

By Debbie Collins

Thanks to those who attended the First Arbors Annual Crockpot Fest! By all accounts it was a lot of fun and a great chance to meet neighbors and spend time with friends. The food and drinks were delicious as well!

During the transition to the new Board we've heard from many people that a sense of community is important to them. Let's continue the momentum with regular events and getting to know our neighbors.



[What Is a Fire Stick and How Does It Work? - The Plug - HelloTech](#)



Important Numbers to Know

Joe 719-313-6367

Gene 719-722-8210

Wyatt 719-460-6302

Jason 719-332-4992

Geri 719-201-0426

By Debbie Collins

Savings for the New Year!

As the year winds down many people take time to reflect on the past and make plans for the future. This year my plans for the future include evaluating ways to save on my budget for 2024.

The most substantial change that I've made is cutting the cable cord! By purchasing a FireStick you can watch some live TV, local and national news, your favorite TV shows and Movies. I save \$110 each month! You need an internet



Simple to set up and use



connection and a Firestick which is available at your favorite retailer as well as Amazon. You can purchase it for \$25-\$59. It's a one time purchase.

Your TV screen will look like this and you



click through the menu for different channels. There's a "live" TV button on the screen and your remote to get live TV. Like anything new, it takes a bit to become familiar with navigating. You can subscribe to additional streaming services (Netflix, Brit-box, Hulu, etc.) for an additional fee through the subscriber.



Update cell plan.

Another money saver was switching my Verizon phone service from the *5G Play More* plan to the *Unlimited Welcome* plan saving \$15 a month. As the name suggests, it includes unlimited talk, text and data. The only difference is that I may be downgraded to a slower data speed if the network is super busy. So far, I haven't experienced any delays.



Review your savings account.

We all know that inflation is through the roof! But, the good news is that it also impacts the interest rates some banks pay for your savings. This is not a recommendation but simply a suggestion to look at other options if you're stuck receiving .05% at your present bank.

Check out Nerd Wallet which has identified many national banks that are paying in the 4% or higher range. It adds up quickly. [Best High-Yield Savings Accounts of November 2023 - NerdWallet](#)

The final savings option that I'm still researching is my Condo and Auto insurance. I've been with a top-rated national company for over 25 years. Although I've been very pleased with the company and hold them in high regard, I thought it was time to shop. I'm checking with a local agent who represents a

Top-rated company for a quote. I am also going to check in with our agent for the complex, Damian Arellano, for a quote as he has been very responsive and professional. If you're interested in comparing, his office number is 719-589-3611.

Good luck with any cost savings measures you are considering for the new year!

By Jason Hendricks

"Wayne takes watch over the mailboxes near the main entrance to the Arbors and you can find him relaxing on his porch most days. But did you know that he has traveled to just about anywhere you can think of? Wayne and the light of his soul, Susan (recently passed away), have traveled to places that others only dream of going. The walls of his garage display the places they have traveled in their life together through pictures and articles. It is truly a sight to see and very well done! Spending time with a man of his experiences is something that will not leave my memory and I thank him for the tour."



By Joe McNulty

A Word from our President

As we continue transitioning to the new Board, It's my hope to create a greater sense of community.

A top priority is to respond quickly to maintenance concerns reported by our residents. I know that we all take pride in our homes and our community. We've updated the tracking of maintenance issues reported and have responded to a dozen requests for service. It's my belief that communication is the key to success. Please report emergency maintenance issues by calling a Board member. Issues that are not urgent should continue to be reported on the website under "Contact Us".

A top goal is to reduce expenses and build the reserves for unexpected occurrences. The Board is reviewing all expenses with an eye towards reducing our monthly expenses. A Finance Committee has been established and meets regularly to review current expenses and to look for cost-cutting measures. Together we can build a friendly, stable community. Thank you for your support and to the many volunteers who have made substantial improvements to the clubhouse! In addition to volunteering their time, many of the volunteers donated materials such as paint and the new artwork adorning the walls! Thank you!!

Please help conserve room in the recycle bins by breaking down your boxes. Recycle is emptied once a week. Thank you for your assistance.



If you spot a maintenance issue around your unit, please report it under "Contact Us" on the website. Reporting issues when noticed helps reduce the severity of any damage and repairs.

Thank you!

Preparing for Winter in your Condo

It's that time of year. The snow starts flying and a chill fills the air. Preparing your home ahead of winter can keep you more comfortable and reduce heating bills.

- Replace weatherstripping around your entry doors
- Have your furnace inspected and filter replaced to confirm it's operating at peak performance.

- Adding insulation on your garage door and sprinkler pipes in the garage will keep the space a little warmer and help prevent pipes from freezing in extreme cold.
- Experts suggest allowing your cold water faucet to drip if overnight temps are projected to be anywhere near the 20 degree mark or below. Also, keep your cabinet doors and dishwasher open overnight if your sink and dishwasher are on an exterior wall.



Please join the Arbor's Facebook page for updated news and alerts.

[The Arbors at Mountain Shadows COA | Facebook](#)