

Stratford HOA/RC Building Committee

Home TV, internet and home phone options

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Any resident of The Stratford has two options for receiving these services: the building WiFi network or Xfinity cable.

Building WiFi network (Stratford-resident or Stratford-guest)

Unlimited use is free to residents, with uniform availability throughout the building

Internet access service is commercial (as opposed to consumer) grade (superior in performance, reliability and security)

No dealing with a cable or internet service provider (Stratford takes care of this)

Video streaming services (Netflix, Amazon Video, YouTube etc) are available (often for a monthly subscription cost) to a smart TV, streaming box (like Roku or Apple TV), computer, tablet, or smartphone

Standard TV channels (cable TV replacement) with unlimited recording are available over the internet (YouTube TV, Hulu, DirecTV, Fubo, Sling), for a monthly subscription fee of about \$70

Control of all services using a single TV or streaming-box remote

When using a smart TV in conjunction with the building WiFi, no unsightly boxes or wires are needed

Home phone service is available over the internet (from services like 1-VOIP, for a monthly subscription fee), but requires external box

Use the bundle of services from Xfinity

Services provided to a single unit

A standard-definition lineup of TV channels are provided as part of Stratford monthly dues

More channels, HD video quality, and recording upgrades are available for an additional monthly subscription fee

Internet access is available for a monthly subscription fee of about \$50 plus a \$15 monthly equipment rental fee (the latter can be avoided if you own your own equipment)

Video streaming services (Netflix, Amazon Video, YouTube etc) are supported by the Xfinity cable TV box, but only if you subscribe to Xfinity internet

Control of all services using a single Xfinity remote

Home phone service is available for a monthly subscription fee

Typically requires two external boxes supplied by Xfinity, together with wiring to wall (coax cable and power) and TV

Service calls are available from Xfinity

Many residents find it challenging to make changes through Xfinity customer service

Lowest pricing requires an annual call to benefit from the latest introductory offers

Mix and match

These two options can be combined as desired, typically combining Xfinity TV with building WiFi for video streaming and internet access

Often this requires the use of two remotes (one for Xfinity and another for video streaming), or the challenge of setting up a single “universal” remote

Recommendation

Generally the happiest residents are those who are all in on Xfinity (subscribing to cable TV, home phone, and internet access) or or all-in on the building WiFi

network (and using it for all internet, home phone, and video streaming services including television). Residents who are all-in on Xfinity typically use the building WiFi network in common areas (roof, first floor, garage, patios).

We suggest having a hospitality committee member take new residents to visit a unit doing it each way and compare