

Dear Cathy,

I'm settling on my condo next month and I've started to think about phone, TV, and internet service. Do you have any information about what is available?

Want My Connections ASAP

Dear WMCA:

TV cable pedestals are available near each Parkfairfax building and residents can order installation or hook-up (depending on whether or not a previous resident had the work done) from Comcast. All units are wired for landline telephones. The bad news is that neither Verizon (the phone service provider) nor Comcast has routinely maintained cable or wires since the early 80s. The result is that if repair work is required, the resident must coordinate access to pipe chases (where cable or phone wires are fed into units) with Parkfairfax maintenance staff.

If you are interested in a satellite service, you must check the Parkfairfax covenants requirements. Historic district communities have strict guidelines on where (and whether!) a dish can be installed. Register as an owner on www.parkfairfax.info and go to <http://www.parkfairfax.info/resources/covenant-specifications-applications/> for specific information.

Unfortunately, Verizon FiOS bundles are not available in Parkfairfax, nor in much of Alexandria—information on the city government website states that FiOS deployment was initially approved in 2009, but Verizon suspended negotiations and then notified the mayor in March of 2010 that the company would not be “adding Alexandria to its FiOS portfolio” for the foreseeable future.

Wireless options are numerous and vary in quality and reliability from block to block—sometimes from building to building. Your best source for advice is probably your immediate neighbors!

Hope this helps,

Cathy