

# In Touch

APRIL 2024



## Grab Your Phone Before Your Shovel

There may be more than roots underground on your property. Utility lines could also be buried there, possibly close to the surface and easily damaged by digging. That's why every digging job— from planting a bush to installing a fence— requires a call to 811 to have utility lines marked. Thanks in advance for your cooperation!

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**venture**  
communications  
cooperative



## CRUISE THROUGH LIFE WITH FIBER INTERNET

How can we describe the free-wheeling experience of having Venture Communications' fiber internet? It's a bit like the ideal bike ride down a smooth road on a sunny day. There's nothing to worry about and everything to explore.

Our fiber internet provides super-fast speeds of up to 1 Gig at affordable prices. Plus, it's so incredibly reliable that you'll rarely hit a bump. Should it happen, our local team will respond quickly to get you cruising again.

**Gear up for what's ahead with a new fiber internet plan.**

**CALL 605-852-2224**



## Director Elections for 2024 scheduled

In accordance with the bylaws of Venture Communications Cooperative, director elections have been scheduled for three districts where terms are to expire. Election notices will be mailed to each member in districts where an election is to be held.

Any person who qualifies under the cooperative's bylaws may run for the directorships, including incumbent directors.

District Director Elections are scheduled as follows to elect one director from each district:

**June 5th, 2024 • District #4**  
Gettysburg and Lebanon Exchanges

**June 12th, 2024 • District #7**  
Britton Exchange

**June 6th, 2024 • District #8**  
Hoven, Tolstoy, Onaka and Cresbard Exchanges

Should there be only one petitioner in any of these districts, the scheduled election will be canceled. Notification of meeting cancellations will be published in local newspapers.

**Members should refer to the election notice for meeting details such as time, place, and petition deadlines. Please call 605-852-2224, or email [krisr@venture.coop](mailto:krisr@venture.coop) if you have questions concerning the elections.**



## Answers to Your Questions About Live TV Streaming

Live TV streaming services—such as DIRECTV Stream, fuboTV, Hulu + Live TV, Philo, Sling TV, and YouTube TV—deliver prime-time network shows and sports over your internet connection. That's why they're often referred to as cable replacements.

If you're thinking about switching from cable TV to a live TV streaming service, you'll want to do your homework to select the service that will provide the channels you most want to watch. To help you get started, here are the answers to frequently asked questions:

### What channels are available through live TV streaming services?

Each service offers a different number and variety of channels. To compare, you can visit [thestreamable.com/channels](http://thestreamable.com/channels).

### How much does a live TV streaming service cost?

The price varies from service to service, but most cost between \$25 and \$75 per month. This makes live TV services a less expensive alternative to cable.



### Can I get a free trial for a live TV streaming service?

Yes, many of these services offer free trials. Check their websites for details on current offers.

### After I subscribe, how many people in my family can watch a live TV streaming service at the same time?

Most services offer subscribers the ability to stream to two or three devices simultaneously.

### Will I be locked in a contract?

No. Live TV streaming services are all month-to-month with no commitment. You can cancel at any time without penalty.

### Which devices can I use to stream live TV?

Live TV streaming services work with smartphones, tablets, computers, and streaming devices like Roku, Fire TV, Chromecast, and Apple TV.

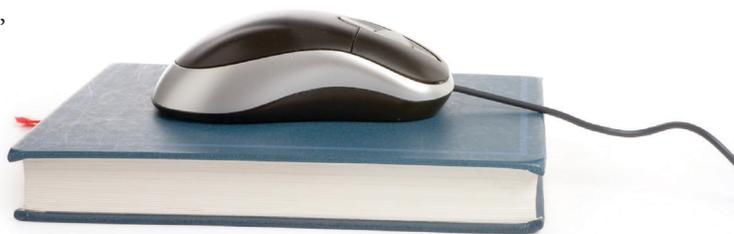
**For the best experience while watching a live TV streaming service, we recommend an internet speed of at least 250 Mbps. Call 605-852-2224 to ask about the speeds and prices of our current selection of internet plans.**

# Digital Literacy and Streaming Classes

Venture Communications is teaming up with Mitchell Technical College to help you navigate the online world and utilize technology effectively.

**Digital Literacy Class:** Explore the basic functions of smartphones, laptops, and tablets including email, paperless bill management, telemedicine, online safety and security, and more.

**Streaming Class:** Get comfortable with the switch from traditional TV service to streaming and learn how to stream on different devices and choose the right streaming services for you.



## Sisseton Schedule

Classes will be held at the First Presbyterian Church.

### April 15th – Streaming

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

### April 17th – Streaming

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

## Britton Schedule

Classes will be held at the Public Library.

### April 16th – Digital Literacy

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

### April 18th – Streaming

3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## Faulkton Schedule

Class will be held at the Faulkton City Office.

### April 18th – Streaming

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

## Gettysburg Schedule

Classes will be held at the Potter Co. Library.

### April 18th – Digital Literacy

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

### April 22nd – Streaming

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

### May 6th – Streaming

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

## Langford Schedule

Classes will be held at the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

### April 23rd – Digital Literacy

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### April 25th – Streaming

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

## Roslyn Schedule

Classes will be held at the Event Center.

### April 30th – Digital Literacy

10:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.

### May 2nd – Streaming

4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

## Highmore Schedule

Classes will be held at the Venture Communications Office.

### May 14th – Digital Literacy

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

### May 16th – Streaming

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

### May 28th – Streaming

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Please call our office at 605-852-2224 to sign up. Class size is limited to 15 people.



## Universal Telephone Services Available

Venture Communications offers basic and enhanced telecommunications services within our service area:

- Single Party Residence Service – \$22.10 per month
- Single Party Business Service – \$27.50 per month
- Broadband Service – Contact us for additional information.

Local residence and business service include:

- Voice grade access to the public switched network or its functional equivalent.
- Minutes of use for local service provided at no additional charge.
- Access to 911 emergency services.
- Toll limitation services to qualifying low-income consumers.



## We Love It When You "Like" Us on Facebook

Venture Communications is on Facebook, and we encourage you to visit our page and "Like" us. By doing so you'll be the first to know what's happening at Venture Communications including:

- Addition of new products and services
- Service enhancements
- Company developments
- Community activities
- Customer alerts

To join our Facebook community, search for Venture Communications at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) or click on the Facebook link on our homepage at [www.venturecomm.net](http://www.venturecomm.net). Once you're there, simply click on the "Like" button at the top of the screen.

# Protect Yourself From Identity Theft

Identity theft has become a big problem in the United States, with millions of people affected every year. But what exactly is it, and how can you help prevent it?

## What it is

Identity theft occurs when an unauthorized person gets access to personal information such as your Social Security number, driver's license number, and credit card numbers. With this type of information, criminals can open credit cards or receive loans in your name — which can ultimately damage your credit rating and make it hard to obtain loans for things you need.



## How to protect yourself

Here are a few easy ways to help prevent identity theft:

- **Watch out for "phishing" attacks.** These include phony emails that appear to be from businesses you would normally trust (places like large national banks, PayPal, eBay, and others). They commonly ask you to verify personal information in order to prevent your account from being closed, or they state that unauthorized purchases may have been made through your account. Never respond to these messages, and don't click links that are included in them. Legitimate businesses won't ask for personal information via e-mails.
- **Use caution when making online purchases.** Web-based purchases are actually more secure than you may expect because your credit card number is encrypted. However, it's important to purchase only from secure sites. Those with security certificates will display an icon of a lock in the lower right-hand corner of your web browser.
- **Block web pop-ups.** When you're visiting a new or unfamiliar site, do not allow pop-ups. Some will actually install software that allows people to hack into your computer system.
- **Don't supply private information in stores.** When you're making purchases in person, your private information can be stolen even more easily. Salespeople should not need to know your Social Security number or driver's license number to allow you to make a purchase.
- **Check your credit report once a year.** You're entitled to a free credit report from each of the three credit bureaus: TransUnion ([www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)), Equifax ([www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)), and Experian ([www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)). Take advantage of this service and watch for any errors or unauthorized activity. Report errors to the credit bureaus immediately.

To learn more about identity theft, visit the Federal Trade Commission website at [www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft](http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft).