

Restrictive covenants (otherwise known as HOA's), are impeding the progress of the amateur radio service. The biggest problem is that amateurs living in these communities are not allowed to deploy an antenna outside the building they live in and thus are not able to transmit and receive radio signals in an effective manner, according to the capability of their radio equipment. Some amateurs get around this restriction by deploying their antenna(s) inside the building, assuming they have access to attic space at the top of the building. Most of the time, that type of space is not available.

Many times in the past, a local community has relied upon the amateur radio service to provide emergency radio communications, as a public service. Amateurs cannot perform this service without being able to deploy an antenna as a permanent installation. The community is deprived of the amateurs willingness to volunteer a vital service. The amateur is denied what he / she has earned by gaining the appropriate FCC license.

Amateurs must be allowed to deploy an antenna outside of the building they reside in, for the reasons stated above. Too often in the past, local police, fire and red cross services have been overwhelmed. Amateur radio operators have allowed these agencies to offload radio traffic to the amateur service, providing hundreds, if not thousands, of hours of valuable public service. To disallow this over a covenant disservices the community in numerous ways.

Regards,  
Lawrence J Myers  
West Seneca, NY