SMART HOMES & SAFE HOMES:

TECH TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS AND BEYOND

At Southeastern Indiana REMC and SEI Fiber, we believe connectivity is more than speed — it's about security, comfort, and peace of mind. As the holidays bring more family time, more devices, and more demands on your home network, now is the perfect time to make sure your smart-home ecosystem is ready.

1. HOLIDAY-SEASON TECHNOLOGY CHECKLIST

- **Secure your Wi-Fi network.** Make sure your router uses a strong password and the latest encryption (e.g., WPA3 or WPA2). A weak network is an open invitation for unwanted access.

- **Set up a guest network.** When friends or family visit — or when you plug in new devices — it's smart to give them access without giving them access to your smart-locks, cameras or personal devices.

- **Update firmware & hardware.** Many smart-devices and routers push updates that fix security vulnerabilities. Before your network is in full holiday use, check for updates and reboot your router if needed.

- **Optimize Wi-Fi coverage.** Ensure your router is placed centrally and out in the open; if you have a large home or many streaming devices, consider adding a Wi-Fi extender or mesh system.

2. SMART HOME FEATURES THAT WORK BETTER WITH FIBER

With SEI Fiber's high-speed, symmetrical connection, you can get more from your smart home than ever before:

- Security cameras and doorbells that stream without lag and upload footage reliably.

- Multiple devices working simultaneously — streaming, gaming, remote work, smart appliances — without one experience dragging down the rest.

- Future-proofing your home for the next generation of smart-tech: energy-efficient lighting, voice assistants, remote-monitoring thermostats.

3. SAFETY & CYBER LITERACY FOR THE NEW YEAR

- Use unique, strong passwords for each smart device and account. Avoid manufacturer defaults.

- Enable two-factor authentication (2FA) wherever available — especially for your smart-lock apps, camera accounts and Wi-Fi access.

- Whenever possible, separate your IoT (smart devices) network from your main devices (computers, phones) by using a guest or isolated network. This protects your sensitive devices even if one smart gadget is compromised.

- Review which devices are connected, turn off remote access for devices you don't need, and make sure all firmware updates are applied — especially if your home is busier than usual.

4. LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026 & HOW YOU CAN PREP

The smart-home frontier is expanding: more devices, smarter automation, greater expectations. With SEI Fiber you're already ahead of the curve — but here's how to take the next step:

- **Evaluate your router:** if it's five or more years old, or you have a growing number of connected devices (kids' tablets, gaming consoles, streaming TVs, smart appliances), it may be time to upgrade.

- **Consider a whole-home mesh Wi-Fi system:** this gives uniform coverage, better handling of many devices, and fewer dead-zones.

- **Stay informed:** As smart-home ecosystems evolve, adopt practices and devices that emphasize privacy, data security and energy efficiency.

Your home is more than a place — it's your hub for work, entertainment, connection and security. With a few smart moves this holiday season — the right network setup, updated devices, smart-home leverage and cyber-safety awareness — you'll be well-positioned for a safer, smarter 2026.