

SECTION 2. SIGNS

2.1 STATEMENT OF INTENT

The purpose of this section is to establish minimum *regulations* for the design and display of signs. The *regulations* and standards provide sufficient identification of property while preserving the overall attractiveness of the County. Incentives are provided for design excellence.

2.2 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this section, certain terms and words pertaining to signs are hereby defined. The general rules of construction contained in Article X of this Ordinance are applicable to these definitions.

1. Accessory Sign - A sign relating only to uses of the *premises* on which the sign is located or products sold on the *premises*, or indicating the name or address of a *building* or the occupants or management of a *building* on the *premises* where the sign is located.
2. Detached Sign - A sign not attached to or painted on a *building*, but which is affixed to the ground. A sign attached to a flat surface, such as a fence or wall not a part of a *building*, shall be considered a detached sign.
3. Double-Faced Sign - A sign with two parallel faces, back to back, and located not more than 24 inches from each other.
4. Flashing Sign - An illuminated sign on which the artificial or reflected light is not maintained stationary and constant in intensity and color at all times when in use. Any sign that revolves or moves shall be considered a flashing sign.
5. Flat Sign - A sign affixed directly to or painted on or otherwise inscribed on an exterior wall and confined within the limits thereof of any *building* and which projects from that surface less than 12 inches at all points.
6. Illuminated Sign - Any sign designed to give forth artificial light, reflect light from another source, or is back lighted by spotlights or flood lights not a part of or attached to the sign itself.
7. Marquee Sign- Any sign attached to or hung from a marquee. For the purpose of this Article a marquee is a covered *structure* projecting from and supported by the *building* with independent roof and is erected over a doorway or doorways.
8. Projecting Sign - A sign, other than a wall sign, which projects from and is supported by a wall of a *building* or *structure*. The term projecting sign includes a marquee sign.
9. Sign - Any letters, figures, design, symbol, trademark or illuminating device intended to attract attention to any place, subject, *person*, firm, corporation, public performance, article, machine, or merchandise, whatsoever out of doors for recognized advertising purposes. However, this shall not include any official court or public notices nor the flag, emblem or insignia of a government, school, or religious group when displayed for official purposes. Interior signs, if located on a window or within a distance equal to the greatest dimension of the window and if obviously intended for viewing from the exterior, shall be considered an exterior sign for the purposes of this Ordinance.

10. Sign Area - That area within a line including the outer extremities, letters, fixtures, characters, and delineations, or within a line including the outer extremities of the framework or background of the sign, whichever line includes the larger area.

The support for the sign, whether it be columns, a pylon, or a *building* or part thereof, shall not be included in a computation of sign area. Only one side of a double-faced sign shall be included in a computation of sign area. The area of a cylindrical sign shall be computed by multiplying one-half of the circumference by the height of the sign.

2.3 GENERAL

1. No sign shall be erected, hung, placed, or painted in any District except as herein provided, unless otherwise provided in this Ordinance.
2. No sign shall be erected, hung, affixed, painted or otherwise displayed or altered in size or location unless a permit has been issued by the Zoning Administrator.
3. Permitted signs for a nonconforming business or industry and *cottage industries* shall consist of those signs permitted in the "V," Village District.
4. Signs existing at the time of enactment of this Ordinance and not conforming to its provisions but which were constructed in compliance with previous *regulations* shall be regarding as nonconforming signs.

Nonconforming signs that are structurally altered, relocated, or replaced shall comply immediately with all provisions of this Ordinance. Nonconforming signs destroyed or damaged by accident or Act of God shall comply immediately with all provisions of this Ordinance.

5. Area available for changeable letters shall be limited to 15% of the total sign area. This subsection is not applicable to volunteer fire companies.

2.4 EXEMPTIONS

1. Public signs of a noncommercial nature and in the public interest, erected by, or on the order of a public official such as safety signs, danger signs, trespassing, traffic, memorial plaques, signs of historic interest and the like.
2. Institutional signs setting forth the name or simple announcement for any public, charitable, educational, or religious institution, located entirely on the *premises* of that institution, up to an area of 25 square feet. Institutional signs setting forth the name or simple announcement for any public, charitable, educational, or religious institution, located on the *premises* of that institution are eligible for bonus sign area as described in Article VI, Section 2.7 of this Ordinance. Volunteer fire companies are permitted to have signs up to an area of 32 square feet.*
3. Real Estate signs limited in area to 6 square feet, advertising the sale, rental or lease of the *premises* on which the sign is displayed. Such signs shall be removed within 14 days of the sale or lease of the *site*. Open house directional signs are prohibited.
4. Construction signs that identify the architects, engineers, contractors and other individuals or firms involved in the construction, limited in area to 6 square feet. The sign shall be confined to the construction *site* and shall be removed within 14 days of the beginning of the intended use of the project or completion of construction.