

# In Touch

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024



## October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month

National Cybersecurity Awareness Month spotlights cybersecurity as a shared responsibility that affects all Americans. As threats to technology and confidential data become more common, you need to take steps to reduce your chances of being affected. The Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency recommends you turn on multifactor authentication, update your software regularly, think before you click on a link, and use strong passwords.

### Albany Fiber Communications

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### Office Hours

Hours: Mon–Thu: 7:30 am to 5:00 pm  
Fri: 7:30 am to 11:30 am

### Office Closure

September 2nd for Labor Day

### Email

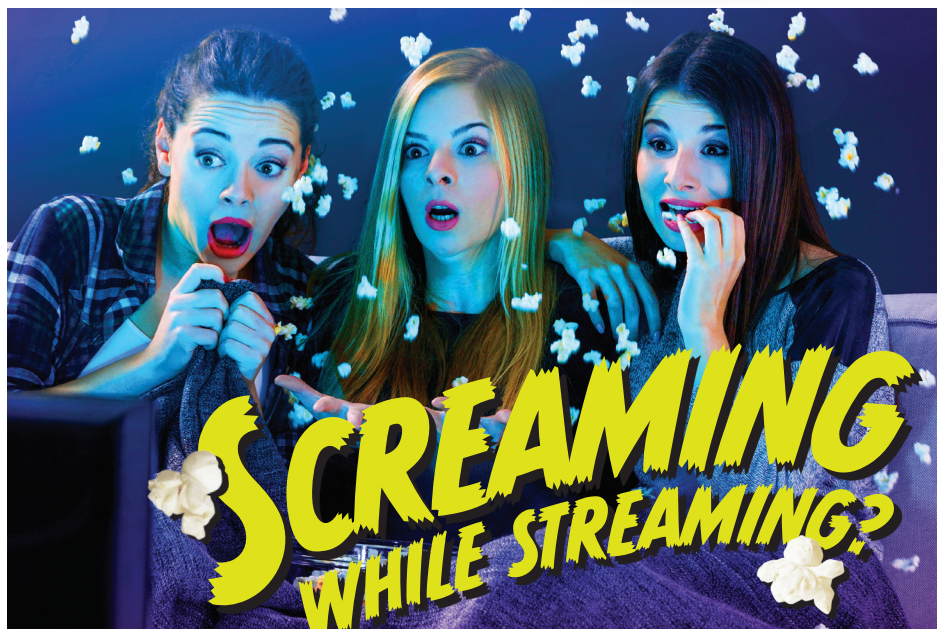
customersupport@albanytel.net

### Visit Us Online

www.AFComm.net



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## HORROR MOVIES ARE BETTER WITHOUT HORRIFYINGLY SLOW INTERNET

Spine-tingling tales. Eerie old houses. Mask-wearing killers. It's scary how much we love the haunting diversion of horror movies, especially during the Halloween season.

However, nothing's more dreadful than having the lifeblood of your streaming session—your home's Internet connection—disappoint you with too-slow speeds. Who needs buffering that freezes the action at key moments during the mayhem?

To avoid this technology nightmare, contact Albany Fiber about an Internet upgrade. We offer super-fast Internet plans to make every movie night a monstrous success.

**CALL 320.845.2101 FOR AN INTERNET UPGRADE**

**HAPPY HALLOWEEN!**

## Beware of "Please Bump This Post" Facebook Scams

In "Please Bump This Post" scams, the Facebook post may show a disturbing photo of an injured toddler, saying he's in police care, but his parents haven't been located. Or a supposedly lost or wounded pet could be featured with an urgent please to help find its owners.

Poker has "tells"—such as a player who always takes a drink when they have a really bad hand. With "Please Bump This Post" scams, the "tell" is the word "bump." All of these posts currently use the word "bump" to try to get you to share the post with others on Facebook. Scammers use this term, instead of "share," to circumvent scam protections in the Facebook algorithm.

Do not share these posts since you could inadvertently expose Facebook friends to personal data theft. Once the post is shared, scammers change the message to include a malicious link, knowing people are more likely to click a link if a friend shared the post.



## How Could a Mesh Wi-Fi System Benefit You?



If your home has 3,000 square feet or more—or an unusual layout, three stories, or interior brick walls—you may experience Wi-Fi dead zones with a traditional Wi-Fi network. (Dead zones are areas with limited or nonexistent signals.) In this situation, your home might be a good candidate for a mesh Wi-Fi system.

The main benefit of a mesh Wi-Fi system is extended Wi-Fi coverage. While a traditional router is a singular, centralized access point, a mesh Wi-Fi system is created from multiple Wi-Fi nodes that all provide web connectivity. For example, you could have a central hub in the kitchen and satellite nodes in the home office, kitchen, and bedroom. Mesh Wi-Fi systems can often cover up to 5,000 square feet, which is much more than you can expect from one central router.

In addition to providing strong and reliable Wi-Fi signals over a larger area, a mesh Wi-Fi system offers more benefits:

- **Easy network management** – Many mesh Wi-Fi systems are totally automated, allowing for easy remote management through a mobile app. Users can quickly test their Internet speeds, create guest networks, install firmware updates for better security, and more.
- **Streamlined connections** – With traditional routers, devices known as range extenders are often used to repeat the signal so Wi-Fi can be accessed from long distances. However, even the best Wi-Fi extenders require you to create a separate network, with a separate name, for the range extender. This means you may have to switch Wi-Fi connections, sometimes manually, as you move around your home. A mesh Wi-Fi router system, on the other hand, doesn't require constant reconnection, even as you move from room to room.
- **Faster than traditional routers** – This is because data is distributed evenly across all of the nodes in the network, rather than concentrating all traffic to a single wireless router.
- **More powerful hardware** – A mesh Wi-Fi system can also unlock advanced features like cybersecurity and Internet filtering with parental controls.

**Albany Fiber offers Managed Wi-Fi, and our team will select the right network equipment to give your home the best coverage and signal strength. To learn more, call 320.845.2101.**