

## Chapter 10 SIGNS

### 10-10-1: PURPOSE:

The purpose of this chapter of the Village of North Barrington zoning ordinance is:

- A. To enhance, protect and preserve the physical and natural beauty, and the unique noncommercial character of the Village;
- B. To protect property values within the Village;
- C. To help reinforce goals and visions as outlined in the comprehensive plan of the Village;
- D. To improve traffic safety;
- E. To minimize the undesirable effects of signs on nearby public and private property;
- F. To provide for the fair and consistent enforcement of these restrictions;
- G. To ensure the signs are compatible with the character of the surrounding architecture, neighborhoods, and countryside;
- H. To provide an essential identity of and direction to facilities within the community. (Ord. 1026, 1-26-2004)

### 10-10-2: APPLICABILITY:

A sign may be erected, placed, established, painted, created or maintained in the Village only in conformance with the standards, procedures, exemptions and other requirements of this chapter. The effect of this chapter as more specifically set forth herein, is:

- A. To establish a permit system;
- B. To establish a limit on the size and placement of signs;

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- C. To allow certain signs that are small, unobtrusive and incidental to the principal use of the respective lots on which they are located, subject to the substantive requirements of this chapter, but without a requirement for permits;
- D. To prohibit all signs not expressly permitted by this chapter;
- E. To provide for temporary signs without commercial messages in limited circumstances in the public right of way;
- F. To provide for the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter. (Ord. 1026, 1-26-2004)

**10-10-3: DEFINITIONS:**

For the purposes of this chapter, the following terms shall have the following definitions and meanings:

**ABANDONED SIGN:** Any sign located on a property or premises which is vacant and unoccupied for a period of three (3) months with the exception of a real estate sign, or any sign that is damaged, in disrepair or vandalized and not repaired within thirty (30) days.

**ANIMATED SIGN:** Any sign that uses movement or change of lighting to depict action or create a special effect or scene.

**APPLICANT:** A person or entity who applies for a sign permit.

**BANNER:** Any sign of lightweight fabric or similar material that is permanently mounted to a pole or building by a permanent frame at one or more edges. National flags, state or municipal flags or the official flag of the institution or business shall not be considered banners.

**BILLBOARD:** A freestanding sign larger than permitted by this chapter.

**BUILDING SIGN:** Any sign attached to any part of a building.

**CANOPY SIGN:** Any sign that is a part of or attached to an awning, canopy or other fabric, plastic or structural protective cover over a door, entrance, window or outdoor service area. A marquee is not a canopy.

**CHANGEABLE COPY SIGN:** A sign or portion thereof with characters, letters or illustrations that can be changed or rearranged without altering the face or the surface of the sign. A sign on which the messages change more than eight (8) times a day shall be considered an animated sign. A sign on which the only copy that changes is an electric or mechanical indication of time or temperature shall be considered a time and temperature portion of a sign and not a changeable copy sign.

**CHARACTER:** Any sign made of self-contained letters, characters, cutout, etched letter or logo that are mounted on the face of a sign, building, top of a parapet, roof edge of a building or on top

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or below a marquee.

**COMMERCIAL MESSAGE:** Any sign wording, logo or other representation that directly or indirectly names, advertises or calls attention to a business, product, service or other commercial activity.

**EAVE:** The overhanging lower edge of the roof.

**ELEVATION:** The altitude of a place or object above ground level (not to be confused with height).

**FASCIA:** A broad, flat, horizontal building surface under the roofline.

**FLAG:** Any fabric, banner or bunting containing distinctive colors, patterns or symbols, used as a symbol of government, political subdivision or other commercial or noncommercial entity.

**FREESTANDING SIGN:** Any sign supported by structures or supports that are placed on or anchored in the ground and that are independent from any building or other structure.

**HEIGHT:** The distance between the highest and lowest points of a particular item (not to be confused with elevation).

**INCIDENTAL SIGN:** A sign, generally informational, that has a purpose secondary to the use of the zone lot on which it is located, such as "no parking", "entrance", "loading only", "telephone" and other similar informational signs. No sign with a commercial message legible from a position off the zoning lot on which the sign is located shall be considered incidental.

**LOT:** Any piece or parcel of land or a portion of a subdivision, the boundaries of which have been established by some legal instrument of record that is recognized and intended as a unit for the purpose of transfer of ownership.

**MARQUEE:** Any permanent roof like structure projecting beyond a building or extending along and projecting beyond the wall of the building.

**MARQUEE SIGN:** Any sign attached to, in any manner, or made a part of a marquee.

**MONUMENT SIGN:** A sign face attached parallel to, but not more than six inches (6") of the front facade of a function wall or fence.

**NONCONFORMING SIGN:** Any sign that was lawfully erected but does not conform to the present requirements of this chapter.

**OPEN HOUSE SIGN:** A temporary sign which directs attention to an open house upon premises which are for sale or for rent or which directs attention to an "occasion sale" as defined in section 3-3-1 of this code, including, but not limited to, directional signs. Such signs shall belong to the owner, builder for the owner, a licensed real estate office, broker or duly authorized agent of the owner or occupants.

**PENNANT:** Any lightweight plastic, fabric or other material, whether or not containing a message of any kind, suspended on a rope, wire or string usually in series, designed to move in the wind.

**PERSON:** Any association, company, corporation, firm, organization, entity or partnership,

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singular or plural, of any kind.

\* POLITICAL SIGN: Any sign identifying any candidate or party for political office and/or pending referendum.

PORTABLE SIGN: Any sign on a moveable object, vehicle or cart.

PROJECTING SIGN: Any sign affixed to a building or wall in such a manner that its leading edge extends more than six inches (6") beyond the surface of such a building or wall.

REAL ESTATE SIGN: Any sign designed to convey the message that a specific property, or the improvements thereon, are for sale or for rent including, but not limited to, an "open house" sign and open house directional signs, or any sign advertising an occasional sale or designating its location as defined in title 3, chapter 3 of this code. Such signs shall belong to the owner, builder, a licensed real estate office, broker or duly authorized agent of the owner or occupant.

RESIDENTIAL SIGN: Any sign located in a district zoned for residential uses that contains no commercial message.

RIDGE: The long upper edge, angle or crest of the roof.

ROOF SIGN: Any sign painted, erected and constructed wholly on or over the roof of a building supported by the roof structure and extending vertically above the highest portion of the roof.

SETBACK: The distance from the property line to the nearest part of the applicable building, structure or sign measured perpendicularly to the property line.

SIGN: Any device, fixture, placard or structure that uses any color, form, graphic, illumination, symbol or writing to advertise, announce the purpose of or identify the purpose of a person or entity, or to communicate information of any kind to the public which is visible from any public place or is located on private property and exposed to the public. For the purpose of removal, signs shall also include all sign structures.

SIGN AREA: The area within the outer boundaries of standard geometrical shapes containing and defined by the extreme reaches of the informational or graphic parts of the sign as defined in specification for measurement, in section 10-10-11 of this chapter.

STREET: A strip of land or right of way subject to vehicular traffic (as well as pedestrian traffic) that provides direct or indirect access to property, including, but not limited to, alleys, avenues, boulevards, courts, drives, highways, lanes, places, roads, terraces, trails or thoroughfares.

STREET FRONTAGE: The distance for which a lot line of a zone lot adjoins a public street, from one lot line intersecting said street to the furthest distant lot line intersecting the same.

SUSPENDED SIGN: A sign that is suspended from the underside of a horizontal plane surface and is supported by such surface.

TEMPORARY DIRECTIONAL SIGN: A sign intended to be displayed for a limited period of time which directs attention to an occasional sale outside the premises where such sign is located or designating its location as defined in title 3, chapter 3 of this code.

WALL SIGN: Any sign attached parallel to but on or within six inches (6") of a wall.

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**B. Issuance Of Permit:**

1. An application for an initial sign permit shall be filed with the Building and Zoning Officer on forms provided by the Village. The Building and Zoning Officer shall determine compliance of this section. The application shall be referred to the Plan Commission. If approved by the Plan Commission, the Building and Zoning Officer shall issue the initial permit.

2. Subsequent sign permits may be issued by the Village Clerk.

**C. Permit Lapse:** An initial sign permit shall lapse if the sign for which the permit is issued is not installed within three (3) months from date of issuance.

**D. Sign Permit Fees:** The fee for a sign permit shall be established by the Village according to a fee schedule established by this code. (Ord. 1026, 1-26-2004)

**10-10-7: APPEARANCE REVIEW:**

At the time of application for an initial sign permit, all applicants are required to submit for initial review by the Building and Zoning Officer three (3) copies of construction plans, three (3) copies of a site plan, three (3) copies of a plat of survey and samples of the proposed color scheme and materials to be used (these samples to be held on file until sign completion). After such initial review and preliminary approval by the Building and Zoning Officer, applicants shall submit fifteen (15) copies of diagrams/schematics to be reviewed by, and subject to approval of, the Zoning Board of Appeals during an appearance review session. Said Zoning Board of Appeals review shall be at a public meeting but shall not be a public hearing of which legal notice must be given. (Ord. 1074, 10-24-2005)

**\* 10-10-8: EXEMPTIONS:**

No permit is required for the following signs, but shall require permission of the property owner:

A. Residential signs including historical identification and address signs.

B. Freestanding signs containing public information may exist for not more than two (2) weeks.

C. Government flags.

D. Real estate signs, marketing a single-family residence, one per property.

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- E. Open house signs, three (3) off site signs advertising open houses for a maximum of twelve (12) hours per week.
- F. Signs that appear in public safety vehicles.
- \* G. Political campaign signs shall be allowed on private property and on any other area where political signs may be posted under the following conditions:
  - 1. Signs will not exceed five (5) square feet in size and may be erected no more than thirty (30) days before the election and shall be removed within forty eight (48) hours after the election for which erected.
  - 2. All signage must provide for clear sight for traffic safety.
  - 3. The person or committee whose name appears on the sign shall be responsible for its removal. If the sign(s) is (are) not removed within forty eight (48) hours of the election, the candidate will be responsible for the cost associated with removal. (Ord. 1026, 1-26-2004)

**10-10-9: GENERAL QUALITATIVE SIGN STANDARDS:**

A. Illumination:

- 1. Lighting shall be focused and only so bright as to effectively illuminate the sign surface encompassing the extreme limits of the text.
  - a. Only low wattage light sources external to the sign are allowed.
  - b. For freestanding signs, ground based external lighting is allowed.
  - c. Any fixtures projecting from the sign structure should project no more than fifteen inches (15") from the face of the sign.
- 2. Protruding overhead lights or lamps are prohibited.
- 3. Lighting devices shall be hidden or softened by or integrated into building architectural features or landscaping.
- 4. Light fixtures mounted on the ground shall not exceed a height of twelve inches (12") and shall be concealed utilizing landscaping. Such ground based lighting shall be of such quality (as to eliminate the potential of creating glare problems) so as to focus the light only within the extremities of the sign, eliminate the potential of creating glare and minimize any spillage through or around the sign.
- 5. For building mounted letters, back lighting is allowed which softly illuminates such letters while conforming to subsection A4 of this section.