making. Christina Aguilera performed at the North Dakota and Minnesota state fairs in 2000, the same year she won a Grammy for best new artist. Taylor Swift sang at fairs in Minnesota, New York, and North Dakota in 2007, 2008, and 2009, when her star was rising.

Elvis once lost a talent show at a fair. In 1945, Elvis gave his first performance ever during the talent show at the Mississippi-Alabama Fair and Dairy Show. He was 10 years old and performed "Old Shep" while standing on a chair, coming in fifth place.

Butter sculptures are a state fair tradition. The bizarre but beloved tradition of butter sculptures began at the 1903 Ohio State Fair as a way to promote the dairy industry. While cows and calves are the traditional forms, other butter sculpture subjects have included the Liberty Bell and Mr. Monopoly. What happens to all that butter? At the New York State Fair, hundreds of pounds go to a local farm and get converted into energy.

A woman once tried to eat all the fair foods on a stick. In 2014, a woman ate every food offered on a stick at the Minnesota State Fair to raise money for the Make-a-Wish Foundation. There were nearly 100 items, and she ended up consuming around 6,000 calories a day for 10 days.

There's only one multistate fair. All six New England states (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont) come together for the Big E, the country's only multistate fair. While the event is held in Massachusetts, the other states each own a building and some land on the fairgrounds, enabling people to explore all six states in one stop.

How Credit Card Fraud Happens and How to Avoid It

Credit and debit cards make everyday purchases simple, but they can also be a target for scammers. The good news? Awareness goes a long way in keeping your information safe.

Here are common ways fraud can happen:

Skimmers

Placed on ATMs or gas pumps, these devices capture your card information when you swipe. Always check for anything loose or unusual, and cover the keypad when entering your PIN.

Phishing Emails & Texts

Scammers send messages that look real to trick you into clicking links or sharing personal information. If something feels urgent or suspicious, pause before clicking.

Malware and Keyloggers

Clicking unknown links or downloading attachments can install hidden programs that record what you type, including card numbers.

Data Breaches

Sometimes fraud happens when a company's system is compromised. While you can't control this, you can monitor your accounts for unusual activity.

Protect yourself with these simple steps:

- Check your bank and card statements regularly.
- Use secure websites (look for https://) but be careful, scammers can trick you with these, too.
- Avoid saving card information on unfamiliar sites.
- Set up transaction alerts with your bank.
- When in doubt, don't click or share.

Beware of suspicious phone calls where scammers represent themselves as an employee of a well-known franchise or organization. They will lie to you to try and get your payment information. Hang up and call the organization on a phone number you know is legitimate. DO NOT call them back at the number they give you.

Staying alert takes only a small amount of time — but it can make a big difference. If something doesn't seem right, give our IT Team a call at 320-986-6655 before you click. We're here to help!



Tech Support Scams Are Using New Tricks

In an effort to enhance credibility and increase their revenues, tech support scammers are employing different strategies. Here's what to watch out for now:

- **Fake Renewal Notices**
Scammers send fake emails or texts about subscription renewals for security software (such as Norton, McAfee, or Geek Squad), claiming a high-value charge. Recipients are directed to call a number for a "refund," which only leads to them becoming scam victims.
- **Browser-Locking Pop-ups**
Fake, loud, and urgent pop-ups appear, claiming a virus has infected the computer and advising the user to quickly call a toll-free number for immediate support. Once the victim calls, the scammer claims to need remote access to the computer, which they use to steal personal data and bank details or install malware.
- **AI and Deepfakes**
New tactics include using AI-generated voices to impersonate officials, making scams more convincing.

Remember that legitimate tech companies will not contact you unexpectedly about an issue with your device. Only scammers do that!

New Members

Elbow Lake

Burt, Ken & Terry 218-685-4343
Sanford, Richard &
Audrey 218-685-4312

Belgrade

Ampe, Charles
Barn 320-254-8849
Ampe, Charles &
Karen 320-254-3505
Roelike, Donald 320-254-3164
Walz, Roman 320-254-1429

Herman

Driven By Tires 320-677-2281

Kensington

Randin, Brian &
Priscilla 320-965-2121

Wheaton

Braaten, John 320-563-8832

Included. Supported. Simple.

We include a router with your Runestone Telecom Internet service — no extra purchase is needed. If there's ever an issue, our IT team can often fix it remotely. No guesswork, no hassle!



Why Fiber Connections Are a Necessity in the AI Age

Generative AI tools such as ChatGPT are becoming part of everyday life in many households. These tools are reshaping education, health care, content creation, smart home systems, entertainment, and much more.

To unlock their full potential and keep them functioning smoothly, however, requires the speed, reliability, and bandwidth of fiber Internet. Why is this the case? Generative AI tools rely heavily on large datasets and cloud computing resources. Even when installed locally, they often require real-time access to servers for model updates, processing, or syncing. Without strong connectivity, these applications can lag, stall, or produce errors.

These are the key factors that make fiber Internet essential for AI:

- **Low latency** – Required for smooth, real-time interactions with AI assistants and chatbots.
- **High bandwidth** – Needed to handle large files like AI-generated images, videos, and 3D models.
- **Symmetrical upload/download speeds** – Critical for creators uploading prompts, datasets, or media for AI processing.
- **Consistent gigabit speeds** – Allow for seamless AI interactions.
- **99.9% reliability** – Ensures uninterrupted workflows regardless of time of day, weather, or other factors.

Simply put, fiber is much more than just the fastest Internet. It's the infrastructure that makes the AI-powered home possible.

According to a 2025 study by Recon Analytics AI Pulse, people on fiber connections use AI more often than those with other connection types — 75% of the fiber group use AI either daily or multiple times a day. By contrast, only 30% of people with fixed wireless and 10% with satellite Internet used AI daily or multiple times a day.

Not only are households with fiber connections using AI more frequently, but they're using them for more complex, demanding tasks, such as generative image/video tools and cloud gaming with AI enhancements.

AI is clearly the future, and fiber connections are providing the foundation for the years ahead.

If you have questions about our fiber Internet plans, call 320-986-2013.