

VILLAGE OF RINGWOOD
ORDINANCE NO. 98- 2 - 2

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING CHAPTER 8 OF THE
RINGWOOD MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO SIGNS

ADOPTED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF RINGWOOD THIS SIXTEENTH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1998

Published in pamphlet form by
authority of the President and
Board of Trustees of the Village
of Ringwood, McHenry County, Illinois
this 16th day of February, 1998.

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RINGWOOD MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO SIGNS

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
VILLAGE OF RINGWOOD, ILLINOIS, as follows:

SECTION 1. The following provisions are hereby adopted as and for Chapter 8 of the Village
of Ringwood Municipal Code:

Section 8-101. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE. The purpose of this ordinance is to
establish standards for the fabrication, erection and use of signs, symbols, markings
and advertising devices within the Village. These standards are designed to protect
and promote the public welfare, health and safety of persons within the community
and to aid in the development and promotion of business and industry by providing
sign regulations which encourage aesthetic creativity, effectiveness and flexibility in
the design and use of such devices without creating detriment to the general public.

This ordinance authorizes the use of signs provided they are:

(1) Compatible with their surroundings, pursuant to the objectives of proper
design and zoning amenities;

(2) Designed, installed and maintained to meet the sign user's needs while at the same time promoting the amendable environment desired by the general public;

(3) Designed, constructed, installed and maintained in such a manner that they do not endanger public safety or traffic safety;

(4) Legible, readable and visible in the circumstances in which they are used.

Section 8-102. DEFINITIONS.

Administrator. The Village Building Inspector.

Advertising message. That copy on a sign describing products or services being offered to the public.

Animated sign. Any sign which includes action or motion. For purposes of this Code, this term does not refer to flashing, changing or indexing, all of which are separately defined.

Architectural blade. A roof sign or projecting sign with no visible legs or braces. Designed to look as though it could have been part of the building structure, rather than something suspended from or standing on the building.

Architectural projection. Any projection not intended for occupancy which extends beyond the property line, not including signs, canopies or marquees.

Area identification sign. A sign, free-standing or affixed to a wall or fence which identifies a neighborhood, a residential subdivision, a multiple residential complex, or a commercial or industrial complex.

Area of sign. The area of the largest single face of the sign within a perimeter which forms the outside shape including any frame, forms an integral part of the display, but excluding the necessary supports or uprights on which the sign may be placed. If the sign consists of more than one section or module, all areas will be totaled. When poster panels or bulletins are installed back to back, one face only is considered as area. If there is a difference, the larger face will be counted.

Awning. A movable or fixed shelter supported entirely from the exterior wall of a building and composed of rigid or nonrigid materials except for the supporting framework.

Background area. The entire area of a sign on which copy could be placed,

as opposed to the copy area, where copy is in fact posted or painted.

Banner. A long, narrow flag hung over a street, or entrance.

Banner sign. A temporary sign composed of lightweight material secured or mounted so as to allow movement caused by wind.

Billboard. (See "Off-Premises Sign," "Off-Site Sign" or "Outdoor Advertising (Posters and Bulletins).")

Board. The Village Board of Trustees.

Building face or wall. All window and wall area of a building in one plane or elevation.

Building frontage. The linear width of a building facing the right-of-way or the linear length of the right-of-way facing the building, whichever is smaller.

Building sign. A sign lettered to give the name of a building itself, as opposed to the name of occupants or services.

Bulletin. (See "Off-Premises Sign," "Off-Site Sign" or "Outdoor Advertising (Posters and Bulletins).")

Canopy (or marquee). A permanent roof-like shelter extending from part or all of a building face over a public right-of-way and constructed of some durable material such as metal, glass or plastic.

Canopy or marquee sign. Any sign attached to or constructed in or on a canopy or marquee.

Changeable copy sign (manual). A sign on which copy or sign panels may be changed manually in the field, such as boards with changeable letters or changeable pictorial panels.

Changing sign (automatic). An electronically or electrically controlled time, temperature and date sign, message center or readerboard, where different copy changes are shown on the same location.

Comprehensive design plan. Building design and signs integrated into one architectural plan, the comprehensive plan being complete in all other building, structural and electrical requirements.

Construction sign. A temporary sign identifying a building or construction site

and the architects, engineers, financial institutions, contractors and suppliers involved.

Copy. The wording on a sign surface.

Copy area. The area in square feet of the smallest geometric figure which describes the area enclosed by the actual copy of a sign. For facia signs, the copy area limits refer to the message, not to the illuminated background.

Detached sign. (See "Free-Standing Sign.")

Directional sign. Any sign which serves solely to designate the location of any place or area.

Directly illuminated sign. Any sign designed to provide artificial light either through exposed lighting in front of the face or through transparent or translucent material from a light source within the sign.

Electrical sign. Any sign containing electrical wiring which is attached or intended to be attached to an electrical energy source.

Embellishment. (a) Letters, figures, characters or representations in cut-outs or irregular forms or similar ornaments attached to or superimposed upon the sign.

(b) Embellishment (decorative only)-A purely decorative embellishment on a free-standing sign.

Erected. This term shall mean attached, altered, built, constructed, reconstructed, enlarged or moved, and shall include the painting of walls signs, but does not include copy changes on any sign.

Face lift. The remodeling of a building's frontage which is visible from a public right-of-way, so that the building material, door frames, window frames and signs are designed in harmony with each other.

Face of sign. The entire area of sign on which copy could be placed.

Facia sign or wall sign. A sign attached to or erected against a wall of a building, with the face parallel to the building wall and extending not more than one foot therefrom.

Field fabricated sign. A sign constructed in the field instead of being completed at the factory.

Flag. A piece of cloth or other flexible material varying in size, shape, color or design, usually attached at one edge to a staff or cord and used as the symbol of

a nation, state or organization. May also be imprinted with an advertising message or design, or be of bright colors to attract attention.

Flashing sign. Any sign which contains an intermittent or flashing light source, or which includes the illusion of intermittent or flashing light by means of animation, or an externally-mounted intermittent light source. Automatic changing signs such as public service time, temperature and date signs or electronically controlled message centers are classed as "changing signs" not "flashing signs."

Free-standing sign. A sign erected on a free-standing frame, mast or pole and not attached to any building.

Freeway-oriented sign or controlled access highway sign. Any sign identifying premises where food, lodging, or place of business are located that engage in supplying goods and services essential to normal operation of motor vehicles, and where such businesses are directly dependent upon the adjacent freeway or controlled access highway for business.

Frontage. The length of the property line of any one premises parallel to and along each public right-of-way it borders.

Future development sign. A temporary sign indicating the future construction or development of a building or area but not a construction sign.

Ground level. Street grade.

Ground sign. A "Free-Standing Sign" installed directly on the ground.

Height of sign. The vertical distance measured from the adjacent street grade or upper surface of the street curb to the highest point of said sign. Elevated roadways shall not be used to measure height.

Identification facia sign. A facia sign which is limited to the name of the building or institution on which the sign is erected.

Identification sign. A sign which is limited to the name, address and number of a building, institution or person and to the activity carried on in the building, or institution, or the occupancy.

Illuminated sign. Any sign which is lighted from within or without.

Incidental sign. A secondary sign not directly describing goods, products, services, or facilities which are available on the premises where the sign is located; i.e., credit cards accepted, official notices required by law, trade affiliations.

Indexing. Turning and stopping action of the sections of a multiprism sign designed to show several messages in the same area.

Indirectly illuminated sign. Any sign which reflects light from a source intentionally directed upon it - for example, by means of flood lights, gooseneck reflectors or externally mounted fluorescent light fixtures.

Individual letter sign. Any sign made of self-contained letters that are mounted on the face of a building, top of a parapet, roof edge of a building or on top or below a marquee.

Institutional bulletin board. A sign which primarily displays the name of the organization or upcoming events of that organization.

Interior property line. Property lines other than those fronting on street, road or highway.

Lintel. In this context, the line above the display on a store (usually approximately 9'0" from grade).

Lot. A parcel of land of sufficient size to meet minimum zoning requirements for use, coverage, and area and to provide such yards and other open spaces required. Such lots shall have frontage on an improved public street, or on an approved private street, and may consist of:

- (1) A single lot of record;
- (2) A portion of a lot of record;
- (3) A combination of single lots or portions of lots of record.

Low profile sign. A free-standing sign erected near ground level and limited to identifying the name of the building or institution on the premises.

Maintain. To permit a sign, structure or any part of each to continue or to repair or refurbish a sign, structure or any part of either.

Mansard roof. A sloping roof where the angle of the roof is no more than thirty degrees from perpendicular. Signs on these roofs shall be considered facia signs. (See also Sloping Roof.)

Marquee (or canopy). A permanent roof-like shelter extending from part or all of the building face over a public right-of-way and constructed of durable material such as metal, glass or plastic.

Marquee sign (or canopy sign). Any sign attached to or constructed in or on a canopy or marquee.

Message. The wording or copy on a sign.

Multi-prism sign. Signs made with a series of sections that turn and stop, or flip to show several pictures or messages in the same area.

Nameplate. A nonelectric sign identifying only the name and occupation or profession of the occupant of premises on which the sign is located. If any premises include more than one occupant, nameplate refers to all names and occupations or professions as well as the name of the building and directional information.

National electrical code. The latest code prepared by the National Board of Fire Underwriters known as the National Electrical Code.

Nonconforming sign. Any advertising structure or sign which was lawfully erected and maintained prior to such time as it came within the preview of this code and any amendments thereto, and which fails to conform to all applicable regulations and restrictions of this code, or a nonconforming sign for which a special permit has been issued.

Nonelectrical sign. Any sign that does not contain electrical wiring or is not attached to or intended to be attached to an electrical energy source.

On-premise sign or on-site sign. Any sign identifying or advertising a business, person, activity, goods, products or services located on the premises where the sign is installed and maintained.

Outdoor advertising sign or off-site sign. Outdoor advertising signs which advertise goods, products or services not necessarily sold on the premises on which the sign is located, are of three main types:

- (1) Poster panels or bulletins normally mounted on a building wall, roof or free-standing structure with advertising copy in the form of pasted paper.
- (2) Multi-prism signs alternating advertising messages on one displayed area.
- (3) Painted bulletins, where the advertiser's message is painted directly on the background of a wall-mounted, roof or free-standing display area.

Owner. The title owner and his agents and assigns.

Painted wall sign. A sign painted directly on the exterior wall of a building, parapet or parapet wall. That portion of a building wall that rises above the roof level.

Pennant. A tapering flag.

Penthouse. A structure on top of a building roof.

Person. Any individual, corporation, association, firm or partnership.

Pole sign. A free-standing sign.

Pornographic. Containing pornography.

Portable sign. Any sign not permanently attached to the ground or a building.

Premises. An area of land with its appurtenances and buildings which, because of its unity of use is one unit of real estate.

Projecting signs. A sign, other than a wall sign, which is attached to and projects from a structure or building face. The area of double faced projecting signs are calculated on one face of the sign only.

Public right-of-way width. The distance across a public street, measured from property line to property line.

Public service information sign. Any sign intended primarily to promote items of general interest to the community such as time, temperature, date, atmospheric conditions, news or traffic control, and the like.

Real estate or property for sale, rent or lease sign. Any sign to sell, lease or rent land or buildings (but not a sign identifying or advertising a real estate broker's office or other office devoted to the sale of real estate).

Residential. A single family residential unit.

Roof line. The top edge of the roof or the top of the parapet, whichever forms the top line of the building silhouette.

Roof sign. Any sign erected upon, against or directly above a roof or on top of or above the parapet of a building.

Rotating sign. Any sign or portion of a sign which moves in a revolving or similar manner, but not including multi-prism indexing signs.

Seasonal or holiday signs. Signs such as Christmas decorations or those used for an historic holiday and installed for a limited period of time.

Sign. Any identification, description, illustration, symbol, statute or device, illuminated or nonilluminated, which is visible from any public place designed to advertise, identify or convey information, including any landscaping where letters or

numbers are used for the purpose of directing the public's attention to a product or location, with the exception of window displays and state or national flags. For the purpose of removal, sign shall also include all sign structures. Sign shall also include balloons used for advertising, but shall not include toy balloons designed to be held by one person.

Sign face. The entire area of sign on which copy could be placed.

Sign legend. Copy.

Sign sticker. A sticker affixed either to the face or the channel of a sign visible from the street denoting the name of the manufacturer or designated servicing company for purpose of identification by Village officials or others.

Sign structure. Any structure which supports, has supported or is designed to support a sign. A decorative cover is part of a sign structure.

Sloping roof. A roof that slopes up to sixty degrees from the horizontal. For greater slopes (see "Mansard roof").

Special purpose sign. Any sign other than a business, nonaccessory, identification sign, including but not limited to traffic signs.

Street. A public highway, road or thoroughfare which affords the principal means of access to adjacent lots, measured from property line to property line.

Swinging sign. A hinged sign installed on an arm or spar, which sign is not, in addition, permanently fastened to an adjacent wall or upright pole.

Temporary sign. A sign which is not permanently affixed. All devices such as banners, pennants, flags (not intended to include flags of any nation), searchlights, twirling or sandwich type signs, sidewalk or curb signs and balloons or other air or gas filled figures.

Temporary window or building sign. A sign painted on the interior of a window or constructed of paper, cloth, or other like material and attached to the interior side of a window or displayed on the exterior of a building wall in order to direct attention of persons outside the building to a sale of merchandise or a change in the status of the business.

Under canopy or marquee sign. A sign suspended below the ceiling or roof of a canopy or marquee.

Underwriter's Laboratories. A nonprofit organization which establishes

standards for electrical and mechanical equipment and materials and is commonly referred to as "UL." The electrical section dealing with signs is known as "Underwriters' Laboratories (48)."

Unlawful sign. A sign which contravenes this code or which the administrator may declare as unlawful if it becomes dangerous to public safety by reason of dilapidation or abandonment of a nonconforming sign for which a permit required under a previous code was not obtained.

Use. The purpose for which a building lot, sign or other structure is arranged, intended, designed, occupied or maintained.

Village. The Village of Ringwood.

Wall sign. (See "Facia Sign.")

Window sign. A sign installed inside a window for purposes of viewing from outside the premises. This term does not include merchandise located in window.

Section 8-103. PERMITS REQUIRED.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this ordinance it shall be unlawful for any person to erect, construct, enlarge, move or convert any sign in the Village, or cause the same to be done, without first obtaining a sign permit for each such sign from the Administrator as required by this ordinance. These directives shall not be construed to require any permit for a change of copy on any sign, nor for the repainting, cleaning and other normal maintenance or repair of a sign or sign structure for which a permit has previously been issued, so long as the sign or sign structure is not modified in any way. No new permit is required for signs which have permits and which conform with the requirements of this ordinance on the date of its adoption unless and until the sign is altered or relocated.

(b) Any sign permit issued by the Administrator shall become null and void if manufacture is not commenced within one hundred and eighty days from the date of such permit. If work authorized by such permit is suspended or abandoned for one hundred and twenty days any time after the work is commenced, a new permit shall be first obtained to do so, and the fee will be one-half the amount required for a new permit for such work, provided that no changes have been made in the original plans. Such permit may not be unreasonably withheld, providing that proper applications and payment of permit fees is complied with.

(c) In emergency situations, where there is imminent danger of personal injury or harm to property, work may be initiated and completed without first applying for a permit. However, a permit shall be applied for within forty-eight hours after the first working day when work has commenced on the sign.

Section 8-104. PERMISSION TO INSTALL SIGN. No person shall erect,

construct or maintain any sign upon any property or building without the consent of the owner or person entitled to possession of the property or building if any, or their authorized representatives.

Section 8-105. APPLICATION FOR PERMIT. Application for a permit shall be made to the Administrator upon a form provided by the Administrator and shall be accompanied by such information as may be required to assure compliance with all appropriate laws and regulations of the Village including.:

- (1) Name and address of owner of the sign.
- (2) Name and address of owner of the person in possession of the premises where the sign is located or to be located.
- (3) Clear and legible drawings with description definitely showing location of the sign which is the subject of the permit and all other existing signs whose construction requires permits, when such signs are on the same premises.
- (4) Drawing showing the dimensions, construction supports, sizes, foundation, electrical wiring and components, materials of the sign and method of attachment and character of structure members to which attachment is to be made. The design, quality, materials and loading shall conform to the requirements of the building code. If required by the Administrator, engineering data shall be supplied on plans submitted certified by a duly licensed structural engineer.

Section 8-106. ISSUANCE - DENIAL. The Administrator shall issue a permit for the erection, alteration, or relocation of a sign within the Village when an application therefor has been properly made and the sign complies with all appropriate laws and ordinances.

The Administrator may, in writing, suspend or revoke a permit issued under provisions of this section whenever the permit is issued on the basis of a misstatement of material fact of fraud. When a sign permit is denied by the Administrator, he shall give written notice of the denial to the applicant, together with a brief written statement of the reasons for the denial.

Section 8-107. EFFECT OF ISSUANCE. No permit for a sign issued hereunder shall be deemed to constitute permission or authorization to maintain an unlawful sign nor shall any permit issued hereunder constitute a defense in an action to abate an unlawful sign.

Section 8-108. PERMIT FEES. Application for permits shall be filed with the Administrator, together with a permit fee for each non-residential sign, provided, however, that the minimum fee for a permit shall be forty-two dollars.

The fee for each sign permit shall be calculated at a basis of \$1.00 a square foot, for each square foot in excess of ten square feet.

(a) The calculation on a free-standing pole, ground, monument or any similar or roof sign shall be based only on one face of the sign. That calculation shall

be based on the largest face of the sign.

(b) Facia or wall signs: only the copy area as calculated in this Code shall be included in the above-mentioned fee.

Section 8-109. SIGN PERMIT APPEALS. Appeal may be taken to the Village Board from the Administrator's denial of a sign permit.

Section 8-110. NOTICE OF CHANGE OF SIGN OWNER OR USER. Whenever there is a change in the sign user (excluding outdoor advertising signs), owner or owner of the property on which the sign is located, the new sign user, owner, or new property owner shall forthwith notify the Administrator of the change. No new sign permit is required, unless the sign is altered or relocated.

Section 111. INSPECTION. The person erecting, altering, or relocating a sign shall notify the Administrator upon start of construction and upon completion of the work for which permits are required.

(a) Inspections. All free-standing signs may be subject to a footing inspection. All electrical signs may be subjected to a final electrical inspection by the Administrator.

(b) Maintenance. Every sign in the Village, including any sign exempted from normal permit requirements, shall be maintained in good structural condition at all times, and shall be kept neatly painted, including all parts and supports. The Administrator shall have the authority to order the painting, repair, alteration or removal of signs which become dilapidated or are abandoned, or which constitute physical hazard to the public safety.

(c) Signs declared unlawful. The Administrator may declare any sign unlawful if it endangers public safety by reasons of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation or abandonment. Any such declaration shall state the reasons of the Administrator for stating that any sign owned, kept, displayed, or maintained by any person within the Village, the ownership keeping a display which is unlawful pursuant to the provisions of this ordinance, is hereby declared to be in violation of this ordinance. The Administrator may declare any such sign to be unlawful, and such declaration shall state in writing the reason or reasons why such sign and the keeping, owning, maintenance, construction, and display or operation thereof, is unlawful.

Section 8-112. CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS:

(a) COMPLIANCE WITH BUILDING CODE. All signs shall comply with the appropriate detailed provisions of the Village building code relating to design, structural members and connections. Signs shall also comply with the provisions of the National Electrical Code and the additional construction standards hereinafter set forth in this section.

(b) CONSTRUCTION OF SIGNS, AUXILIARY SPECIFICATIONS.

(1) Identification and marking. Each non-residential sign hereafter erected or remodeled shall bear, in a permanent position thereon a clearly legible

identification plate stating the name and address of the owner of the sign, and the person, firm or corporation responsible for its construction, erection and the date of erection. Electrical signs shall be marked with input amperages at the full load input.

(2) Sign identification tag. Each non-residential sign shall have a two by four inch sticker placed on the sign that identifies the permit number that was originally issued by the Administrator. This sticker shall be renewed on a five year basis as provided for in this ordinance.

(3) Obstruction to exits. No sign shall be erected, constructed, or maintained so as to obstruct any fire escape, required exit, window or door opening used as a means of egress.

(4) Obstruction to ventilation. No sign shall be attached in any form, shape or manner which will interfere with any opening required for ventilation, except that such signs may be erected in front of and may cover transom windows when not in violation of the provision of the building or fire prevention code.

(5) Clearance from high voltage power lines. Signs shall be located not less than eight feet horizontally or thirteen feet vertically from overhead electrical conductors which are energized in excess of seven hundred and fifty volts. Signs located in the vicinity of electrical conductors energized with less than seven hundred and fifty volts shall maintain horizontal or vertical clearances from all overhead electrical conductors in accordance with the specifications of the National Electric Safety Code, published by American National Standards Institute, 1430 Broadway, New York, New York 10018. However, in no case shall a sign be installed closer than thirty-six inches horizontally or vertically from any electrical conductor or public utility guy wire.

Section c. FREE-STANDING SIGNS - MATERIALS. All free-standing sign structures or poles shall be self-supporting structures erected on and permanently attached to concrete foundations. Foundations shall be designed to carry weight and wind load of the sign, in soil which it is placed. Such structures or poles shall be fabricated only from painted or galvanized steel, or such other materials as may provide equal strength.

Section d. ELECTRIC SIGNS. All electric signs shall conform to the standards of the Village electrical code. The full number of illuminating elements thereof shall be kept in safe and working condition or immediately repaired or replaced, if faulty. Signs that are only partially illuminated shall meet all electrical requirements for that portion directly illuminated. All electric signs shall have a disconnect switch located in accordance with the provisions of the Village building code.

Section e. GLASS. When glass is used for sign letters or transparent or translucent panels, it shall be at least double strength thickness for sign areas up to and including three hundred square inches. When glass is used for sign letters or transparent or translucent panels for sign areas in excess of three hundred square

inches at least one-quarter inch wire glass shall be used and the maximum span between supports shall be four feet.

Section f. **PLASTIC.** Plastic shall be of thickness and shape necessary to withstand wind loadings specified in section 9. Proper allowance or provision shall be made in connections to provide for thermal contraction and expansion.

Section g. **STRENGTH OF PARAPET, WALL OR ROOF.** A parapet wall or roof must be designed for and have sufficient strength to support any sign which is attached thereto.

Section h. **SUPPORTS AND BRACES.** Metal supports or braces shall be adequate for wind loadings, specified in section 9. Wire or cable supports shall have a safety factor of four. All metal, wire cable supports and braces and all bolts used to attach sign to bracket or brackets and signs to the supporting building or structure shall be of galvanized steel or of an equivalent material. All sign supports shall be an integral part of the sign design.

Section i. **WIND LOADS.** All signs, except those attached flat against the wall of a building, shall be constructed to withstand wind loads as follows:

For solid signs, thirty pounds per square foot on one face of the sign.

For signs that are not solid, thirty-six pounds per square foot of the total face area of the letters and other sign surfaces, or ten pounds per square foot of the gross area of the sign as determined by the overall dimensions of the sign, whichever is greater.

Section j. **SIGN ANCHORING.** Signs shall be anchored to prevent any lateral movement that would cause wear on supporting members or connections. No sign shall be suspended by chains or other devices that will allow the sign to swing due to wind action, unless specifically designed by means of bearings or other methods approved, to allow for movement.

Section 8-113. **ZONING.** No sign shall be placed or erected in violation of the Zoning Ordinance of the Village.

Section 8-114. **SPECIFIC SIGN TYPE REGULATIONS.** The following regulations shall apply to the specific sign types as permitted in the district regulations:

(a) **Canopy and marquee signs.** Canopy and marquee signs shall not exceed a 32 square feet area.

(b) **Construction signs.** The erection of one construction sign shall be permitted on property where construction is actually in progress under a current

building permit. This sign shall be a ground sign not to exceed 48 square feet and may include the names of persons and firms performing services, labor, or supplying material to the premises.

(c) Development signs. Two development signs may be permitted where there are two entrances to an undeveloped subdivision shown on a properly recorded plat. This sign shall be a ground sign and shall be limited in size to 100 square feet for each of the two entrances. Permits for such development signs shall be issued for a period of one year only and shall be subject to renewal by application. Such permits shall be reviewed by the chief building official only after determination that the promotion of the development is active. Subdivision signs are permitted as provided in section 5, paragraph (i) of this ordinance.

(d) Ground signs. All ground signs and billboards shall be subject to the following limitations:

(1) Surface area limit. Not to exceed 150 square feet for billboards and, except as otherwise provided in this ordinance, 75 square feet for all other ground signs.

(2) Height of the billboards shall not exceed 25 feet measured from finished grade to the highest point on the sign; height of all other ground signs shall not exceed five feet measured from finished grade to the highest point.

(3) Clearance. There shall be a clearance of nine feet between the finished grade and the bottom of the sign if said sign extends over a street right-of-way, sidewalk, or drive.

(4) Number. Only one ground sign shall be permitted for each premises, except that on corner and double frontage lots, two ground signs are permitted.

(5) Billboards. No billboards shall be permitted within the Village except those that are intended to advertise or inform persons who are traveling on the wider traveled way of a State of Illinois or Federal Highway and no such billboard may be located within 400 feet of such highways nor within 1500 feet of another billboard on the same side of such highway.

(e) Projecting signs. Projecting signs shall be subject to the following limitations:

(1) Projection limitations. Four feet beyond the surface of the portion of the building to which it is attached or designed.

(2) Surface area and height limitations.

<u>Building Size</u>	<u>Surface Area Limits</u>	<u>Maximum Height of Sign Above Ground</u>
1 story	12 sq. ft.	12 ft.
2 stories	12 sq. ft.	12 ft.
3 stories	32 sq. ft.	20 ft.

(3) Number. Only one projecting sign per building.

(f) Real estate signs. Real estate signs offering to sell the property where the sign is placed are permitted provided that only one sign shall be erected for each parcel of property or unit offered for sale, exchange, lease or rent, subject to the following regulations:

(1) No such sign shall exceed 10 square feet in area.

(2) Such signs are to be located a minimum of three feet from the right-of-way line and a minimum of ten feet from the side lot lines except, where the building is in a commercial area, it may extend to the sidewalk line. No signs may be fastened to buildings except in commercial areas. No signs shall be fastened to trees or utility poles in any area.

(g) Subdivision signs. Subdivision signs shall be treated as ground signs and shall be permitted at subdivision entrances provided the following requirements are met:

(1) A sign plan showing the sign design and location is submitted to and approved by the Village Board.

(2) The sign shall not exceed four feet in height and shall not obstruct the line of sight of motorists when entering or leaving the subdivision.

(3) No sign shall exceed 40 square feet in area.

(h) Wall signs. Wall signs shall be subject to the following requirements:

(1) Wall signs may not exceed five square feet of sign area for each ten lineal feet of building wall on which the sign is located;

(2) A wall sign may not project more than 12 inches from the building wall to which it is attached;

(3) Illuminated wall signs shall be back lighted to silhouette the title or be illuminated from an indirect light source.

(4) Number. Only one wall sign shall be permitted for each premises, except that on corner and double frontage lots, two wall signs are permitted.

(i) Outdoor illuminated signs. Outdoor illuminated signs shall comply with the provisions of this ordinance and the Village Outdoor Lighting Code.

Section 8-115. PERMIT EXCEPTIONS. The following operations shall not be considered as creating a sign insofar as requiring the issuance of a sign permit, but the signs must be in conformance with all other buildings, structural and electrical laws and regulations of the Village.

(a) Changing of the advertising copy of message on an existing approved painted or printed sign, marquee, changeable copy sign or a similar approved sign whether electrical, illuminated, electronic changing message center or nonilluminated painted message which are all specifically designed for the use of replaceable copy.

(b) Painting, repainting, cleaning or other normal maintenance and repair of a sign not involving structural changes. Replacement of the plastic face will be included as an exempt operation provided that it is due to a change caused by breakage or deterioration of the face, but not for the substitution of a new or different advertiser.

(c) Changes in the content of show window displays and permitted

temporary signs.

Section 8-116. EXEMPT SIGNS. (a) Construction signs. One construction sign per construction project not exceeding the size permitted by the zoning ordinance, provided that such signs shall be erected no more than five days prior to the beginning of construction for which a valid building permit has been issued, shall be confined to the site of construction, and shall be removed five days after completion and prior to occupancy.

(b) Directional or instructional signs. Signs which provide directions and do not exceed four square feet in area, signs, identifying rest rooms, public telephones, walkways, or signs providing direction such as parking lot entrance and exit signs and those of similar nature.

(c) Flags. The flags, emblems, or insignia of any national or political subdivision.

(d) Governmental signs. Governmental signs for control of traffic and other regulatory purposes, street signs, danger signs, railroad crossing signs, and signs of public service companies indicating danger and aids to service or safety which are erected indicating danger and aids to service or safety which are erected by or on the order of, a public officer in the performance of his public duty.

(e) Holiday signs. Signs of a primarily decorative nature, clearly incidental and customary and commonly associated with any national, local or religious holiday; provided that such signs shall be displayed for a period of not more than thirty consecutive days nor more than sixty days in any one year. Such signs may be of any type, number, area, height, illumination or animation; and shall be set back not less than ten feet from all boundary lines of the lot, provided that a clear area be maintained to a height of seventy-two inches, within fifty-five feet of the centerline of the intersection of two streets, a railroad and a street and a street and driveway. Subject to the foregoing, any type of holiday decorations that partially camouflage or divert attention from traffic signals or directional signals are specifically prohibited.

(f) House numbers and name plates. House numbers and name plates not exceeding two square feet in area for each residential building.

(g) Incidental signs. Up to two incidental signs, as defined in this Code, may be attached to a free-standing sign structure or to a building wall. Area of each sign may not exceed five square feet; the total area of all such signs may not exceed ten square feet.

(h) Interior signs. Signs located within the interior of any building or stadium, shopping center, or within an enclosed lobby or court of any building, and signs for and located within the inner or outer lobby, court or entrance of any theater, that are not visible from the public right-of-way.

(i) Memorial signs. Memorial signs or tablets, names of buildings, and date of erection when cut into any masonry surface or inlaid so as to be part of the building or when constructed of bronze or other incombustible material.

(j) Notice bulletin boards. Notice bulletin boards not over twenty-four

square feet in area for medical, public, charitable or religious institutions.

(k) No trespassing or no dumping signs. No trespassing or no dumping signs not to exceed one and one-half square feet in area per sign and not to exceed four in number per lot, except that special permission may be obtained from the Administrator for additional signs under proven special circumstances.

(l) Occupant signs. One sign for each dwelling unit not to exceed two square feet in area indicating the name of the occupant, or identification of a home professional office.

(m) Placques. Placques or name plate signs not more than two and one-half square feet in area which are fastened directly to the building.

(n) Political and campaign signs. Political or campaign signs on behalf of candidates for public office or measures on election ballots provided that said signs are subject to the following regulations:

(1) Said signs shall be removed within fifteen days following a primary election, except that nominee's signs, write-in candidates signs and referenda signs shall be removed within fifteen days following the general election.

(2) No sign shall be located within or over the public right-of-way.

(o) Public notices. Official notices posted by public officers or employees in the performance of their duties.

(p) Public signs. Signs required or specifically authorized for a public purpose by any law, statute or ordinance; which may be of any type, number, area, height above grade, location, illumination, or animation, required by the law, statute or ordinance under which the signs are erected.

(q) Real estate signs. One real estate for sale sign (single or double face) on any lot or parcel, provided such sign is located entirely within the property to which the sign applies, is not illuminated, does not exceed 32 square feet in area, and is removed within seven days after the sale, rental, or lease has been consummated. One additional sign, as described above, is permitted where a parcel has in excess of three hundred feet of frontage or fronts on two streets.

(r) Permanent window signs. For each ground floor occupancy of a building not more than two permanent signs may be painted on or otherwise displayed from the inside surface of any window, showcase or other similar facility. Said signs shall be in addition to those signs permitted under the other provisions of this ordinance. The total copy area of such signs, however, shall not exceed a maximum of twenty-five percent of the total window area, or one square foot per lineal front foot of the premises occupied, whichever is the lesser.

(s) Signs in the display window. Signs in the display window of a business use which are incorporated with a display relating to services offered.

(t) Symbols or insignia. Religious symbols, commemorative plaques of historical agencies, or identification emblems of religious orders or historical agencies.

(u) Temporary signs. Temporary signs not exceeding four square feet in area pertaining to drives or events of civic, philanthropic, educational or religious organizations, provided that said signs are posted only during said drive or no more than thirty days before said event and are removed no more than seven days after an

event. The Village council may grant a temporary permit for signs or banners over a street or public way. A temporary banner may exceed 40 square feet in area.

(v) Warning signs. Signs warning the public of the existence of danger, but containing no advertising material, of a size as may be necessary, to be removed upon subsidence of danger.

Section 8-117. PROHIBITED SIGNS. The following types of signs are expressly prohibited in all districts, except as otherwise provided by this ordinance;

(a) ANIMATED AND INTENSELY LIGHTED SIGN. No sign shall be permitted which is animated by means of flashing, scintillating, blinking or traveling lights or any other means not providing constant illumination. Changing signs as defined in this ordinance are permitted.

(b) MOVING SIGNS. Except as otherwise provided in this ordinance, no sign or any portion thereof shall be permitted which moves or assumes any motion constituting a nonstationary or nonfixed condition except for the rotation of barber poles, changing signs or multi-prism units. Indexing multi-prism units must not exceed a speed of two complete revolutions every twenty seconds. This section is not meant to prohibit any form of vehicular sign such as a sign attached to a bus or lettered on a motor vehicle.

(c) ABANDONED SIGNS. No person, firm or corporation shall abandon any sign anywhere in the Village.

(d) SIGNS ON MOVING VEHICLES. No person shall drive, on the public streets, any vehicle with a sign that interferes with the vision of the driver of that vehicle or of any other vehicle. No person shall drive, on the public streets, any vehicle with any moving sign.

(e) PUBLIC AREAS. No sign shall be placed on any curb, sidewalk, post, pole, hydrant, bridge, tree or other surface located on public property or over or across any street or public thoroughfare except expressly be authorized by this ordinance.

(f) BANNERS. (1) Banners, flags, pennants, search lights, twirling signs, sandwich board signs, sidewalk or curb signs, balloons, or other gas-filled figures shall not be used except as described in paragraph (2) of this section.

(2) Signs described in (1) above will be permitted in a commercial or industrial district for a total period not to exceed fifteen days in any six-month period at any business location. Banners, flags and pennants will be allowed in residential districts in conjunction with a demonstration of model homes in a new subdivision for two days before the opening of such demonstration to two days after and not to exceed a total period of fifteen days in any calendar year.

(a) PORTABLE SIGNS. Portable or wheeled signs are prohibited. This shall not be interpreted to prohibit lettering on motor vehicles or advertising on buses.

(b) OTHER SIGNS. The following signs are also prohibited:

(1) signs which bear or contain statements, words, or pictures of an obscene, or pornographic character;

(2) signs which are painted on or attached to any fence (except temporary fences around construction sites), or on any wall or structure (other than structures for permitted signs) which is not structurally a part of a building, except to identify a residence or residence structure by means of posting the name of the occupant or structure, and the street address;

(3) signs which operate or employ any stereopticon or motion picture projection or media or have visible moving parts or give the illusion of motion except as expressly permitted in this ordinance.

(4) signs which emit audible sound, odor, or visible matter; resemble an official traffic sign or signal;

(5) signs which purport to be, or are an imitation of, or resemble an official traffic sign or signal;

(6) signs which, by reason of their size, location, movement, content coloring or manner of illumination, may be confused with or constructed as a traffic control sign, signal or device, hide from view any traffic or street sign or signal or device.

(g) BILLBOARDS. No billboard sign shall be permitted in the Village except those intended to advertise or inform persons traveling on the main traveled way of a State of Illinois or Federal Highway.

(h) FLASHING SIGNS.

(i) ROOF SIGNS.

(j) ADVERTISING BALLOONS (not including toy balloons designed to be held by one person.)

Section 8-118. LEGAL NONCONFORMING SIGNS. (a) Notification of nonconformity. After the enactment of this ordinance, the Administrator shall as soon as practicable, survey the Village for signs which do not conform to the requirements of this ordinance. Upon determination that a sign is nonconforming, the Administrator shall use reasonable efforts to so notify either personally or in writing the user or owner of the property on which the sign is located of the following: (i) the sign's nonconformity; and (ii) whether the sign is eligible for characterization either as legal nonconforming or unlawful. If the sign owner, user, or owner of the property cannot be located, the notice may be affixed in a conspicuous place to the sign or to the business premises with which the sign is associated.

(b) Signs eligible for characterization as "legal nonconforming." Any sign located within the Village limits on the of adoption of this ordinance, or located in an area annexed to the Village thereafter, which does not conform with the provisions of this ordinance, is eligible for characterization as a "legal nonconforming" sign, if the sign was in compliance with applicable law on the date of adoption of this ordinance.

(c) Loss of legal nonconforming status. A legal nonconforming sign shall immediately lose its legal nonconforming designation if:

(1) The sign is altered in any way in structure, which tends to or makes the sign less in compliance with the requirement of this ordinance than it was before the

alteration; or

(2) The sign structure is relocated to a position making it less in compliance with the requirements of this ordinance; or

(3) The sign (except for copy on a changeable copy sign) is replaced;

On the happening of any one of (1), (2) or (3), the sign shall be immediately brought into compliance with this ordinance with a new permit secured therefor, or shall be removed.

Section 8-119. LEGAL NONCONFORMING SIGN MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR. Nothing in this section shall relieve the owner or user of a legal nonconforming sign or owner of the property on which the legal nonconforming sign is located from the provisions of this ordinance regarding safety, maintenance, and repair of signs, contained in this ordinance, provided, however, that any repainting, cleaning and other normal maintenance or repair of the sign or sign structure shall not modify the sign structure in any way which makes it more nonconforming.

Section 120. MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR. Every sign including but not limited to those signs for which permits are required or for which no permits or permit fees are required, shall be maintained in a safe, presentable and good structural material condition at all times, including the repair or replacement of defective parts, painting, repainting, cleaning, and other acts required for the maintenance of said sign.

The Administrator shall require compliance with all standards of this ordinance. If the sign is not made to comply with adequate safety and maintenance standards, the Administrator shall require its removal in accordance with this section.

Section 8-121. ABANDONED SIGNS. Except as otherwise provided by this ordinance, any on-premises sign which is located on property which becomes vacant and unoccupied for a period of three months or more, or any sign which pertains to a time, event or purpose which no longer applies, shall be deemed to have been abandoned. Permanent signs applicable to a business temporarily suspended because of a change of ownership or management of such business shall not be deemed abandoned unless the property remains vacant for a period of six months or more. Any off-premises sign which no longer, and for a period of three consecutive months, advertises goods, products, services or facilities available to the public or which directs persons to a different location where such goods, products, services or facilities are not for a period of three consecutive months available, shall be deemed to have been abandoned. Abandoned signs shall be removed by the owner of the premises on which the sign is located.

Section 8-122. DANGEROUS OR DEFECTIVE SIGNS. No persons shall maintain or permit to be maintained on any premises owned or controlled by him any sign which is in a dangerous or defective condition. Any such sign shall be removed

or repaired by the owner of the premises or the owner of the sign. Upon failure of the owners to remove or repair a dangerous or defective sign, the Administrator shall proceed as described in Section 6 of this article.

Section 8-123. UNLAWFUL SIGNS. No person shall erect or permit to be erected any sign which does not comply with the provisions of this ordinance.

Section 8-124. SIGN IN RIGHT-OF-WAY. Any sign located in or projecting over a public right-of-way at the time of the effective date of this ordinance which was subject to removal or relocation at the owner's expense, pursuant to a permit or other ordinance of the Village, shall be removed by the owner or altered at the owner's expense to comply with the regulations of this ordinance.

Section 8-125. REMOVAL OF SIGNS BY THE ADMINISTRATOR. The Administrator shall cause to be removed any sign that endangers the public safety such as an abandoned, dangerous, or materially, electrically or structurally defective, sign or a sign for which no permit has been issued. The Administrator shall prepare a notice which shall describe the sign and specify the violation involved and which shall state that if the sign is not removed or the violation is not corrected within ten days the sign shall be removed in accordance with the provisions of the section.

All notices mailed by the Administrator shall be sent by certified mail. Any time periods provided in this section shall be deemed to commence on the date of the receipt of the certified mail.

The notice shall be mailed to the owner of the property on which the sign is located, the owner of the sign and the occupant of the property. If any of such persons is unknown or cannot be found, notice shall be mailed to such persons last known address, if any, and posted on the sign or on the premises.

Any person having an interest in the sign or the property may appeal the determination of the Administrator ordering removal or compliance by filing a written notice of appeal with the Building Board of Appeals within ten days after the receipt of the notice.

Notwithstanding the above, in cases of emergency, the Administrator may cause the immediate removal of a dangerous or defective sign without notice.

Section 8-126. DISPOSAL OF SIGNS - COSTS. Any sign removed by the Administrator pursuant to the provisions of this section shall become the property of the Village and may be disposed of in any manner deemed appropriate by the Village. The cost of removal of the sign by the Village shall be considered a debt owed to the Village by the owner of the sign and the owner of the property, and may be recovered in an appropriate court action by the Village. The cost of removal shall include any

and all incidental expenses incurred by the Village in connection with the sign's removal.

When it is determined by the Administrator that said sign would cause an imminent danger to the public safety, and contact cannot be made with a sign owner or building owner, no written notice shall have to be served. In this emergency situation, the Administrator may correct the danger, all costs being charged to the sign owner and property owner.

If it shall be necessary for the Administrator to remove a sign pursuant to the provisions hereof, and it should be practicable to sell or salvage any material derived in the aforesaid removal he may sell the same at private or public sale at the best price obtainable, and shall keep an account of the proceeds thereof. Such proceeds, if any, shall be used to offset the costs of removal to be charged to the sign owner or property owner. The Village may file a suit in court to collect any excess over such cost and the cost of the removal shall be levied as an assessment against the property on which the sign is located.

Section 8-127. CONFLICT. If any portion of this ordinance is found to be in conflict with any other provision of any zoning, building, fire safety or health ordinance of the Code, of the Village, the provision which establishes the higher standard shall prevail.

Section 8-128. SEVERABILITY. The provisions of this ordinance are severable. If any Section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid by the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this ordinance is in and shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 8-129. PENALTY. Any person, firm or corporation violating any provision of this ordinance shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars for each offense, and a separate offense shall be deemed committed on each day during on or which a violation occurs or continues.

SECTION 2. All ordinances, or parts thereof, in conflict with the terms and provisions hereof, be and the same are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall be published in pamphlet form by and under the authority of the Corporate Authorities of the Village.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval and publication in pamphlet form, as provided by law.

PASSED THIS SIXTEENTH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1998.

AYES: BRUCE, KEPES, SWANSON, BAUER

NAYS: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

ABSENT: HOGAN, EVERETT

NOT VOTING: _____

APPROVED THIS SIXTEENTH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1998.


Richard E. Mack
VILLAGE PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

Patricia A. Malo
VILLAGE CLERK