

The Connection

**Welcome,
New Customers!**

Elbow Lake...
World Class Auto Care
685-4911

Hoffman...
Minnewaska Dental
986-2035

Lowry...
Glanning, John 283-5125

In the news....

Want to run for RTA's Director position

The procedure to run for a director has changed this year. Anyone wishing to run for director position needs to fill out a petition with 10 member signatures on it. The petition form can be obtained at our office or at our website... http://home.runestone.net/rta/RTA_Bylaws.htm. This year the directorship for Hoffman & Barrett are up.

Completed petitions will be accepted between now and March 13th. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 11, 2012.

Rate Increases & Decreases effective April 1st...

The rate changes below will take effect on April 1, 2012. Telephone rates are being increased slightly due to new FCC regulations requiring phone companies to have minimum rate in order for RTA to access Universal Service Fund monies. Internet rates involving the higher speeds are being significantly reduced. Cable TV rates are being increased due to increased programming costs from the channel providers.

<u>Internet Prices</u> <u>Speed</u>	<u>with</u> phone service		<u>without</u> phone service	
	<u>Was</u>	<u>Now</u>	<u>Was</u>	<u>Now</u>
128-256Kbps	\$21.95	\$21.95	\$29.95	\$31.95
512-786Kbps	\$36.95	\$36.95	\$44.95	\$46.95
1.0-1.5Mbps.....	\$44.95	\$42.95	\$52.95	\$52.95
2.0-3.0Mbps.....	\$47.95	\$45.95	\$55.95	\$55.95
4.0-5.0Mbps.....	\$52.95	\$50.95	\$60.95	\$60.95
7-10.0Mbps.....	\$62.95	\$60.95	\$70.95	\$70.95
15-20.0Mbps.....	\$124.95	\$68.95	\$132.95	\$78.95
25-30.0Mbps.....	\$154.95	\$78.95	\$162.95	\$88.95

<u>Cable TV Rates</u>	<u>Now</u>	<u>April 1st</u>
Broadcast	\$15.12	\$17.86
Basic	\$39.54	\$45.14
Choice	\$ 9.04	\$ 9.20
Works	\$74.06	\$81.14

<u>Residential & Business Access Lines</u>	<u>Now</u>	<u>April 1st</u>
Residential Line *	\$ 9.50	\$ 11.00
Residential Line—Lowry	\$10.42	\$ 11.00
Business Line *	\$11.00	\$ 12.50

*For the exchanges of Barrett, Elbow Lake, Hoffman, Kensington, Norcross, Tintah & Wendell

<u>Operator Services Charges</u>	<u>Now</u>	<u>April 1st</u>
Operator Assistance	\$0.00	\$0.50
Operator Station Call	\$1.25	\$1.50
Operator Person-to-Person Call	\$3.02	\$2.50
Operator Busy Line Verify	\$1.70	\$1.50
Operator Busy Line Interrupt	\$2.42	\$2.50



Runestone to Offer Another National Scholarship to Local Schools

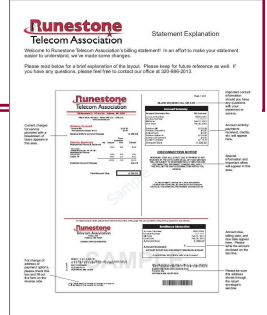
Runestone Telecom Association, along with other local telephone companies throughout Minnesota, is approaching high schools in its serving area looking for potential scholarship winners. A telecom alliance panel will review the applications and select the scholarship recipients based on applicants' grades, academic achievements and extra-curricular activities. Preference to receive the scholarships is given to students who have an interest in information or telecommunications technology and rural communities.

Applications must be submitted to Runestone Telecom Association by March 2, 2012. Students may send the properly completed applications to:

Runestone Telecom Association
PO Box 336
Hoffman MN 56339-0336

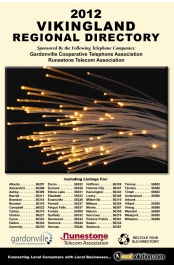
Additional applications may be downloaded from the Minnesota Telecom Alliance Web site at www.mnta.org. Five \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded to 2012 Minnesota graduating high school seniors. We are very excited to bring this scholarship opportunity to our local school districts. Please help us make it a success by ensuring that all eligible students have an opportunity to apply.

Also check out the scholarship opportunity from the Foundation for Rural Service with their website link found on our homepage....www.runestone.net. Deadline is February 23.



Your Bill Looks Different

When you got your bill from us this month, you noticed that it looked different after you opened it. You're right! It is different. We have switched to a different company for processing our billing information. Along with your bill, you have a statement explanation enclosed which helps explain how to read your bill. Take a look at your bill and if you have questions, give us a call.



NEW PHONE BOOK TO ARRIVE SOON

The 2012 VIKINGLAND REGIONAL DIRECTORY will be arriving in your mailbox soon. Additional books will be available at the office or at local banks shortly after the phone books arrive at our office. Please remember to recycle your old directories or return them to our office. Minnesota law now requires all phone directories to be recycled.

Where has the Online Directory gone?

We have an Online Directory for our customers to use to look up phone numbers for any of our customers. Currently, we do not have that option working as we are getting it set up to work with our new billing company. It will be found on our website as well as our Main Menu under the heading of Telephone Directories. We hope to have that working shortly.

Low Income Internet Program Available

- 1...Do you have a child who is currently in grade 5—11 and receiving free school lunches through the National School Lunch Program?
 - 2...Do you currently have telephone service from RTA?
 - 3...You have not had RTA Internet within the last 90 days and have no overdue RTA bills or unreturned equipment.
- If you meet the qualifications above, you may qualify for Internet service at \$4.95 a month. And, you may be eligible to lease a computer at \$10 per month. If interested, please call Carolee Haack for more information or to request an application. All applications must be received by April 30, 2012.

The End of Dial Up Internet is Near

Runestone will end Dial Up Internet service on 12-31-12. For those subscribers in RTA's territory, we will switch you over to DSL at no cost. For those Dial Up customers outside of RTA's area, such as in Glenwood, Starbuck, Morris, you will need to find a new provider. If you have questions or would like to switch now, please give our office a call. We'll be glad to help you.

Thank you for being our customer! We appreciate your patronage & support!

Runestone Telecom Assn
100 Runestone Dr
PO Box 336
Hoffman MN 56339-0336

Phone: 320-986-2013
Fax: 320-986-2050
Internet Help Desk: 320-986-6655

Office Hours
Monday—Friday
8am to 4:30pm