

## **XIV. SIGNS**

### **A. Purpose**

The purpose of this Article is to regulate commercial and noncommercial signs and advertising. To that end, these regulations are intended to:

1. Recognize the mass communications needs of both businesses and other parties.
2. Protect property values and neighborhood character
3. Create a more attractive business climate
4. Promote pedestrian and traffic safety by reducing distractions, obstructions and other hazards that may result from unregulated signage.
5. Increase sign visibility, enhance legibility and facilitate communication of the sign's message by reducing visual clutter.

### **B. General Provisions**

#### **1. Applicability**

No sign as defined herein shall hereafter be located, erected, moved, reconstructed, extended, enlarged, converted or structurally altered except in conformance with the provisions of this Article, and after issuance of a Sign Permit by the Village, except as provided under the regulations applicable set forth in the "Exempt Signs" and "Exempt Changes to Signs" sections below.

#### **2. Exempt Signs**

The types of signs listed below and any other changes to such signs that do not convert them into non-exempt signs, shall be exempt from:

- a. The requirement for a Sign Permit; and
- b. The sign standards provided in Table 12.

All other provisions herein shall apply to the following signs except as otherwise provided.

Exempt signs shall include:

- a. Single-family lot real estate signs are defined as those signs that advertise individual lots for sale, which do not exceed three (3) square feet in area per sign face and do not exceeding one (1) such sign per street frontage. No other real estate signs are considered exempt.
- b. Governmental and utility signs shall include those informational signs or displays maintained by a government body or public utility, including traffic or parking

- regulatory devices, legal notices, warnings of hazards and other similar displays.
- c. Government-mandated signs shall include those street address numerals and other signs or exterior displays required to be maintained by government order or regulation, provided that the content and size thereof does not exceed that required by such order or regulation.
  - d. Name plates which shall include those identification signs that are no larger than two (2) square feet in area per sign face.
  - e. Non profit organization displays which shall include flags, pennants, or insignias of any governmental units or religious, civic, educational, or philanthropic organizations and also including temporary signs or banners announcing events or campaigns of such organizations.
  - f. Statement of opinion signs (e.g. "Support out troops") no larger than nine (9) square feet in area per sign face and not to exceed one (1) per lot.
  - g. Memorial signs and tablets.
  - h. "No Trespassing," "No-Hunting" and "No Dumping" signs (including other similar signs) which shall be limited to a maximum of two (2) signs per lot with each such sign not exceeding two (2) square feet in area per sign face.
  - i. Seasonal decorations temporarily displayed in connection with a local festivity approved by the Village Board or a state or national holiday.
  - j. Garage sale signs or rummage sale which shall not exceed two (2) square feet in area per sign face, shall not be displayed for more than four (4) consecutive days and are not displayed more than a total of four (4) days in any ninety (90) day period.
  - k. Commercial window signs which shall include temporary or permanent indoor signs visible to those outdoors and having an aggregate area not greater than fifty (50) percent of the total display window area of a business premises.
  - l. Help wanted signs which shall include those temporary signs that are five (5) square feet in area per sign face or less, and displayed on the premises of a business offering employment.
  - m. Election campaign signs which are limited to one campaign sign per candidate or ballot issue per street frontage per lot, cannot be illuminated and must be removed two (2) days following the date of the election to which they pertain.
  - n. Scoreboards for athletic fields
  - o. Small non-illuminated directional signs that do not exceed five (5) square feet in area per sign face and are used to encourage safe traffic flow on private lots. Directional signs exceeding these dimensions and/or illuminated directional signs of any size/area are not exempt signs.
  - p. Any sign mentioned above that no longer meets the requirements set forth in the exempt sign regulations for purposes of these regulations becomes non-exempt and is subject to the regulations set forth in the non-exempt sign section of this Ordinance.

### 3. Prohibited Signs

The following signs and displays as defined herein are prohibited in all zoning districts:

- a. Flashing signs
- b. Temporary signs, except as otherwise permitted by or exempted from these regulations, but not to include those public notice signs required under this Ordinance
- c. Projecting signs which overhang or extend beyond lot lines into public right-of-way.-
- d. Roof signs
- e. Signs on otherwise vacant land other than real estate signs, construction signs or outdoor advertising signs as defined and regulated herein
- h. Signs exceeding two (2) square feet on or within parked motor vehicles and designed to be conspicuously visible for advertising or informational purposes from outside the vehicle, other than trailer signs, lettering on trucks or other commercial vehicles, transit advertising on buses and election campaign signs.
- i. Off – premise signs
- g. All other signs not expressly permitted by this Ordinance.

#### **4. Nonconforming Signs**

No lawfully established nonconforming sign may otherwise be replaced with another nonconforming sign. Nonconforming signs shall be subject to all the requirements governing the continuation of nonconforming structures as provided in the regulations governing such nonconformities in this Ordinance.

#### **5. Maintenance and Repair Required**

The appearance and safety of a sign shall be maintained at all times. The sign shall be repainted as necessary to prevent rust, corrosion, rotting or other deterioration in its appearance or structural safety. Any source of illumination shall be kept in safe working order at all times.

#### **6. Service Station Signs and Display**

In addition to other signs and displays permitted herein, the following displays are permitted as accessory uses to automobile service stations:

- a. A maximum of two (2) tire racks to display new tires, with each rack not exceeding eight (8) feet in height, six (6) feet in length and five (5) feet in depth and conforming to all yard requirements.
- b. Product displays and portable signs of items for sale on the premises openly displayed but not located within any public right of way provided that no more than two (2) such portable signs shall be displayed such signs advertise products for sale on the premises and the combined sign area visible from any point does not exceed fifty (50) square feet.

### **C. Administration**

#### **1. Permits**

- a. The contents of sign permit application shall be made upon forms provided by the Village President, or his designee, and shall include the information provided for in Table 1 in the Filing Procedures Article of the Ordinance (Article III).
- b. The Village President, or his designee, shall issue a sign permit for any sign for which a complete and accurate Sign Permit Application has been filed when he or she has determined that the proposed sign is in compliance with this and other applicable Village ordinances.
- c. A Sign Permit shall become void if the sign authorized thereby has not been completely installed within six (6) months of the date the Permit was issued.
- d. A Sign Permit Application may be denied by the Village President, or his designee, in written notice provided to the applicant setting forth the reasons for any such denial.
- e. Any Sign Permit issued on the basis of misstatement of fact may be suspended by the Village President, or his designee, in written notice provided to the permittee,

## 2. **Removal of Unsafe, Abandoned or Unlawful Signs**

Any sign other than an outdoor advertising sign as defined herein that no longer identifies a business, activity, event or service conducted, or a product, service or entertainment sold on the premises containing said sign shall be considered abandoned.

If the Village President, or his designee, inspects any abandoned sign and finds it is unsafe or in any way not in compliance with Village ordinances, he or she shall issue a written order to the permittee stating the nature of the violation and requiring the repair, replacement, or removal of the sign within fourteen (14) days of the date of the order. If after fourteen (14) days of issuance an order has not been complied with, or if a sign constitutes an immediate hazard to the public safety, the Village President, or his designee, may recommend to the Village Board that it authorize judicial process to cause the sign to be removed or repaired pursuant to the provisions concerning Unsafe Buildings of Chapter 24, Article 11, of the Illinois Compiled Statutes.

After any removal of a sign through judicial process, the Village President, or his designee, shall send a notice to the sign owner stating the nature of the removal work performed and demanding payment of the cost thereof plus an additional ten (10) percent of the cost to defray the costs incurred by the Village for inspection and administration. If said amount is not paid within thirty (30) days of the notice, it shall become a lien against the property owner.

## 3. **Relief**

Relief from the sign regulations established herein shall require the grant of a variation by the Village Board, upon receipt of a recommendation on such relief from the Planning and Zoning Commission. Submission requirements for such relief shall be as determined by the Commission. As with other variations from the provisions of this Ordinance, consideration of such requested relief by the Commission shall

require public notice and adoption of a recommendation on such requested relief at a public hearing. In addition to determining that the requested relief complies with the standards applicable to other variations, the Commission shall recommend and the Board shall grant such relief only if a majority of its members finds that such relief:

- a. Will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to other property in the vicinity; and
- b. Will not impair an adequate supply of light and air to adjacent property, increase the danger of fire, endanger public safety, or substantially impair property values in the neighborhood.

#### **D. Sign Standards**

All exempt and non-exempt signs shall conform to the following standards, except as otherwise provided herein:

##### **1. Location and Placement**

- a. No sign or associated illumination/light fixture shall be located within, project into or overhang a public right-of-way and no sign shall be placed upon a public tree or utility pole, except as otherwise permitted herein.
- b. No sign may obstruct a fire escape, door, other entrance, exit way or any window surface required for ventilation by any Village code.
- c. No sign may obstruct the vision of drivers or obstruct or detract from the visibility or effectiveness of any traffic signal or control device.
- d. No sign shall be located within a vertical distance of eight (8) feet, or a horizontal distance of four (4) feet, of electric wires or conductors, even if such wires or conductors are insulated or otherwise protected.
- e. Any sign located within the vision clearance triangle as defined herein shall have a minimum vertical clearance of eight (8) feet unless the maximum height of the sign is two and one half (2-1/2) feet or less.

##### **2. Illumination**

- a. Illumination by unshielded bare bulbs or flame is prohibited
- b. Gooseneck reflectors or other arms projecting from the sign mounted with lights to illuminate the sign are permitted on free-standing and wall signs and may extend into the vertical volume of a right-of-way provided necessary approval from the governing jurisdiction is obtained.-
- c. Sign illumination shall be constant in intensity and color.
- d. The light used to illuminate the sign shall be shaded, shielded and directed in such a manner to prevent glare when viewed from surrounding properties or in public streets.
- e. No direct or reflected light from a light source for an illuminated sign shall create a traffic hazard for operators of motor vehicles.

##### **3. Sign Design**

- a. No sign shall by reason of shape, color, content or use of lighting shall be similar in appearance to any traffic signal or traffic sign in a manner that may interfere

with traffic movement or safety.

- b. No sign or display shall contain words or pictures of obscene, indecent or immoral character that offends the public morals and decency of the Village.

#### 4. **Construction Standards**

- a. All signs shall conform to the Building Code and other building regulations of the Village
- b. All signs shall be properly maintained during and after construction, making sure all parts of the sign do not present any safety hazards and any plant growth around the base of the sign is properly maintained.
- c. Conductors for all illuminated signs shall be enclosed in rigid conduit or other approved raceways and shall be controlled with an external disconnect. All sign circuit conduit shall be concealed from public view to the extent practicable.
- d. All non-exempt signs shall be designed and constructed to withstand wind pressure as may be required in the Building Code and other Village ordinances.
- e. All non-exempt signs shall be designed and constructed in a safe manner and shall be free of any exposed (non-ornamental) bracing, angle iron, guy wires or cables.
- f. Any glass used on a non-exempt sign shall be heavy safety glass as may be required in the Building Code and all single pieces of glass exceeding three (3) square feet in area shall be wired glass.
- g. All non-exempt signs shall be designed so that all lateral support of the sign, other than supporting poles for a free-standing sign, shall be contained within or behind the face of the sign, or within the building to which it is attached so as to not be visible to public view.

#### 5. **Other Standards**

- a. Development and real estate signs shall not exceed eighty (80) square feet in area per sign face and fifteen (15) feet in height and shall be setback five (5) feet from all public rights of way and property lines. Such signs shall be removed when all of the lots approved pursuant to a plat of subdivision are sold, within one week of sale or rental of unsubdivided property to which it pertains, when all of the units advertised are sold or rented or when a certificate of occupancy is issued for the main building, whichever occurs latest.
- b. Outdoor advertising signs (billboards) shall not exceed three hundred (300) square feet per sign face and shall have a maximum height of twenty-five (25) feet. Such signs shall only be allowed as a Conditional Use in the I-1, I-2 and F Zoning Districts, allowed only as the principal use on the lot, shall conform to all required building setbacks, and shall be located a minimum of one hundred (100) feet from any other outdoor advertising sign and/or for a residential zoning district.
- c. Wall signs shall be a maximum of one and one-half (1-½) square feet of cumulative area per lineal foot of tenant or building frontage for all wall, canopy, under canopy and non-exempt, or permanent window signs facing a public right-of-way or public entrance.
- d. Free-standing signs shall be a maximum of fifteen (15) feet in height with a maximum of forty (40) square feet per sign face in area and ten (10) feet from any property line. Each commercial, office and industrial zoned lot shall be allowed

one primary free-standing sign. In the B-3 Zoning District only, a second auxiliary free-standing sign shall be allowed if the lot has more than one (1) frontage. The auxiliary sign shall have a maximum area of up to fifty (50) percent of the size of the primary free-standing sign and a maximum height of ten (10) feet.

- e. Canopy signs shall have a minimum vertical clearance of eight (8) feet, with a maximum sign area of two-thirds (2/3) of the area of the face of the canopy on which said sign is placed.
- f. Under canopy signs shall have a minimum vertical clearance of eight (8) feet, shall not project more than one and one-half (1 ½) feet below the canopy and shall have a maximum width of seventy-five (75) percent of the depth of the canopy projection.
- g. Residential development entrance signs shall have a maximum area of thirty-two (32) square feet per sign face and a maximum height of six (6) feet, maintaining a five (5) foot setback from all property lines and/or public streets. It shall be non-illuminated and contain only the name of the development.
- h. Temporary signs shall have a maximum area of thirty-two (32) square feet per sign face, a maximum height of six (6) feet and maintain a setback of five (5) feet from all property and/or public streets. Temporary signs may be displayed on a maximum of eight (8) occasions in any calendar year with a maximum display period of thirty (30) days for any single occasion for a maximum cumulative display total of sixty (60) days per calendar year.
- i. Portable signs shall have a maximum area of fifty (50) square feet per sign face with a maximum height of ten (10) feet. Such signs may be displayed for a maximum of forty-five (45) days, starting one hundred eighty (180) days after the expiration of any permit for a portable sign on the same lot. Placement/location of such portable signs shall not constitute a traffic hazard, obstruct sight lines and shall be subject to the approval of the Village President or his designee. The maximum size and placement of inflatable displays and other irregular signs are subject to the design and safety standards contained in this ordinance
- j. Institutional and recreational use special event sign shall be only displayed on property controlled by the institution or recreational use for a maximum of thirty (30) days and for only three (3) days after the event. It shall maintain a five (5) foot setback from any public right-of-way or property line.
- k. Menu board signs for drive-in facilities shall be free-standing or wall signs located in the side or rear yards only, and shall be setback a minimum of five (5) feet from any public right of way or property line with a maximum sign area of thirty-two (32) square feet per sign face.

**Table 12: Standards for Signs**

	<b>Maximum Number Permitted</b>	<b>Maximum Area in Square Feet</b>	<b>Maximum Height in Feet</b>	<b>Required Setbacks</b>	<b>Other Requirements</b>
<b>EXEMPT SIGNS</b>					
Single-family lot real estate signs	1 per public right of way frontage	3		5'	See Article XIV, Section D (5) a, for additional requirements
Governmental and Utility Signs					None
Government Mandated Signs					None
Non-profit organization displays					May include flags, pennants, insignias or temporary signs/banners
Statement of opinion signs	1	9			
Name Plates		2			
Memorial Signs and Tablets					None
Seasonal Decorations					Temporarily displayed in connection with a local festivity/ holiday
Window signs/indoor signs visible from the outside		Not more than 50% of the total window display area			
Garage sale signs		2			Cannot display for more than 4 consecutive days, and no more than 4 days in a 90 day period
Help Wanted signs		5			Must be displayed on premise
Election Campaign signs	1 per street frontage				Cannot be illuminated, must be removed 2 days after election has ended
Scoreboards for athletic fields					None
"No Trespassing" including similar signs	2 per lot	2			
	<b>Maximum Number Permitted</b>	<b>Maximum Area in Square Feet</b>	<b>Maximum Height in Feet</b>	<b>Required Setbacks</b>	<b>Other Requirements</b>
<b>NON- EXEMPT SIGNS</b>					
<b>Residential Uses</b>					
Development Entrance Sign	1 per development	32	6	5	Must be non-illuminated, and contain only the development name
<b>Business/Office/ Industrial Uses</b>					
Wall	1 per side facing a public right-of-way or entrance	1 ½ sf per lineal foot of building or occupancy frontage			
Free- Standing - Primary	1	40	15	10	See Article XIV, Section D, (5) d for further requirements



Free- Standing - Auxiliary	1 in addition to primary sign in B-3 Districts only	Max 50% of primary sign's area.	10	10	See Article XIV, Section D, (5) d for further requirements
Outdoor Advertising Sign	1	300	25	Same as building setbacks for zoning district sign is located	Allowed as a Conditional Use in I-1, I-2 and F Districts only
Menu Boards		32		5 (Side or rear yard only)	
Canopy Sign		2/3 the area of the face of the canopy			Must have a minimum vertical clearance of 8 feet
Under Canopy Sign		Must have a maximum width of 75 % of the depth of the canopy projection			Must have a minimum vertical clearance of 8 feet
Development Real Estate Sign	1 per public right of way frontage	80	15	5	See Article XIV, Section D, (5), a for removal requirements
<b>Other</b>					
Temporary	1	32	6	5	See Article XIV, Section D, (5) h for additional requirements
Portable	1	50	10	5	See Article XII, Section D, (5), i for additional requirements
Institutional/Recreational Use Special Event Sign				5	See Article XIV, Section D, (5) j for additional requirements