

SECTION XXVIII. SIGNS

(Adopted July 9, 1987 by Resolution 87-68, effective August 8, 1987)

28.01 General Requirements for all Signs

- A. No signs, except those erected and maintained by public agencies for purpose of traffic control and directional information shall be erected in the road right-of-way. No sign shall be so constructed or located as to conflict with traffic control signals.
- B. No sign shall have more than two (2) faces. All area limitations shall apply per face unless otherwise noted.
- C. With the exception of electronic message boards as set forth in Section 28.08, any illuminated sign or lighting device shall employ a light emitting beam of constant intensity and no sign shall be illuminated by or contain flashing, intermittent, rotating or moving light or lights. In no event shall an illuminated sign or lighting device be placed or directed so as to permit the beams or illumination therefrom to be directed upon a public thoroughfare, highway, sidewalk or adjacent premises so as to cause glare or reflection that may constitute a traffic hazard or nuisance. (Adopted October 5, 2010 by Resolution 2010-75, effective November 4, 2010)
- D. No sign shall employ any parts or elements which rotate, revolve, oscillate, or otherwise make use of motion or sound to attract attention. Subsections C & D shall not apply to any sign performing a public service function indicating time, temperature, or public service announcements.
- E. The display of balloons, banners, pennants, ribbons, streamers, flags, inflatable objects or strings of lights shall be prohibited. (Adopted July 11, 2006 by Resolution 2006-58, effective August 10, 2006)
- F. Signs shall be maintained in a safe condition in a reasonable state of repair. The Zoning Inspector shall have the authority to inspect, and order the painting, repair, alteration or removal of, any sign which becomes damaged or dilapidated, is abandoned, or which constitutes a hazard to the public safety. (Adopted July 11, 2006 by Resolution 2006-58, effective August 10, 2006)
- G. No sign shall be placed beyond the ends of the wall or roof surfaces upon which it is located. (Adopted July 11, 2006 by Resolution 2006-58, effective August 10, 2006)
- H. No projecting sign shall be erected or maintained from the front or face of a building a distance of more than eighteen (18) inches and a height of no less than eight (8) feet above ground level. (Adopted July 11, 2006 by Resolution 2006-58, effective August 10, 2006)
- I. No sign of any classification shall be installed, erected, or attached in any form, shape or manner to a fire escape or any door or window giving access to any fire escape.
- J. Limited access highway shall not be considered frontage for the purpose of locating signs except by a variance granted by the Board of Zoning Appeals.
- K. No temporary sign shall be placed on the front or face of a building or on any premises except as provided for in this Section.
- L. No sign shall be erected, installed, displayed or placed on trees and/or utility poles.

28.02 Non-Conforming Signs

Any sign which is non-conforming at the time of passage of this amendment to the Zoning Resolution may be continued and expanded only in conformance with Section VII of this Resolution. If any such sign is voluntarily discontinued for a period of two (2) years, any future use thereof shall be in conformity with the provisions of this Section.

28.03 Miscellaneous Signs - All Districts

- A. Construction Signs: One construction sign not to exceed forty (40) square feet may be erected on the site of a building under construction, only while under a valid building permit. Such sign may bear the names of the future occupants, architect, engineers or contractors engaged in the construction. Said sign shall conform to the following regulations:
 - 1. Said sign shall be located no closer to any lot line than one-half (1/2) the required building set back distance from that lot line and no closer than forty five (45) feet to the center of the traveled portion of the road.
 - 2. Said sign shall be removed after completion of construction, before any occupancy, and before any permanent signs are erected.
- B. Entrance and Exit Signs: All parking lots may have entrance and exit signs, but all parking lots for more than one hundred twenty (120) cars with access roadways over twenty (20) feet wide shall have appropriate signs designating "entrance" or "in" and "exit" or "out" lines or drives. Such signs shall be limited to the words "entrance, in, exit, out" and may have arrows or other appropriate directional indicators and shall be limited to not more than five (5) square feet in area. (Adopted July 11, 2006 by Resolution 2006-58, effective August 10, 2006)
- C. Organization Signs: Upon application to the Zoning Inspector and approval by the Township Trustees, a Zoning Certificate may be issued for a single sign at the entrance to the Township along any state highway or county road, to carry the identification, date, and place of meeting, if desired, of all civic organizations regularly meeting within the Township who request placement thereon. The placing and erection of the sign shall be subject to the approval of the Zoning Inspector.

28.04 Residential District Signs

- A. Identification Signs
 - 1. Single Family and Duplex Dwelling Units shall be permitted identification signs subject to the following regulations:
 - a. One (1) non-illuminated sign per dwelling unit indicating the name of the occupant or a permitted occupation or profession or when use of the sign is in direct relation to the use of the premises.
 - b. Said sign shall be a maximum of three (3) square feet in area per face.
 - c. Said sign shall be situated in the front yard and no part of said sign shall be closer than forty (40) feet to the center of the traveled portion of the road or ten (10) feet from the right-of-way line, whichever is greater.
 - d. No Zoning Certificate is required.
 - 2. Multi-Family Dwelling Units shall be permitted identification signs subject to the following requirements:
 - a. One sign, which may be illuminated, for multi-family buildings or multi-family complexes.
 - b. Area of said sign shall be computed on the basis of one (1) square foot per dwelling unit but in no case shall exceed twenty five (25) square feet per face.
 - c. No part of said sign shall be located closer than ten (10) feet to the right-of-way line of the road.
 - d. No part of said sign shall be located within the side yard clearance.
- B. Sale, Rental or Lease Signs: A real estate sign advertising the premises whereon the sign is situated may be placed anywhere outside of the right-of-way limit of a public road or at least thirty (30) feet from the center of the traveled portion of the road, whichever is greater, provided:
 - 1. Such sign is not attached to any existing structure;
 - 2. Such sign is non-illuminated;
 - 3. Every sign shall be removed within fifteen (15) days after execution of lease or transfer of title of the premises;

4. Such sign shall be no larger than five (5) square feet in area except where the premises exceed five (5) acres in area or one hundred fifty (150) feet of road frontage, the area of the sign or the number of signs may be increased proportionately provided that where a sign larger than five (5) square feet is used it shall be set back one (1) foot for each square foot of added area.

No Zoning Certificate is required.

C. Political Signs (Adopted December 20, 2005 by Resolution 2005-100 effective January 20, 2005):

No political signs shall be placed:

1. within any road right-of-way;
2. on any property without the permission of the property owner; or
3. in such a way that it obstructs pedestrian and/or vehicular travel from pedestrians or vehicles.

D. Temporary Signs: Open House Signs - one non-illuminated "Open House" sign per residential lot is permitted, with no Zoning Certificate required, provided:

1. Such sign shall be not more than five (5) square feet per face in area;
2. Such sign is located at least thirty (30) feet from the center of the traveled portion of the road and outside of the right-of-way limits of the road;
3. Such sign is displayed only during the hours when the public is to be admitted.

E. Subdivision Signs

1. Development Signs - may be erected identifying and advertising residential subdivision developments subject to the following regulations:

- a. sign shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in area;
- b. sign shall be located within the subdivision;
- c. sign shall be located not less than twenty (20) feet from respective right-of-way line of road or side lot lines;
- d. on the basis of one (1) sign for the first five hundred (500) feet of lot frontage and one additional sign for each additional five hundred (500) feet within the same subdivision, up to three (3) signs shall be permitted. In no case shall more than three (3) signs be permitted;
- e. permits for such signs shall be for a period not exceeding one (1) year or to the end of development whichever comes first.

2. Gateway Signs - Two (2) signs at any entrance to a subdivision shall be permitted provided:

- a. the area of each sign shall not exceed twelve (12) square feet;
- b. said signs shall be located no closer than one (1) foot from the right-of-way limit of the road and five (5) feet from any side lot line;
- c. said signs do not exceed three (3) feet in height from the established grade level;
- d. said signs do not interfere with traffic visibility.

F. Directional Signs: May be erected not exceeding four (4) square feet in area directing the general public to places of worship, historical significance or public assembly sites subject to the following regulations:

1. Written permission of the owner of the property whereon said sign is to be erected;

2. Said sign shall be located at least six (6) feet from the pavement edge of the road; (Adopted July 11, 2006 by Resolution 2006-58, effective August 10, 2006)
3. Said sign shall not be located within the required side yard clearance.

28.05 Non-Residential District Signs

- A. All signs permitted in Residential Districts shall be permitted in non-residential districts except political signs.
- B. On-Premises Signs shall be permanent signs which may be illuminated, shall be limited to advertising the proprietor or company, or the brand name and the goods sold or services rendered and shall conform to the following regulations:
 1. Wall Signs: Each business shall be permitted one (1) flat or wall business sign on the front wall only. (Front wall being that wall facing and most nearly parallel to the street line; or in the event there is no front wall, the one wall facing a parking area will be considered the front wall.) The area of all permanent business signs for any single business enterprise may have an area equivalent to one and one-half (1-1/2) square feet for each lineal foot of building width, or part of a building occupied by such enterprise but shall not exceed a maximum area of one-hundred (100) square feet.
 2. Identification Signs: One (1) identification wall sign not exceeding two (2) square feet in area for each door or entryway to any building or part thereof.
 3. Free Standing Signs: Each business development, multi-unit building or multi-unit buildings may be identified by no more than one (1) single free-standing business sign per major right-of-way. Each such sign shall have no more than one hundred twenty-five (125) square feet per face and shall be limited to a height of twenty (20) feet. No part of such sign shall be closer than one hundred twenty-five (125) percent of sign height to the right-of-way line and no part of such sign shall be closer than ten (10) feet to the sideline of any adjoining property. Such sign shall contain the street address.
 4. Planter Type Sign: One planter type sign shall be permitted in lieu of a free-standing sign providing the sign is a business sign and does not exceed thirty (30) square feet per sign face; is at no point closer to the road right-of-way line or sideline than fifteen (15) feet, does not exceed twelve (12) feet in height from the established grade level, and does not interfere with traffic visibility.
 5. Grand Opening Signs: Temporary banners or posters constructed of paper, fabric, plastic, nylon or similar flexible materials advertising grand openings may be displayed on the front building wall for not more than two (2) two-week periods per year in commercial districts only. Such sign shall not exceed forty (40) square feet and shall not be illuminated. (Adopted July 11, 2006 by Resolution 2006-58, effective August 10, 2006)
- C. Off-Premises Signs shall also be known as Billboards and Advertising Signs and shall conform to the following regulations:
 1. Advertising signs are prohibited in residential districts and in any other district within five hundred (500) feet street frontage of any residential district.
 2. No advertising sign shall be located closer than one hundred (100) feet to any roadway intersection.
 3. Free-standing advertising signs with a total area not to exceed three hundred (300) square feet per face may be permitted on B-3 Commercial or Industrial land. No two (2) signs shall be closer than five hundred (500) feet. Such signs shall be limited to a maximum height of thirty-five (35) feet.
 4. Wall advertising signs shall have all structural and supporting members concealed from view. Such sign shall not exceed three hundred (300) square feet in area, may be permitted in B-3 Commercial or Industrial districts, and shall be limited to a maximum height of thirty five (35) feet.

5. No advertising sign shall be erected in front of the required building set back line for the appropriate zoning district nor closer than five hundred (500) feet from street frontage of any residential district. All advertising signs shall meet the restrictions for side and rear yard clearance for the appropriate district, except for B-3 districts where side lot clearance shall be not less than ten (10) feet.

D. Portable Signs that employ any parts of elements which flash, rotate, revolve or otherwise make use of motion to attract attention or that are mounted upon wheels, runners, casters, parked trailers, parked vehicles, or other mobile devices shall not be permitted in Painesville Township.

28.06 Community Service/Institutional District Signs

A. A public, private or religious institution in any CS District may erect and maintain signs as provided in Section 28.05A&B of this Resolution.

B. All signs shall be erected and maintained in accordance with all applicable provisions of Section XXVIII of this Resolution.

28.07 Recreational District Signs

A. A park or recreational area in any REC-1, REC-2 or REC-3 District may erect and maintain signs in accordance with Sections 28.05A&B of this Resolution.

B. All signs shall be erected and maintained in accordance with all applicable provisions of Section XXVIII of this Resolution.

28.08 ELECTRONIC MESSAGE BOARDS (Adopted October 5, 2010 by Resolution 2010-75, effective November 4, 2010)

Electronic Message Boards are only permitted in the Gateway Business District (B-1) and Community Service/Institutional (CS) and must meet all requirements of the Painesville Township Zoning Resolution.

Each sign shall have no more than one hundred twenty-five (125) square feet per face. Up to fifty (50) percent of the area of the sign may be devoted to changeable copy subject to the following requirements.

1. Each message or display shall remain fixed and unchanging for at least eight (8) seconds per screen. Transition time between messages is only permitted to be a maximum period of three (3) seconds. Electronic signs displaying the time and temperature will be the only exception. Strobming or flashing lights will not be permitted. Electronic Message Boards shall not give the appearance of emergency lighting, emergency vehicles or traffic control devices.
2. The separation between Electronic Message Boards shall be a minimum of one hundred (100) feet.
3. If the Electronic Board abuts a residential zoning district, it shall not be placed closer than one hundred (100) feet from any residential property line located within a residential zoning district. If the Electronic Message Board is placed less than three hundred (300) feet from a residential property line located within a residential zoning district, then the sign shall be facing away from said property.
4. Electronic Message Boards shall be located a minimum of fifty (50) feet from any intersection of public streets and located on the property so as not to restrict line of sight visibility for pedestrian traffic and any vehicular traffic for ingress from or egress to a public street.
5. The minimum lettering height utilized in any changeable copy message shall not be less than four (4) inches and each message shall be limited to three (3) lines of text per screen. Letter and/or character copy shall not exceed eighteen (18) inches in height. Amber and weather alerts shall be the only exception to this division.
6. Electronic Message Boards shall only advertise commercial events, goods and/or services on the property on which the sign is located. The signs can also be used for noncommercial speech that is protected by the First Amendment.

7. Operation of the Electronic Message Boards shall be consistent with the hours of operation of the business on which the sign is located except that no Electronic Message Board Sign shall be operated in a manner which constitutes a nuisance.
8. Any lighting used in an Electronic Message Board shall be of such low intensity or brilliance so as to not impair the vision of the driver of any motor vehicle or to interfere with the operation of any motor vehicle by any driver.
9. All electrical power to any Electronic Message Board shall be supplied by approved underground conduit and must be installed by a licensed electrician. All electric equipment used to install or operate the sign must be UL listed. Applicant must obtain all required building/electrical permits required by the Lake County Building Department.
10. All Electronic Message Boards shall be kept in good operating condition and external appearance. Any malfunctioning sign shall be turned off or display a blank screen until repaired.
11. Property owners erecting Electronic Message Boards and automatic changing signs waive the right to erect any temporary signs on the property.
12. All provisions found elsewhere in the Painesville Township Zoning Resolution and pertaining to signs are applicable to Electronic Message Boards only to the extent that they do not contradict the terms set forth in Section 28.08.

28.09 Conformance

It shall be unlawful for any property owner to permit or for any person, firm, corporation or agents thereof to erect, hang, maintain, use or suspend any outdoor sign, except as provided for in this Resolution.

28.10 Zoning Certificate

Unless specifically exempted elsewhere in this Resolution each person, firm, corporation, or agents thereof before erecting any outdoor sign, or before commencement of any work in connection therewith, shall first obtain a Zoning Certificate from the Zoning Inspector of the Township. Each applicant for such zoning certificate shall file with the Zoning Inspector an application on forms to be supplied by such Zoning Inspector, which application when required by the Inspector shall be accompanied, in duplicate, by a detailed drawing or drawings and such descriptive matter as shall clearly state where the same shall be erected, hung, or suspended.

28.11 Zoning Certificate Fee

For each original permit for the erection or construction of a new sign, the applicant shall pay to the Zoning Inspector of Painesville Township a fee in accordance with a fee schedule adopted and made a part of this Resolution by the Board of Painesville Township Trustees.