

Gail & Ingrid's...

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

Monthly Tips & Timely Advice For October...

UPGRADES That Can Help Sell Your House... But Won't Break the Bank!



Smart Doorbells:

Smart doorbells can cost between \$100 and \$200 and are equipped with cameras that turn on whenever the button is pressed or activity is detected near the door, helping to increase home security. Even if you're not home, a smart doorbell connected to your phone's camera can make it look like you are. Burglars often ring the front doorbell as a way to check to see if somebody is home. Having a way to respond from anywhere via a phone can be the difference between a break-in or not.



Smart Lighting:

If you're the kind of parent who runs around after their kids shutting off lights, then this new technology is for you. Products like Phillips Hue or Belkin's WeMo aren't just about making dad happy about saving electricity. Coming home to a house that is lit just right is that little touch of luxury. Dozens of smart lights (\$25 to \$50) can be controlled by your smartphone to create mood lighting and alert you to incoming calls, texts and even Facebook post. Once they are attached to a device like an Amazon Echo, (\$179.99) they can coordinate with appliances and mimic your activities when you're away, giving the appearance of you being home when you're not.



Smart Door Locks:

If you're tired of always losing your keys, then smart locks, which retail between \$79 to \$250 can help. You can program them to open with a tap from your cell phone, unlock with Bluetooth proximity sensing or program with a code for temporary or periodic access for contractors or house cleaners.



WiFi, Ethernet, or Cellular Sprinkler System Management:

Residential outdoor water use in the United States accounts for more than 9 billion gallons of water each day, mainly for landscape irrigation. Experts estimate that as much as 50 percent of this water is wasted due to overwatering caused by inefficiencies in irrigation methods and systems. Irrigation control technologies can significantly reduce over-watering by applying water only when plants need it. Irrigation controllers can connect to the internet. Most controllers easily replace a standard Sprinkler System Controller and will interface with a free online account where you can access a whole range of custom settings. Create custom watering schedules for each season. Automatically adjust watering for rain or cold weather. Most work with standard sprinkler systems and will integrate into the smart home automation system. Products such as Rancho Iro Smart Wi-Fi (\$164.99) or Sky Drop (\$246.698) save water and help give you a beautiful lawn and garden at the same time.



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If you are thinking about selling your home...

consider boosting your home Wi-Fi router speed. When buyers are interested in a property, one of the first things they will do is pull out their phone and check the internet connection. Frequent comments are, "I need to know that I can work from home". That's because many Americans are now only connected to the internet via a cellular or Wi-Fi connection. A Wi-Fi issue might not seem critical to empty nesters looking to down-size and sell their home but for potential Millennial-age buyers, it increasingly is.

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