

The Communicator

News from your local coop to keep you connected.

March 2024

2024 Annual Meeting



The Annual Membership Meeting of Spring Grove Communications will be held **Thursday, March 28th at 7:00pm** at the Spring Grove Cinema. We are excited to be offering both in-person and virtual options to attend this year! In early March you will receive a packet of information which will include instructions on how to join the meeting if you would like to attend virtually, a ballot to vote for director positions up for election, and a return envelope for the ballot. If you would like to attend virtually, please update your most current email address on the RSVP form - this is where the link for the Zoom meeting will be sent to. We look forward to connecting with you and sharing information from your cooperative over the past year as well as sharing some of our plans for 2024!

A chance to win a Smart TV & other prizes!

Privacy Notice

Spring Grove Communications respects your privacy and observes the privacy rules established by the Federal Communications Commission. SGC will never sell your account information or provide details of your telephone calls to other parties, unless required by law enforcement. From time to time, we would like to notify you of additional products available from us outside the existing business relationship we have with you. However, you have the right to be excluded from these marketing campaigns. If it is acceptable to receive information about additional products and services, you need to do nothing. If you prefer to be excluded from these marketing efforts from SGC, please complete, sign and return the form below and we will screen you from all targeted marketing programs. Your SGC services are not impacted by this notification. Please do not hesitate to call our office with any questions.

I have read this notice and prefer to opt out of Spring Grove Communication's marketing of products and services outside of my existing scope of service.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

2024 Directory Cover

Thank you to Teala Amberg for submitting this year's 2024 directory cover photo! Per Teala, "This photo was taken in summer 2023. Capturing the natural beauty of our local area with a tribute to one of our favorite local establishments, this little outdoorsman is looking out on the future of Blackhammer. From the people, to the places, to the loving small town community, "We Grow Good" is an adage to the hopeful future we are building here."



Call Before You Dig!

Digging without knowing the approximate location of underground utilities can result in damage to gas, electric, communication, water and sewer lines which can lead to service disruptions, injuries, and costly repairs. Always call before you dig!

Minnesota - Call 811 or go to www.gopherstateonecall.org

Iowa - Call 811 or go to www.iowaonecall.com



Your Local Technology Headquarters

507-498-3456 - contactus@sgc-coop.com - www.yourlocal.coop

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Are you having trouble using the telephone due to a hearing or speech disability?

Minnesota Relay is a free telephone service that uses specially trained communications assistants to facilitate telephone calls between people with hearing and speech disabilities and other individuals. Calls can be made to anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. All calls are completely confidential. To make a relay call dial 711. Once connected to the relay service, tell the communications assistant the type of relay call you wish to make. Or, you may dial the specific toll-free number for the type of relay service.

For More Information on Minnesota Relay Services

www.mnrelay.org
1-800-657-3775

Emergency Assistance

TTY callers should dial 911 directly in an emergency. All 911 centers are equipped to handle TTY calls. Minnesota Relay can process emergency calls, but this may delay the response to your call.

To File a Complaint Regarding Minnesota Relay

1-800-657-3775
Email: mn.relay@state.mn.us

You will need to provide: the date and time of the relay call, the calling from and to phone numbers, the CA's identification number, and the nature of your complaint.

You may also file a complaint with the Federal Communications Commission consumercomplaints.fcc.gov
Voice: 1-888-225-5322
TTY: 1-888-835-5322
ASL via VP: 1-844-432-2275

TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION (TED) PROGRAM

The TED Program provides free specialized telecommunications equipment to income eligible Minnesotans who are having trouble using the telephone due to a hearing, speech, or physical disability.

mn.gov/deaf-hard-of-hearing
Voice: 1-800-657-3663
ASL via VP: 651-964-1514

Captioned Telephone Service (CTS)

CTS uses a special telephone with a text display screen so that a person who is hard of hearing *can listen to and read captions* of everything the other person on the call says. You speak directly to the other person on the call, and a relay communications assistant transcribes everything the other person says into captions, which appear on the display screen of your CTS phone.

Internet Protocol Captioned Telephone Service (IP CTS)

Internet-based forms of CTS are available for those who would like to use CTS on a computer, tablet, or smartphone. Go to: <https://www.fcc.gov/ipcts>.

Computer (ASCII): 1-800-627-3529

Computer users can access Minnesota Relay. Set your communications software to the following protocols: speeds ranging from 300 to 2400; 8 Bits; No Parity; 1 Stop Bit; Full Duplex. When calling at a rate of 300 or below, follow the above using Half Duplex.

Hearing Carry Over (HCO): 1-800-627-3529

HCO allows a person who can hear clearly but who has very limited or no speech capability to make phone calls. Using a special text telephone, you type your conversation for the relay communications assistant to read to the other person, and listen directly to the other person's response.

Hearing User: 1-800-627-3529

A hearing person may use a standard telephone or mobile phone to place a relay call and speak with a person who is deaf, hard of hearing, or speech disabled.

Internet Protocol (IP) Relay

IP Relay combines text-based relay service with the ease of the Internet – no need for a TTY. You can make your relay call using a computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone. Go to: <https://www.fcc.gov/ip-relay>.

Spanish Relay: 1-877-627-5448

Spanish speaking persons with a hearing or speech disability can make relay calls. This is not a translation service – both parties must speak Spanish, and at least one party must have a hearing or speech disability.

Speech-to-Speech (STS): 1-877-627-3848

STS allows a person who has difficulty speaking or being understood on the phone to communicate using his or her own voice or voice synthesizer. The communications assistant revoices your words so that the other person on the call can understand them, and the other person speaks directly to you.

Text Telephone (TTY): 1-800-627-3529

This service allows a person who is deaf, deafblind, or speech disabled to use a TTY to communicate with the other person on the call.

Video Relay Service (VRS)

VRS allows a person who uses American Sign Language (ASL) to communicate over the phone. The VRS user connects to the relay communications assistant via an internet-enabled device with a video camera. The communications assistant relays the conversation back and forth between the parties – in ASL with the VRS user and by voice with the called party. Go to: <https://www.fcc.gov/vrs>.

Voice Carry Over (VCO): 1-877-627-3024

VCO allows a person with a hearing disability, but who wants to use his or her own voice, to speak directly to the other party. The communications assistant then types the other party's response, which is displayed on the VCO user's text telephone.