

Up Front

On the Air from a Retirement Community



The end-fed wire antenna.

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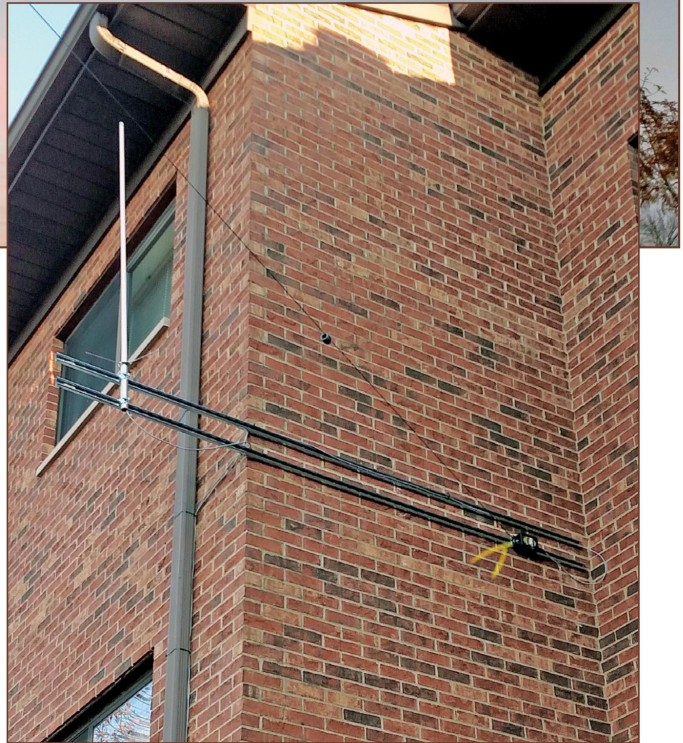
In early 2017, my wife and I moved out of our home of 54 years near Cincinnati, Ohio, and into a retirement community. After we moved into our four-room apartment on the ground floor, I asked about erecting an antenna. The building administrator told me to make a drawing of what I wanted, and he would consider my request.

The topic of the "Public Service" column in the September 2017 issue of *QST* was the communication needs of healthcare facilities in times of disaster. Columnist Rick Palm, K1CE, pointed out that facilities needed to have disaster plans on file with the federal government by the middle of November 2017. Rick went on to describe how Amateur Radio could play a vital role in the plans.

I made a photocopy of the column and gave it to the building administrator, who said that he had just attended a seminar where he had been told that one of the only reliable forms of communication in a disaster was Amateur Radio.

With the help of Bob Bross, W8NFM, we drew up a detailed proposal and submitted it. Our plan was to attach two 10-foot lengths of metal framing strut, approximately 6 inches apart, to the side of the building. They would act as supports for a Comet GP3 VHF/UHF antenna. The struts would also provide an attachment point for a MyAntennas EFHW-8010K end-fed antenna for 80 through 10 meters. The opposite end of the 130-foot-long antenna would be anchored in a tree.

Two lengths of coaxial cable would travel behind a downspout to the ground, where they would run underground for about 6 feet. At that point, they would come to the surface and connect to lightning



Two 10-foot metal framing struts hold the VHF/UHF antenna and serve as the anchor for the end-fed wire antenna.

arrestors and an MFJ window feed-through containing coax connectors and a ground lug.

To my pleasant surprise, the proposal was approved, and we began the installation. My son, Jim, along with hams from the Queen City Emergency Net, installed the antennas in November 2017. My son's friend, Wayne Stone, did the ladder work.

The results have been terrific. With my new antennas, I can easily access several Cincinnati repeaters and keep in touch with old friends. Simplex coverage is outstanding as well. On HF, I have already worked many DXCC entities on 20 and 17 meters. I am experiencing good results on other bands as well.

I would like to thank Bob Garfield, W8MRG; Rob Lindsay, W8MRL; Tom Delaney, W8WTD; Bob Bross, W8NFM; Wayne Stone, and my son for all their generous help.