

MARNI

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Depending on whether you want protection, convenience or to show off your techno-savvy, here are some smart-home advances you can geek out on:

Always home security

Good-bye, home security companies. Hello, smart doorbells. Today, you can monitor who's at your door, or creeping around your house, from your phone. Smart doorbell systems, like those from Ring, connect to your existing doorbell and alert you through an app when someone's at your door. They have gotten even smarter with the addition of high-definition video. Now, in real time, you can see who's there and talk to them. Meanwhile, motion detectors will trigger cameras at the door and around the house to capture video, which you can share with neighbors or police. "It's neighborhood watch for the digital age," said Emery.

Nobody likes a drip

Anyone who's had to mop up and pay up after a leak caused by a broken water pipe will ap-



Feeling Rosy? – Imagine what the '80s would have been like with these LED smart lights from LifX. They let you control the color and brightness of the lights in your home from your phone. Photo courtesy of LifX

preciate Flo, a new water detection device that attaches to your main water line and can

detect the smallest leak in a pipe long before you do. By monitoring your water pres-

sure, the Flo Smart Home Monitoring System senses problems, including freezing pipes, and shuts off the main water line if needed. The average U.S. home loses over 17 gallons of water a day due to leaks, and 10 percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more a day, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Not so with Flo. Plus, super geeks can tap into their home's water consumption with a phone app.

A light that changes with you

Waking up with the sun is a lovely luxury, but for those who must get up before dawn, a new, programmable light bulb can take some of the sting out. LifX bulbs are Wi-Fi-connected, LED smart lights that let you time your light levels and choose your hue from an array of colors to match your activity level and mood. Using an app, you can program the light to turn on with a low-level warm sunrise glow when you wake up, and grow gradually brighter as you get ready for work, pack your lunch and leave a note for the babysitter. Set the lighting program to match your routine and go off when you

leave, turn on before you get home, stay bright while you cook, soften during dinner hour and set like the sun at bedtime.

Need milk?

For those who find themselves standing in the dairy section trying to remember if they need to buy milk, your refrigerator can now tell you. Or maybe you just want to know if someone ate all the cheesecake. Either way, the new Family Hub Refrigerator from Samsung has three built-in cameras that snap your fridge's contents every time someone closes the door, so you can from see from your phone what's in there. A Wi-Fi-enabled touchscreen on the refrigerator door can tell you when food is expiring, call up recipes or just play your favorite tunes on Spotify or Pandora.

Though most of this is beyond me, I'm game for the video doorbell and maybe the light bulb.

But first, would some geek-nerd please invent an easy way to turn on the television?

Syndicated columnist Marni Jameson is the author of three home and lifestyle books, including "Downsizing the Family Home – What to Save, What to Let Go" (Sterling Publishing). Reach her at www.marnijameson.com.

Properties for SALE

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3201 Kanawha Ave. SE, Charleston
\$ 575,000
Two River Lots

Beautiful Kanawha City Home offering 3 spacious bedrooms, 2 1/2 remodeled baths, this home has it all! From the formal living room with stone FP to the Cherry kitchen w/ quartz countertops and stainless appliances. Enjoy the natural light through the skylights & vaulted ceilings in the family room, screened porch & hot tub. Entertain in the 2nd family room w/ stunning wet bar, stone FP and office. Top it off with an evening on the patio just a few steps away from the Kanawha river.
DIRECTIONS: MacCorkle Ave to 32nd street to Kanawha Ave

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R. Joseph Miller, Broker

4833 Ohio Street, South Charleston
\$68,000

House has been rented in previous years, currently classified as Class 4 property tax. 2-bedroom, 1 bath, updated interior, skylights, front porch, lot goes from street to street. Attic access, large utility room.

DIRECTIONS: MacCorkle Avenue to Chestnut Street, turn onto Ohio Street, house will be on the right side of street

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