



## Sign Regulations

### SECTION 501. SIGN REGULATIONS BY ZONING DISTRICT.

1. **General.** The following table presents regulations for permanent signs in each zoning district identified by this chapter. Signs which conform to these regulations are a use by right, but each such sign also requires a building permit. Only signs as described herein and as may be described under temporary signs, Section 502 and exemptions, Section 503 will be permitted in each zoning district.
2. **Omissions.** If a new zoning district is created after the enactment of this chapter, no new signs shall be permitted therein until this chapter shall be amended to include such district.
3. **Joint Identity Sign For Commercial Or Industrial Area.** In any commercial or industrial zoning district, a joint sign identifying a commercial or industrial area and/or its occupants may be allowed by special use permit. This sign may be in addition to the maximum number and total area of signs for the parcel, but must comply with the applicable limits for sign size, height and setbacks.
4. **Table Of Regulations.** Please see table at the end of this chapter.

### SECTION 502. TEMPORARY SIGNS.

The following temporary signs are allowed anywhere within the village. No permit is required for the display of those temporary signs described in subsections (1) through (5) below. However, signs described in subsections (1) through (3), and (5), shall be confined within private property and shall comply with setback provisions for the zoning district in which they are located.

1. **Construction Signs.** Signs which identify architects, engineers, contractors and other individuals or firms involved with a construction project, but not including advertisement of any product. These include signs announcing the character of the building enterprise or the purpose for which the building is intended. These signs may be displayed during the construction period, commencing with the issuance of a building permit. The signs shall have a maximum area of twenty (20) square feet for each firm. The signs shall be confined to the site of the construction and shall be removed no more than four (4) days after the beginning of the intended use of the project.

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- 2. **Real Estate Signs.** Signs advertising the sale, rental or lease of the premises or part of the premises on which they are displayed, up to a total area of twelve (12) square feet. Such signs shall be removed no more than seven (7) days after the sale, rental or lease.
- 3. **Political Campaign Signs.** Signs announcing candidates for public political office and other data pertinent to an upcoming election, up to an area of thirty-two (32) square feet for each parcel. These signs may be erected no more than thirty (30) days before, and must be removed no more than four (4) days after, the election for which they were made.
- 4. **Street Banners.** Fabric signs, suspended across public streets advertising a public entertainment or event. The location and contents of each street banner must be specially approved by the state department of transportation or the village council. These signs may be displayed during the event being advertised and for no more than fourteen (14) days before and four (4) days after it.
- 5. **Special Purpose Signs.** Any other temporary signs, subject to the restrictions outlined in the following table of special purpose sign regulations and subject to the location restrictions for permanent signs in the applicable zoning district. Each such sign shall require a permit if it is to be posted more than forty-eight (48) hours.

a. **Table Of Special Purpose Signs Regulations.**

TABLE INSET:

Zoning district	Maximum size	Duration of permit	Permits per parcel
Residential (nonprofit organization)	32 sq. ft.	14 days	2 per year
Residential (all other)	32 sq. ft.	2 days	2 per year
Commercial	32 sq. ft.*	30 days	2 per year
Industrial	32 sq. ft.*	30 days	1 per year

\* Total area of permanent signs and special purpose signs may not exceed total sign area for the parcel as defined by the table of permanent sign regulations.

- b. **Off Premise.** No off premise special purpose signs are allowed.
- c. **Illumination.** Illumination of special purpose signs is permitted, but only in accordance with Section 506 of this chapter.

**SECTION 503. EXEMPTIONS.**

The following types of signs are exempted from other provisions of this chapter, but must meet the requirements specified below.

- 1. **Public Signs.** Signs of a governmental nature and in the public interest, erected by, or on the order of, a public officer in the performance of his or her public duty.

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- 2. **Institutional Bulletin Board.** These signs, defined in Chapter 2, may be located on parcels occupied by nonprofit organizations. They may be up to twenty-four (24) square feet in area and may be illuminated in accordance with Section 506.
- 3. **Private Traffic Direction.** Signs directing traffic movement or giving instructions, located within a parcel, placed in compliance with Section 505, and not directed at traffic on abutting roadways. They may be illuminated in accordance with Section 506.
- 4. **Entrance/Exit.** Signs directing traffic movement to or from a parcel, placed in compliance with Section 505, and not exceeding three (3) square feet. Such signs may be illuminated in accordance with Section 506.
- 5. **Temporary Land Development Project Signs.** Signs pertaining to the sale, lease, rent or development of a subdivision, planned shopping center, office building, industrial park or similar land parcel. Such signs are allowed for a period of one year upon issuance of a permit. Such permit may be extended for one additional year. Total number and size of signs allowed shall be controlled according to the following schedule:

TABLE INSET:

Land size	Total no. of signs	Max. area per sign
Less than one acre	1	50 sq. ft.
Over 1 but less than 4 acres	1	100 sq. ft.
Over 4 but less than 20 acres	2	150 sq. ft.
Over 20 acres	3	150 sq. ft.

Such project signs shall comply with height and placement regulations for the zoning district in which they are located, except that in residential districts the maximum height of such signs is twelve (12) feet.

- 6. **Property Rental Signs.** Signs on the premises announcing rooms, apartment or house for rent, not to exceed four (4) square feet.

**SECTION 504. NONCONFORMING SIGNS.**

Signs not conforming to the provisions of this chapter shall be considered to be nonconforming structures and regulated as described in Section 401. Note that temporary signs are not considered to be legal nonconforming structures.

**SECTION 505. PROHIBITED SIGNS.**

Signs which violate any of the standards listed below are prohibited in the village. Sign permits may not be issued for such signs, and the zoning enforcement officer shall have authority to order removal of such signs as described in Section 509. Determination of a

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sign's compliance with these standards shall be made by the zoning enforcement officer. Any party feeling aggrieved by the enforcement officer's decision may appeal to the zoning board of appeals.

1. Signs may not contain statements, words or pictures of an obscene, indecent or immoral character, such as would offend public morals or decency.
2. Signs may not contain, or be an imitation of, an official traffic sign or signal, nor shall they contain the words: "stop," "go slow," "caution," "danger," "warning," or similar terms.
3. Signs may not be of a size, location, movement, content, coloring or manner of illumination which may be confused with, or construed as, a traffic control device, nor may signs hide from view any traffic or street sign or signal.
4. Signs may not advertise an activity, business, product or service no longer available on the premises upon which the sign is located.
5. Signs may not move in any manner or have a major moving part. Only minor decorative parts may move.
6. Signs may not swing or otherwise noticeably move as a result of wind pressure because of the manner of their suspension or attachment.

### **SECTION 506. ILLUMINATION.**

1. Any electrical illumination of a sign shall be done in full compliance with the National Electrical Code as amended and adopted by the village.
2. The light from any illuminated sign shall be so shaded, shielded or directed that the light intensity or brightness will not be objectionable to occupants of surrounding properties, and so that no direct rays from the light source are visible from any public right-of-way or from abutting property.
3. No sign shall have blinking, flashing or fluttering lights or other illuminating devices, such as changing light intensity, brightness or color. No sign shall utilize moving patterns of light so as to convey an illusion of motion or animation. Beacon lights are not permitted. This section shall not be interpreted to prohibit electronic message boards as defined in Chapter 2.
4. No colored lights shall be used at any location or in any manner so as to be confused with or construed as traffic control devices.
5. Neither the direct, nor the reflected light from primary light sources shall create a traffic hazard to operators of motor vehicles on public streets.
6. No exposed reflective type bulbs, no strobe lights and no incandescent lamps which exceed fifteen (15) watts shall be used so as to expose the face of the bulb, light or lamp to any public street or adjacent property.

**SECTION 507. STRUCTURAL REQUIREMENTS.**

1. All signs and sign structures shall be designed and constructed to meet the requirements of the Village of St. Charles Building and Electrical Codes, and shall be constructed to withstand a thirty-pound per square foot wind-stress factor. Signs larger than one hundred (100) square feet must be erected on structural or tubular steel supports. Where the back of a sign is visible, it should be suitably painted or otherwise covered to present a neat and clean appearance. No guy wires are permitted.
2. Any temporary sign must be so constructed that it is not dangerous to the public.

**SECTION 508. PERMIT.**

Prior to construction or establishment of any sign, except as otherwise specifically noted in this chapter, a permit shall be obtained from the village zoning enforcement officer. A sign permit shall become null and void if the work for which the permit was issued has not been completed within a period of six (6) months after the date of the permit. The following operations shall not be considered as creating a sign and therefore shall not require a sign permit:

1. **Replacing Copy.** The changing of the advertising copy of an approved painted or printed sign or on a theater marquee and similar approved signs which are specifically designed for the use of replaceable copy.
2. **Maintenance.** Painting, repainting, cleaning, light bulb replacement and other normal maintenance and repair of a sign or a sign structure unless a structural change is made.

**SECTION 509. INSPECTION, REMOVAL, SAFETY.**

1. **Inspection.** Signs may be inspected periodically by the building official to assure compliance with this and other codes of the village.
2. **Maintenance.** All signs and components thereof shall be kept in good repair and in safe, neat, clean and attractive condition.
3. **Removal Of Sign.** The zoning enforcement officer may order the removal of any sign erected or maintained in violation of this Code. Such order shall be made in writing, delivered personally or by certified mail, and shall allow the person receiving it thirty (30) days to remove the sign or to bring it into compliance. Such order shall be served upon the owner of such sign, or to the owner or manager of the building, structure or premises on which such sign is located. The zoning enforcement officer may remove a sign immediately and without notice, at cost to the owner or lessee, if it is the enforcement officer's opinion that the condition of the sign presents an immediate threat to the safety of the public.

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4. **Abandoned Signs.** A sign shall be removed by the owner or lessee of the premises upon which the sign is located when the business which it advertises is no longer conducted on the premises. If the owner or lessee fails to remove it within one hundred eighty (180) days of the termination of business, the zoning enforcement officer, or a duly authorized representative, may remove the sign at cost to the property owner. When a successor to a defunct business agrees to maintain the signs as provided in this Code, this removal requirement shall not apply.
  
5. **Traffic Safety.** No sign shall be placed so as to obstruct the view of approaching vehicular or pedestrian traffic from any direction or present a hazard to the safe flow of traffic. In the event that any sign violates this requirement, the zoning enforcement officer may remove such sign to protect traffic. The owner of the property, or business operator where such sign is located, shall first be notified of its impending removal. The property owner or business operator shall be given opportunity to alter or replace such asign within twenty-four (24) hours to make it comply with this section.

Secs. 26-80--26-90. Reserved.

**PERMANENT SIGN REGULATIONS**

TABLE INSET:

Zoning districts	Content	Total sign area	Sign type	Setbacks	Number of signs	Sign size	Height
<b>Open residential district R-1A (Parcels 5 acres or larger only.)</b>	Name and address, farm name, home occupation. Products raised on the premises (not allowed for integral signs)	100 square feet per parcel, except for integral signs.	Ground mounted (free standing)	Front: 10 feet** Side: 10 feet Rear: 10 feet	1 per parcel	100 sq. ft.	12 ft.
			Wall: Marquee: Projecting: Roof: Integral:	Not applicable Not applicable Not applicable Not applicable Not applicable	No limit -- -- 1 per parcel	100 sq. ft. Not allowed Not allowed Not allowed No limit	Top of wall -- -- -- Top of bldg.
<b>Residential R-1</b>	Occupant's name and address, home occupation	2 sq. ft. per dwelling, except for integral signs	Ground mounted (free standing)	Front: 10 feet** Side: 10 feet Rear: 10 feet	1 per dwelling	2 sq. ft.	4 ft.

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Zoning districts	Content	Total sign area	Sign type	Setbacks	Number of signs	Sign size	Height
Residential R-1 continued			Wall: Marquee: Projecting: Roof: Integral:	Not applicable Not applicable Not applicable Not applicable Not applicable	1 per dwelling -- -- -- 1 per dwelling	2 sq. ft. Not allowed Not allowed Not allowed 10 sq. ft.	Top of wall -- -- -- Top of wall
Residential R-2, R-3	Name of mobile home park or multifamily development	32 sq. ft. per parcel	Ground mounted (free standing)	Front: 10 feet** Side: 10 feet Rear: 10 feet	1 per parcel	32 sq. ft.	4 ft.
			Wall: Marquee: Projecting: Roof: Integral:	Not applicable Not applicable Not applicable Not applicable Not applicable	1 per parcel -- -- 1 per parcel	32 sq. ft. Not allowed Not allowed Not allowed 10 sq. ft.	Top of wall -- -- -- Top of wall
Commercial B-1, B-2	Identity (required), merchandise or services available on the premises	The largest of: 1.5 sq. ft. per front foot of building, or .5 sq. ft. per front foot of parcel, or 32 sq. ft.	Ground mounted (free standing)	Front: 3 feet** Side: 10 feet Rear: 10 feet	1 per each 150 lineal feet of frontage	32 sq. ft.	35 ft.
			Wall: Marquee: Projecting: Roof: Integral:	Not applicable Same as ground Same as ground Not applicable Not applicable	1 per wall 1 per parcel 1 per parcel 1 per parcel 1 per parcel	150 sq. ft. 32 sq. ft. 50 sq. ft. 50 sq. ft. 25 sq. ft.	Top of wall Top of wall* Top of wall* 35 ft. Top of wall

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Zoning districts	Content	Total sign area	Sign type	Setbacks	Number of signs	Sign size	Height
<b>Industrial M</b>	Identity only	The largest of 1 sq. ft. per front foot of building, or .5 sq. ft. per front foot of parcel, or 50 sq. ft.	Ground mounted (free standing)	Front: 10 feet** Side: 10 feet Rear: 10 feet	1 only, of any type, per each street front	150 sq. ft.	24 ft.
			Wall: Marquee: Projecting: Roof: Integral:	Not applicable Same as ground Same as ground Not applicable Not applicable	Same as ground Same as ground Same as ground Same as ground 1 per parcel	150 sq. ft. 150 sq. ft. 50 sq. ft. 50 sq. ft. 25 sq. ft.	Top of wall Top of wall* 24 ft.* 24 ft. Top of wall

\* Must be 10 feet above a sidewalk and 15 feet above a driveway.

\*\* May not obstruct vision of drivers.