

# Your Home



Mark Maynard, owner of Get Connected in Charlevoix, holds a custom SnapLink USB flash drive that is virtually a key to home owners access to their home from anywhere in the world. By using the drive on a computer and the Internet, a homeowner can monitor a host of systems installed in their home. These can include: room temperature, water or flood monitoring, room activity, and visual monitoring via remote video cameras.

G. RANDALL GOSS/NEWS-REVIEW

## Getting your home wired. *Really wired.*

BY BETH ANNE PIEHL  
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-REVIEW

One of Mark Maynard's favorite jobs is inside a home along Lake Charlevoix. It has seven keypads, seven flat panel TVs, 22 pairs of speakers and a home theater set up with a 65-inch Sharp LCD and surround sound. A color touch-screen remote is personalized with an Elvis theme, saying "Thank you, thank you very much," when the TV is turned on and "Elvis has left the building" when the equipment's shut off.

Music is distributed using a multi-zone receiver, and audio and video sources include six high-definition DirecTV receivers, XM Satellite, iPod, DVD and an old-fashioned CD jukebox.

Maybe this is what the King meant when he sang, "A house that has everything."

### Shake, rattle and roll

Home automation technology continues to amaze as it advances. Homeowners can hide flat-screen TVs behind custom artwork that scrolls up to reveal the screen. The same DVD can be played in separate rooms of the home from a central disc player. Second-home owners can view what's happening at their northern getaway on their computer screen in Florida.

Maynard is on the cutting edge of installing the latest audio, visual and monitoring technol-

ogy, as owner of Get Connected in Charlevoix, which he and his wife, Marilyn, started in 2004.

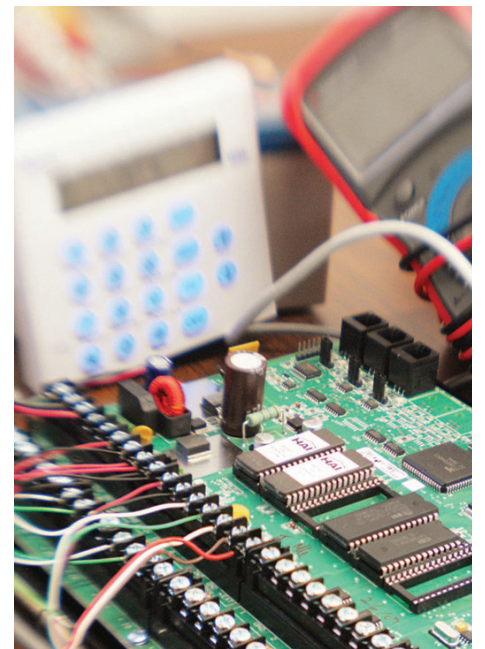
"We're very computer savvy because of my information technology background," said Maynard, who has worked in the field for many years. "We provide custom solutions for audio, video, home theater, wired and wireless networking, IP Camera and remote telephone surveillance, satellite TV, satellite Internet, home automation and lighting controls. And we also install central vacuum systems."

As an example of home surveillance technology, at his own home he is soon going to set up a driveway alarm that's triggered when someone crosses the threshold. In the home, the alert will sound like a doorbell and outside lights inside pine trees will turn on.

"So I'll know when somebody's coming up the driveway before they're standing there knocking on my door," said Maynard.

Because he's not licensed to install security systems, Maynard works with homeowners on wiring water-on-the-floor detectors, motion sensors or temperature gauges that can be monitored off-site, for instance, rather than installing systems that contact a central dispatch in the event of a trigger.

The company's expertise, Maynard said, is in consumer electronics — TVs and surround sound set-ups. "We're experts at wiring, and we're experts at audio and video," Maynard said.



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Most of his customers are installing flat-panel TVs and whole-house, or distributed, audio systems. If a house isn't wired for the technology when it's under construction — which is easier to complete — wireless technology is also making inroads in allowing homeowners to enjoy various technological components.

Wireless technology can allow homeowners to stream Internet radio or any digital content from an MP3 player, for instance, through wireless speakers set throughout the house.

"There are some really neat wireless technologies out there," said Maynard.