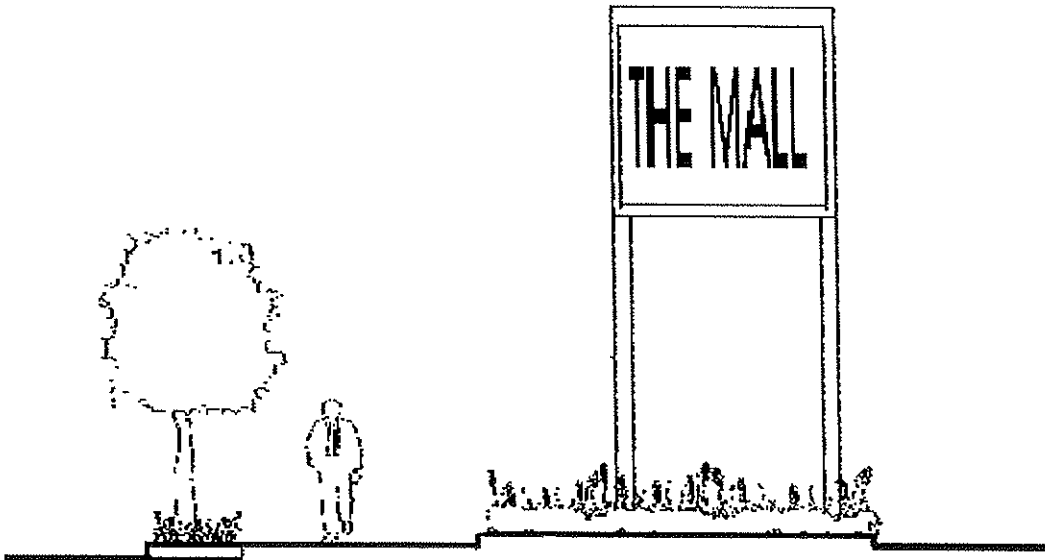


the Village of New Lenox

"Home Of Proud Americans"

Building Department
Phone 815-462-6490
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SIGN REGULATIONS

REVISED
11/6/07

The enclosed sign regulations are compiled from the Village Sign Ordinances. These sign ordinances include #1287, #1346, #1455, #1508, #1528, #1641, & #1754. You may obtain a copy of these Ordinances from the Village Clerk's Office.

SIGN REGULATIONS

10-22-2007

ARTICLE VIII. SIGNS

SECTION 106-381. Purpose of article.

There is a significant relationship between the manner in which signs are displayed and public safety, and the value and economic stability of adjoining property. The reasonable display of signs is necessary as a public service and to the conduct of competitive commerce and industry. The regulations in this article establish standards for the display of signs within the zoning districts which are provided in this chapter.

SECTION 106-382. Definitions

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Abandoned sign means a sign located on a property or premises which is vacant and unoccupied for a period of ninety (90) days, or a sign which is damaged, in disrepair or vandalized and not repaired within thirty (30) days of the date of the damaging event.

Alterations means the rebuilding, enlarging, extension, or relocation of any sign. The repainting, changing or parts, and preventative maintenance shall not be deemed to be alterations.

Animation means the movement or the optical illusion of movement of any part of the sign structure, design or pictorial segments, including the movement of any illumination or the flashing or varying of light intensity, the automatic changing of all or any part of the facing of a sign, or the movement of a sign set in motion by the atmosphere. Time and temperature devices shall not be considered animated signs.

Anniversary sign means a sign announcing the anniversary of an existing business in increments not less than five (5) years.

Applicant means a person who applies for a sign permit in accordance with the provisions of this article.

Area of sign.

- (1) In the case of individual letters used as a sign, the area is the area enclosed within the smallest regular geometric figure needed to completely encompass all letters, insignias or symbols of the sign, including horizontal spacing between letters, insignias or symbols, except as otherwise provided in this article.
- (2) For signs other than individual letters, words, insignias or symbols, the area is the total area of the facing or the total area within the outer edge of any existing border of the sign.

Attention-getting device means any device designed or intended to attract notice by noise; sudden, intermittent, or rhythmic movement; physical change or lighting change; or, physical presence, such as banners, flags, streamers, balloons, propellers, whirligigs, searchlights and flashing lights.

Awning means a roof-like cover, often of fabric, metal, plastic, fiberglass or glass, designed and intended for protection from the weather or as a decorative embellishment, and which is supported by and projects from a wall or roof of a structure over a window, walk, or door.

Awning sign means a sign which is placed on or integrated into fabric or other material awning which is mounted on the exterior of a building.

Banner means a sheet of fabric or other similar material of rectangular shape, which is attached or suspended at two ends or continuously across the long side. Attachment or suspension may be from buildings and/or poles. A banner may or may not contain text.

Bench sign means any sign that is painted, marked, or has printed designs or lettering of any description and built in such a manner as to provide a surface to be sat upon.

Building wall means the individual sides of a building.

Building wall, length means the distance of the exterior face of the building measured from side to side. For purposes of calculating the permitted total square footage of all signs on canopies, awnings, walls and mansard roofs in this article, minor offsets in the building façade for aesthetic or architectural purposes up to six (6) feet for buildings between 100 and 300 feet wide and up to twenty (20) feet for buildings more than 301 feet wide shall be considered part of the overall length of the building wall.

Business entrance identification sign means a sign adjacent to or on the entrance door of a business containing the business name and such other appropriate information as store hours and telephone numbers.

Business name means the name by which a business is commonly recognized and which is used by the applicant. Slogans or product information shall not be considered as the business name.

Business park means a tract of land that has been planned, developed and operated as an integrated facility for a number of separate commercial, office or industrial buildings and supporting ancillary uses with special attention to circulation, parking, utility needs, aesthetics and compatibility.

Canopy means a roof-like cover, often of fabric, metal, plastic, fiberglass or glass on a support which is supported in total or in part from the ground, providing shelter over a doorway, outside walk or parking area.

Canopy sign means a sign which is placed on or integrated into fabric or other material canopy.

Changeable copy sign means a sign designed to permit immediate change of copy with language other than the name of the business.

Contractor or subcontractor sign means a temporary sign which identifies the contractor or subcontractor engaged in the construction, reconstruction or repair of a building on a lot or parcel of property.

Deck line means the intersection of two roof surfaces of a mansard roof forming the highest horizontal line of the steeper roof slope.

Directory sign means a sign which provides a listing of the names of businesses, activities, addresses, locations, uses or places within a building or complex of buildings for the purpose of identification only.

Fascia means a parapet-type wall used as a part of the face of a flat-roofed building and projecting not more than six (6) feet from the building face immediately adjacent thereto. Such a wall shall enclose at least three (3) sides of the projecting flat roof and return to a parapet wall or the building.

Flag means a sheet of fabric or other similar material of square, rectangular or triangular shape, which is mounted on a pole, cable or rope at one end.

Flashing sign means any sign or device in which any illumination on the sign or device is not kept stationary or constant in color and/or intensity at all times.

Freestanding sign means a sign that is not attached to any building.

Grade means the lower of the existing grade prior to construction or the grade after construction, exclusive of any filling, berming, mounding or excavating solely for the purpose of locating the sign.

Grand opening sign means a sign identifying a new business or the relocation of an existing business.

Ground sign means a freestanding sign in which the bottom of the sign face is no more than one (1) foot above grade.

Height means the distance from grade to the top of the highest component of the sign.

Illegal sign means any sign erected without first obtaining an approved sign permit or signs existing at the time this ordinance is adopted without valid permits.

Illuminated sign means any sign which has characters, letters, figures or outlines illuminated by electric lights, luminous tubes or any other means of internal or external illumination. Copy changes are permitted only if the message thereon remains stationary and constant in color and intensity for at least one hour at a time, changing only on the hour.

Indirect lighting means a source of external illumination located away from the sign, which lights the sign, but which is itself not visible to persons viewing the

sign from any street, sidewalk or adjacent property.

Individual letter means a cutout or etched letter or logo which is individually placed on a building wall sign.

Internal lighting means a source of illumination entirely within the sign which makes the contents of the sign visible at night by means of the light being transmitted through a translucent material, but wherein the source of illumination is not visible.

Logo means a graphic symbol representing an activity, use or business. Permitted logos shall be registered trademarks or symbols commonly used by the applicant, and may include graphic designs in addition to lettering.

Maintenance means the replacing or repairing of a part or portion of a sign necessitated by ordinary wear, tear or damage beyond the control of the owner, or the reprinting of existing copy without changing the wording, composition or color of the copy. The replacing of a sign face shall not be deemed to be maintenance.

Mansard roof means a sloping roof which projects from the wall of a building and has a pitch of forty-five (45) degrees or greater to the horizontal, or a roof having a double slope, the lower slope being steeper than the upper slope.

Menu sign means a sign used to inform the public of the list of dishes, foods or entrees available in a restaurant, which may include the corresponding prices.

Message center or sign means any sign or device which uses changing or traveling lights to form words, symbols or characters in motion or animation, or gives the illusion of motion or animation, or in which the illuminations are not stationary or constant in color and intensity.

Nameplate means a sign, permanently affixed to a building, giving the name or address, or both, of the owner or occupant of a building or premises.

Nonconforming sign means any sign which is not allowed under this article, but which, when first constructed, was legally allowed by the village of the political subdivision then having the control and regulation over construction of signs.

Obsolete sign means any sign which does not advertise a bona fide business conducted or product sold.

Occupancy means the purpose or activity for which land or buildings are designed, arranged or intended, or for which land or buildings are occupied or maintained.

Off-premises sign means a sign that is located on property other than where a business is located, the product is sold or the service is offered.

Parapet wall means that portion of a building exterior wall projecting above the plate line of the building.

Permanent sign means any sign which is intended to be and is so constructed as to be a lasting and enduring structure remaining unchanged in character, condition (beyond normal wear) and position, and in a permanent manner affixed to the ground, wall or building, providing the sign is listed as a permitted sign in this article.

Plate line means the point at which any part of the main roof structure first touches or bears upon an external wall.

Pole sign means a sign that is mounted on a freestanding pole or other support so that the bottom edge of the sign face is six (6) feet or more above grade.

Political sign means a temporary sign which supports candidates for office or urges action on any other matter on the ballot of primary, general and special elections.

Portable sign means any sign that is not permanently affixed to a building, a structure, or the ground, or a sign designed to be moved from place to place. These signs primarily include, but are not limited to, signs attached to wood or metal

frames designed to be self-supporting and moveable, whether or not the sign has been altered by removal of mobile parts or affixed to the ground or building; paper, cardboard or canvas signs wrapped around supporting poles; and banners or pennants of any kind.

Projecting sign means a display sign which is attached directly to the building wall and which extends perpendicular from the building wall, the closest part of the sign being no more than six (6) inches from the face of the wall.

Public property, unless otherwise expressly provided, means any and all real or personal property over which the village or other governmental entity has or may exercise control, whether or not the village owns the property in fee, and it includes but is not limited to public buildings, public streets, alleys, sidewalks, rights-of-way and improved or unimproved land of any kind and all property appurtenant to it.

Public use means any land, building, structure, facility or complex owned and operated by any state, county, township or municipal government agency, including, but not limited to, government office buildings, parks, libraries and schools.

Religious use means any land, building, structure, facility or complex owned and operated by an organization providing organized religious services and education, including, but not limited to, churches, mosques, temples, and synagogues.

Roof sign means a sign that is mounted on the roof of the building and projects higher than the highest point on a gambrel, hip or gable roof, but shall not include cupolas, pylons, projections or minor raised portions of the roof.

Roofline means the highest point of the main roof structure or the highest point on a parapet, but shall not include cupolas, pylons, projections or minor raised portions of the roof.

Sales, lease and rent signs means temporary signs which indicate that premises, a building or a vacant lot is currently for sale, lease or rent.

Shopping center means an integrated and harmonious design of a building or structure, or buildings or structures, in which is located a group of business enterprises and which has adequate and properly arranged facilities for internal traffic circulation, collective off-street parking and loading facilities, landscaping, and other features and facilities common to shopping center developments. A shopping center is usually, but not necessarily, planned, developed, owned or managed as a unit.

Shopping center, major means a shopping center located on a parcel a minimum of 10 acres in size with a minimum frontage of 300 feet.

Shopping center, primary structure means a building that serves as the main activity focus within a shopping center development, and is identifiable either by its greater size or prominent location.

Shopping center, primary lot means the parcel containing the primary structure in whole or in part. There shall be only one primary lot per shopping center development.

Shopping center, outlot means a parcel within a shopping center development that is subordinate in size and location to the primary lot. Outlot uses shall be compatible to that on the primary lot.

Sign means any object, device, display or structure, or part thereof, situated outdoors or indoors, which is used to advertise, identify, display, direct or attract attention to an object, person, institution, organization, business, product, service, event or location by any means, including words, letters, figures, design, symbols, fixtures, colors, illumination or projected images. The term "sign" shall not include any flag or badge or insignia of the United States, the state, the county or the village, or any governmental jurisdiction or agency.

Sign face means the area or display surface used for the message of a sign.

Special event means a promotional event sponsored by a business, public, charitable or non-

profit organization such as, but not limited to, bazaars, street fairs, shows, exhibitions, sporting events, runs, bicycling events and block parties. This does not include sidewalk sales occurring on private property where merchandise is normally sold indoors and is transferred from indoors to outdoors for sale.

Suspended sign means a sign suspended from a roof overhang of a covered porch or walkway which identifies the tenant of the adjoining space.

Temporary sign means any sign, banner, pennant, bunting or valance constructed of cloth, light fabric, cardboard, wallboard or other like materials, with or without frames. The term includes any sign not permanently attached to the ground, wall or building, intended to be displayed for a short period of time only. A temporary sign may or may not contain text.

Traffic directional sign means a sign used at driveways, private streets and parking lots to improve public safety and to enhance public access to the site from public streets. This sign provides information which will assist the operators of vehicles in the flow of traffic. Such signs may use names, logos or symbols of buildings, businesses, activities, uses or places as a means of direction.

Vehicle sign means any advertising or business sign attached to a motor vehicle that is parked or placed in a position for the purpose of displaying such sign to the public.

Wall sign means a sign fastened to or painted on the wall of the building or structure in such a manner that the wall becomes the supporting structure for, or forms the background surface of, the sign and that does not project more than twelve (12) inches from such building or structure.

Window sign means any poster, cutout letters, painted text or graphics, or other text or visual presentation affixed to or placed behind a windowpane which is placed to be read from the exterior of the building.

Sec. 106-383. Penalty; additional remedies.

- (a) Any person who violates any provision of this article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in an amount of not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) and not more than as provided in section 1-9 for each violation.
- (b) In addition to the penalty in subsection (a) of this section, the village may institute any appropriate action or proceeding to prevent the unlawful construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair, conversion, maintenance or use of any sign in violation of the provisions of this article, or to restrain, correct or abate any sign which violates the provisions of this article.

Sec. 106-384. Exempt signs.

The following signs are exempt from the regulations of this article:

- (a) Memorial signs and tablets displayed on private property.
- (b) Address numerals and signs not exceeding three (3) square feet in area and bearing the names of occupants of premises.
- (c) United States, state and local government flags.
- (d) Legal notices.

Sec. 106-385. Permit required.

No person shall erect, alter or relocate within the village any sign or other advertising structure without first obtaining a sign permit from the building and zoning administrator and making payment of the required fee.

Sec. 106-386. Removal or correction of unsafe or unlawful signs.

If the building and zoning administrator shall find that any sign is unsafe or insecure, or is a menace to the public, or has been constructed or erected or is being maintained in violation of the provisions of this article, such sign shall be taken down and removed by the owner, agent or person having the beneficial use of the structure and/or property upon which such sign may be found

within ten (10) days after written notification from the building and zoning administrator. Upon failure to comply with such notice within the time specified in such order, the building and zoning administrator may cause removal of such sign, and any expense incident thereto shall be paid by the owner of the property to which such sign is attached. The building and zoning administrator shall refuse to issue a sign permit to any such party or owner who refuses to pay costs so assessed. The building and zoning administrator may cause any sign which is an immediate peril to persons or property to be removed summarily and without notice, and any expense incident thereto shall be paid by the owner of the property.

Sec. 106-387. Removal of obsolete and abandoned signs.

Any obsolete or abandoned sign shall be taken down and removed by the owner, agent or person having the beneficial use of the structure and/or property upon which such sign may be found within ten (10) days after written notification from the building and zoning administrator. Upon failure to comply with such notice within the time specified in such order, the building and zoning administrator may cause removal of such sign, and any expense incident thereto shall be paid by the owner of the property to which such sign is attached.

Sec. 106-388. General standards; exemptions.

- (a) *Obstructing access.* No sign shall obstruct any door, window or fire escape of any building. No sign shall block any required accessway except as allowed in section 106-391 (2) e and f; and section 106-392 (2) d and e.
- (b) *Attachment to trees or utility poles.* No sign shall be attached to a tree or utility pole.
- (c) *Measurement of surface area.* Surface area of all signs defined in this article shall be for one side of a sign.
- (d) *Signs in right-of-way.* No sign shall be erected or maintained in the public right-of-way.
- (e) *Signs on vehicles.* No sign shall be erected on or attached to any vehicle

owned or operated by residents or businesses within the village limits except for:

- (1) Signs painted directly on the surface of the vehicle.
 - (2) Signs no larger than four (4) square feet advertising that the vehicle is for sale.
 - (3) Business identification signs no larger than four (4) square feet.
- (f) *Obstruction of sight distance.* No sign shall be located so as to impair the sight distance or visibility of on-coming pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
- (g) *Maintenance of signs.* All signs shall be maintained in an orderly manner. Signs shall be kept clean and in good repair. Violations of this section shall be deemed unsafe and unlawful signs subject to removal as provided in Sec. 106-386.
- (h) *U.L. approved.* All electrical signs shall carry the approval of Underwriters' Laboratory.

Sec. 106-389. Signs permitted in all districts.

- (1) Roadway signs and markers, which shall be made and installed in accordance with the specifications of the village, are permitted in all districts. Included shall be signs announcing the location of or directing traffic to given locations, which include but are not limited to the following:
- (a) Service areas: automobiles, food, lodging.
 - (b) Public and quasi-public information.
 - (c) Businesses or business districts.
- (2) Electronic message center signs for public and/or religious uses, subject to the following:
- (a) Electronic message center signs shall only be permitted to be placed along major or minor arterial roadways so designated in the comprehensive plan.
 - (b) Electronic message center signs shall not be permitted to be placed within 250 feet of a residential use or property designated for residential use on the comprehensive plan.
 - (c) Notwithstanding any provision of this article to the contrary, there shall be a maximum of one electronic message center sign per zoning lot.

(d) The sign shall comply with all other provisions of this article.

- (e) The overall area of the sign, including the electronic message center, shall not exceed the sign area otherwise permitted for the subject use.
- (f) The electronic message center shall not exceed 50% of the total sign area.
- (g) The electronic message shall remain fixed for a minimum of 15 seconds to avoid a flashing or blinking effect and shall consist of one color text only.

Sec. 106-390. Signs permitted in residential districts.

Signs in residential districts are exempt from the permit requirement, but must comply with all other regulations in this article. In all residential zoned districts, the following classes of signs are permitted in accordance with the regulations set forth in this section:

- (1) *Nonflashing, nonilluminated accessory signs.*
- a. Nameplates. For all dwellings, there shall be not more than one nameplate, not exceeding one square foot in area, for each dwelling unit, indicating the name or address of the occupant.
 - b. Identification signs
 1. *Permitted signs:*
 - i. Multiple-family dwelling signs. Only the name and address of the building and the name, address and telephone number of the management thereof may be contained on the sign, as well as availability of units.
 - ii. Contractor and subcontractor signs. In connection with the construction or remodeling of a building, a sign shall be permitted not sooner than two weeks prior to construction and shall be removed the day a certificate of occupancy is issued for the structure indicated.
 2. *Area and number:*
 - i. No sign shall exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in area.
 - ii. There shall be not more than one such sign per lot, except that on a

corner lot two signs, one facing each street shall be permitted.

3. Height:
 - i. No sign in any single- or two-family residence district shall project higher than four (4) feet above grade.
 - ii. No sign in any multi-family residence district shall project higher than six (6) feet above grade.
4. Distance from street. No sign shall be placed any closer than fifteen (15) feet to the edge of the pavement. In areas where sidewalks exist, signs shall be placed a minimum of two feet beyond the private property side of the edge of the sidewalk. All parts of the sign shall be entirely within the property lines of the premises on which the sign is located.

(c.) "For sale" and "to rent" signs, subject to the following:

1. *Area and number.* There shall be not more than one such sign per lot, except that on a corner lot two signs, one facing each street, shall be permitted. No sign shall exceed sixteen (16) square feet in area.
2. *Height.* No sign shall project higher than four (4) feet above grade.
3. *Distance from street.* No sign shall be placed any closer than fifteen (15) feet to the edge of the pavement. In areas where sidewalks exist, signs shall be placed a minimum of two feet beyond the private property side of the edge of the sidewalk. All parts of the sign shall be entirely within the property lines of the premises on which the sign is located. No sign shall be closer than five (5) feet to any other zoning lot.

c. Signs accessory to parking areas, subject to the following:

1. *Area and number.* Signs designating parking area entrances or exits are limited to one sign for each such exit or entrance and to a maximum size of two (2) square feet each. One sign per parking area, designating the conditions of use or identity of such parking area, and limited to a maximum of seven (7) square feet shall be permitted. On a corner lot, two such signs, one facing each street, shall be permitted.
2. *Height.* No sign shall project higher than seven (7) feet above the grade of the parking area.
3. *Distance from street.* No sign shall be placed any closer than fifteen (15) feet to the edge of the pavement. In areas where sidewalks exist, signs shall be placed a minimum of two feet beyond the private property side of the edge of the sidewalk. All parts of the sign shall be entirely within the property lines of the premises on which the sign is located.

(2) Signs for places of religious worship. Signs for places of religious worship, subject to the following:

- a. *Area and number.* There shall be not more than one such sign per lot, except that on a corner lot two signs, one facing each street, shall be permitted. No sign shall exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in area.
- b. *Height.* No sign shall project higher than six (6) feet above grade.
- c. *Distance from street.* No sign shall be placed any closer than fifteen (15) feet to the edge of the pavement. In areas where sidewalks exist, signs shall be placed a minimum of two feet beyond the private property side of the edge of the sidewalk.

