

ARTICLE 11 - SIGNS

11.00 Purpose and Intent

The purpose of this Section is to promote signs and advertising features which are:

- (A) Compatible with each District's appearance.
- (B) Orderly, legible, informative and safe.
- (C) Non-distracting to motorists.

11.01 Regulations Established

Signs shall meet the provisions set forth in this Chapter. The construction, erection, safety and maintenance of all signs shall be in accordance with the Ohio Building Code, the Ohio Residential Code, and all other applicable building codes. The display of official public notices, the flag, emblem or insignia of all governmental bodies shall not be governed by the provisions of these regulations, except that those in a residential area may not exceed thirty (30) square feet in sign face area.

11.02 Classification of Signs by Use and Structural Types.

Signs shall include the following use types.

- (A) Bulletin Board, Outdoor. A Yard or Pylon Sign which carries small notices or bills or changeable text pertaining to a public institution, semi-public institution, or religious institution.
- (B) Directional Sign. A Yard or Ground Sign indicating only the direction of pedestrian and vehicular circulation routes on the lot on which the sign is located.
- (C) Identification Sign. A sign indicating only the name and address of an establishment, and the principal category of goods sold or services rendered.
- (D) Informational Sign. A sign which presents miscellaneous information to the public, and does not contain the name or logo of an establishment or contain any advertising copy. Typically, information signs present scheduled events, travel information, vehicle service, weather, time, historic and scenic data.
- (E) Nameplate. A Wall Sign indicating the name, address or profession of premises.
- (F) Project Sign. A Pylon or Yard Temporary Sign which directs attention to the property on which it is located and which identifies the owner, architects, engineers, contractors and other individuals or firms involved with the construction.
- (G) Real Estate Sign. A Non-Illuminated sign, Illuminated Sign, Temporary Sign or Temporary Yard Sign advertising the sale, rental or lease of all or part of the premises.
- (H) Event Sign. A Temporary Sign announcing a temporary event, religious organization, or institutional event.

11.03 Classification of Signs by Structural Types.

Signs shall include the following structural types:

- (A) **Building Signs.** A Building Sign shall be a Permanent Sign, and may include the following:
 - Canopy Sign.** A sign attached to the soffit or fascia of a canopy or to a permanent awning or marquee and not projecting beyond its edges.
 - Projecting Sign.** A sign attached to an outside building wall from which it projects at approximately ninety (90) degrees.
 - Wall Sign.** A sign integral with the face of an exterior building wall, or attached to and parallel with the wall.
 - Window Sign.** A sign painted, attached or affixed to the interior surface of windows or doors of a building.

- (B) **Free-Standing Signs.** A Free-Standing Sign shall be a Permanent Sign and may include the following:
 - Ground Sign.** A sign having a horizontal length greater than its vertical height, and supported by a base totally or primarily on the ground.
 - Pole Sign.** A sign which extends beyond its supporting pole or poles and which is raised to permit pedestrian or vehicular movement beneath.
 - Pylon Sign.** A sign with a sign face area or side supports on both sides extending from the top of the sign to the ground, and which is taller than it is wide.
 - Yard Sign.** A Non-Illuminating Sign not exceeding seven (7) feet in height, including any decorative support structure.

- (C) **Temporary Sign.** A sign not permanently attached to the ground or to a building, designed for use for a limited period. Temporary Signs include the following:
 - Non-Illuminated Temporary Sign.** A temporary sign without any internal or dedicated illumination.
 - Illuminated Temporary Sign.** A sign with internal or dedicated illumination.
 - Temporary Yard Sign.** A yard sign temporarily anchored in a lawn.
 - Window Sign.** A non-illuminated temporary sign on or inside a display window.

11.04 General Measurement Standards

The areas of signs shall be calculated in the following manner.

- (A) **Single-faced sign area.** The area of a single sign face shall be the area of the smallest rectangle, or triangle that completely circumscribes the sign face or, in the case of a sign composed of individual characters, words, graphics, or logos.
- (B) **Double-faced sign area.** The sign face area of a double-faced sign shall be the face area of the larger of the two faces.
- (C) **Street addresses.** The area bounding a street address, if the area bounding the address's letters and numbers does not exceed 12 inches in height or 25% of the sign face area, shall be subtracted from the sign face area.
- (D) **Building and building unit size.** The maximum permitted sign face area of all signs shall be calculated using the following measures of building or building unit size. The "frontage of a

building" shall be the width of the building façade which faces the principal street or the façade containing the main entrance of a building. For a building located on a corner lot, this shall be increased by forty percent (40%) of the building depth facing the secondary street. The "unit of a building" or "building unit" refers to a space occupying a portion of the ground floor of a building, containing one or more entrances and separated from other such spaces by a party wall or walls. Building unit frontage shall be the width of the unit as measured from party wall centerlines along the building frontage. For calculation purposes, on a building located on a corner lot, this shall be increased by the building unit's proportionate share of forty percent (40%) of the building depth facing the secondary street. The sign height shall be measured from the lowest part of the finished grade immediately beneath it to the highest point of the structure.

11.05 Number, Duration, Location and Area Regulations General To All Districts

- (A) **Types permitted.** The combinations of Structural Types and Use Types listed below are permitted in all Districts, except in the Recreational Open Space District (ROS-1) District and for all Public Facilities. The maximum number of signs permitted, the maximum height permitted, and the maximum sign face areas permitted is indicated in below.

Chart 11.05

All Districts				
Use Type	Structural Type	Maximum Number Permitted	Maximum Height Permitted	Maximum Sign Face Area
Event Sign	Temporary Sign	Not Applicable	Ten (10) feet	Thirty-two (32) square feet
Bulletin Board	Any Structural Type	Two (2) per premise	Ten (10) feet	Thirty-two (32) square feet
Office Park or Industrial Park Identification Sign	Ground Sign	Choice of One (1) Ground, Pylon or Pole Sign per business or Industrial Park entrance.	Ten (10) feet	Sixty-five (65) Square feet
Office Park or Industrial Park Identification Sign	Pylon Sign	Choice of One (1) Ground, Pylon or Pole Sign per business or Industrial Park entrance.	Fifteen (15) feet	Fifty (50) Square feet
Office Park or Industrial Park Identification Sign	Pole Sign	Choice of One (1) Ground, Pylon or Pole Sign per business or Industrial Park entrance.	Thirty-five (35) feet	Fifty (50) Square feet
Project Sign	Non-illuminated Sign, Temporary Sign or Temporary Yard Sign	One (1) per construction project	Ten (10) feet	Thirty-two (32) square feet
Any Use	Display Window Signs	No Maximum Number	Not applicable	Twenty-five (25) percent of window area
Any Use	Window Signs	No Maximum Number	Not applicable	Twenty-five (25) percent of window area

Any Use	Temporary Window Signs	No Maximum Number	Not applicable	Twenty-five (25) percent of window area
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- (B) **Signs in the Right-Of-Way.** No sign shall be located within the road right-of-way.
- (C) **Signs on corner lots.** No sign shall encroach within a triangle formed between points on the front and side street right-of-way lines within thirty-five (35) feet from their intersection.
- (D) **Horizontal clearance.** No sign or structural support for a sign, except as provided for overhanging portion(s) of a sign may be located within ten (10) feet measured horizontally from a public or private roadbed or five (5) feet from a private driveway.
- (E) **Removal.** Any sign not in conformance with this Zoning Resolution shall be removed within the sixty (60) day time limit from the date of erection.
- (F) **Traffic Safety.** Signs shall not obstruct sight lines along any public way or distract attention from traffic devices.
- (G) **Side yard requirements.** Ground, Pole and Pylon Signs, in any District besides residential, shall be located not less than twenty-five (25) feet from the side lot line, and not less than one hundred (100) feet from any other residential District line.
- (H) **Project Signs.** Permits for Project Signs shall be issued for a limited construction period, terminating 14 days after the estimated time of either the commencement of the intended use or the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy. However, such permits may be renewed every sixty (60) days while construction is pursued diligently. If the project is completed in phases, Project Signs for each phase shall be permitted separately. Project signs shall be constructed as Pylon or Yard Signs. Project Signs shall be removed before the termination of the permit period. Each construction project shall be permitted one of the two options. Option one is 1 temporary non-illuminated project sign per project entrance, identifying parties involved in construction on the premises where the sign is located. Option two is 1 temporary illuminated sign per project entrance, identifying parties involved in construction on the premises where the sign is located. Such Illuminated Project Sign must be located one hundred (100) feet from the nearest residential lot line and twenty-five (25) feet from any other lot line.
- (I) **Real Estate Signs.** Real Estate Signs shall be removed within fourteen (14) days after sale, rental or lease. Real Estate Signs shall be constructed as Pylon or Yard Signs. Real Estate Signs shall be replaced every six (6) months.
- (J) **Event Sign.** A Non-Illuminated Event Sign may be displayed thirty (30) days prior to the event and is to be removed within seven (7) days after the event.
- (K) **Window Signs.** Window Signs are permitted in business windows.
- (L) **Wall and Canopy Signs.** The total maximum sign face area of all Wall Signs and Canopy Signs upon a building shall be one (1) square foot of area per foot of building frontage or building unit's frontage. The total maximum sign face area may be subdivided among business units, such that the maximum sign face area for each unit shall be one square foot of area per foot of that business unit's frontage.
- (M) **Bulletin Board.** One (1) Bulletin Board Sign is permitted per business, public or

institutional use.

- (N) **Other Temporary Signs.** Temporary Signs announcing sales, new products or special business events, up to fifty (50) percent of the maximum sign face area of a permanent business sign are permitted, for a period not exceeding thirty (30) consecutive days, and limited to two such periods within a twelve (12) month period of the date of the commencement of the first display. Temporary Window Signs may be placed on the inside surface of windows and doors of buildings, provided that such signs do not exceed 25% of the window area, and that they are not displayed for more than thirty (30) consecutive days, and limited to two such periods within a twelve (12) month period of the date of the commencement of the first display. Temporary Window Signs secured to surfaces other than windows of the main building are not permitted. Permits for Temporary Moveable signs may be obtained from the Zoning Inspector, and shall be limited to sixty (60) days in duration, and limited to two such periods within a twelve (12) month period of the date of the commencement of the first display.
- (O) **Service Station Island Signs.** Automobile service stations shall be permitted to have informational signs in addition to the maximum area permitted at fuel pumps and other service islands. Such signs shall be limited to the display of information regarding safety warnings, the type of service provided and other information essential in directing and instructing the motoring public. The number, area, height and design of such signs shall be as determined by the Zoning Inspector.
- (P) **Office Park or Industrial Park Identification Signs.** Office park or industrial park Identification Ground or Pylon Signs may be permitted in addition to the maximum area permitted for a unified development of three (3) or more business buildings accessed by a common drive. Such sign shall only identify the name and address of the office park. One such sign may be located at each vehicular entrance to the office park.

11.06 General Design Standards

Permitted signs shall be designed and built in accordance with the standards set forth in this Section.

Projection of building signs. The projection of signs beyond the building or canopy face shall be subject to the following provisions.

- (A) **Canopy Sign.** A Canopy Sign shall not project above, below or to the side of the surface on which it is mounted, nor project forward more than twelve (12) inches from that surface. A Canopy Sign on an awning shall be integral to it.
- (B) **Wall.** A Wall Sign shall not project more than twelve (12) inches from the surface to which it is attached, or project above, below or to the side of that surface.
- (C) **Projecting Sign.** A Projecting Sign shall not project more than three (3) feet from the face of a building, more than three (3) feet above the wall on which it is mounted, or extend below the surface to which it is mounted.

Lateral location of building signs.

- (A) **Projecting Sign.** Projecting signs shall be set back from the end of a building and party wall line a distance of at least ten (10) feet.
- (B) **Wall or Canopy Sign.** A wall sign or canopy sign shall be set back from the end of a building or canopy a distance of at least three (3) feet.

Vertical Clearance. The lowest horizontal projection of any sign projecting beyond its support or supports shall not be less than eight (8) feet above the finished grade of a sidewalk or other pedestrian way. If located within three (3) feet of the vertical projection of the edges of a pavement used for vehicular traffic, the lowest horizontal member of the sign shall not be less than fifteen (15) feet above the finished pavement.

Height of signs. The maximum height of a sign shall be the height limitation for each applicable zoning District as indicated in this Article.

Free-Standing Sign. No sign shall have more than two sign faces.

Refreshed Messages. The messages on signs displaying multiple messages may simulate vertical or horizontal sliding of messages at a simulated speed chosen for easy legibility.

Continuity. Signs and their placement shall be considered in relation to their surroundings and, if seen in a series on a building wall or walls, shall have a continuity of design with respect to shape, materials and color.

Graphics. The lettering on a sign shall be clearly legible and in scale with the sign surface upon which it is placed. Changeable copy signs are permitted only for Informational Signs.

Materials. Signs shall be constructed of materials which are of appropriate quality and durability, and which are compatible with the materials of the building upon which such signs are placed.

Illumination. Light sources to illuminate signs shall be shielded from all adjacent buildings and streets and shall not cause glare or distraction hazardous to pedestrians or motor vehicles or cause reasonable objection from adjacent buildings and uses. Residential and public facility Nameplates, Identification Signs and Bulletin Boards may be illuminated. All permanent signs in Office, Business and Industrial Districts may be illuminated.

11.07 **Devices Not Permitted**

The signs and/or advertising devices enumerated in this Section are not permitted in any Zoning District in Eaton Township.

- (A) **Colors and Illumination.** Colored lights and illuminated signs employing colors in use in traffic signal lights are not permitted within view of any signalized intersection. Fluorescent paint colors in the yellow to red spectrum are not permitted.
- (B) **Movement.** No sign shall employ any parts or elements which revolve, rotate, whirl, spin, flash, or otherwise make use of motion or simulated motion distracting to motorists.
- (C) **Imitation of official traffic signs.** Any imitation of official traffic signs or signals and the

use of such words as "stop", "look", "danger", "go slow", "caution" or "warning" are not permitted.

- (D) No person shall park any vehicle or trailer, except a vehicle for business use, on public or private property visible from a public street for a period exceeding forty-eight (48) hours, which has a sign in it, on it or attached to it.
- (E) Except as otherwise specifically authorized by this Chapter, no sign shall be located in any public street or right-of-way.
- (F) No sign shall contain words, images, or graphic illustrations of an obscene or indecent nature.
- (G) No sign shall interfere with any required ventilation openings.
- (H) Flashing, blinking and scrolling signs are prohibited within 50 feet of any public right-of-way.

11.08 Residential District Sign Regulations

Signs in Residential Districts (R-1, R-2, R-3, RS-1 and in a Cluster Subdivision Overlay District) shall be designed, erected, altered, moved and maintained, in whole or in part, in accordance with the following regulations:

Chart 11.08

Residential District Signs (R-1, R-2, R-3, RS-1 and Cluster Subdivision Overlay)				
Use Type	Structural Type	Maximum Number Permitted	Maximum Height Permitted	Maximum Sign Face Area
Identification Sign	Ground Sign	One (1) per business driveway or subdivision entrance, provided that if there are two or more on the same premises, they are separated by three hundred (300) feet	Five (5) feet	Thirty-two (32) square feet
Nameplate	Wall Sign	One (1) per dwelling unit or business unit	Not applicable	Four (4) square feet
Identification Sign	Yard Sign	One per for each residential occupation, professional activity or permitted and permitted nonconforming uses	Seven (7) feet	Six (6) square feet
Real Estate Sign	Non-illuminated sign, Temporary Sign or Temporary Yard Sign	One (1) per lot	Five (5) feet	Six (6) square feet

Directional Sign	Yard Sign or Ground Sign	No maximum number	Three (3) feet	Three (3) square feet
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Recreational Open Space District				
Use Type	Structural Type	Maximum Number Permitted	Maximum Height Permitted	Maximum Sign Face Area
Directional Sign	Yard Sign or Ground Sign	No maximum number		
Bulletin Board	Yard Sign or Pylon Sign	No maximum number	Eight (8) feet	Thirty-two (32) square feet
Nameplate	Wall Sign	One (1) per building	Not applicable	Four (4) square feet
Supplementary Nameplate	Wall Sign	One (1) per building	Not applicable	Four (4) square feet
Identification Sign	Pylon Sign	Choice of one (1) Pylon, Pole or Ground Sign per Public Facility	Eight (8) feet	Sixty-five (65) Square feet
	Pole Sign		Thirty-five (35) feet	Fifty (50) Square feet
	Ground Sign		Ten (10) feet	Sixty-five (65) Square feet

Additionally, signs in Residential Districts shall meet the following regulations:

- (A) Signs permitted. The combinations of Structural Types and Use Types listed in Tables 1305 and 1308 are permitted in all Residential Districts. The maximum number of signs permitted, the maximum height permitted, and the maximum sign face area permitted In Residential Districts are indicated in ____.
- (B) Nameplates. Address numbers shall be in Arabic numbers.
- (C) Ground signs. Permanent subdivision or Identification Ground Signs shall indicate the name of the subdivision or residential development, including multifamily development. Any illumination shall meet the requirements of _____. Permanent Subdivision or Project Identification Signs may carry a Temporary Real-Estate Sign as well.
- (D) Residential occupations. Residential occupations, professional activities, permitted uses and nonconforming uses may be identified with Identification Yard Signs.

11.08 Business District Signs

The combinations of Structural Types, Use Types and the maximum number of signs permitted, the maximum height permitted, and the maximum sign face area permitted in Business Districts are indicated in the chart below.

Chart 11.09

Business District Signs (GB-1, PSC-1 and PB-1)				
Use Type	Structural Type	Maximum Number Permitted	Maximum Height Permitted	Maximum Sign Face Area
Directional Sign	Yard Sign or Ground Sign	No maximum number		
Bulletin Board	Yard Sign or Pylon Sign	One (1) per public or institutional use	Eight (8) feet	Thirty-two (32) square feet
Nameplate	Wall Sign	One (1) per business or institutional use	Not applicable	Four (4) square feet
Supplementary Nameplate	Wall Sign	One (1) additional per business or industrial use	Not applicable	Four (4) square feet
Identification Sign	Pylon Sign	Choice of one (1) Pylon, Pole or Ground Sign per business entrance	Fifteen (15) feet	Fifty (50) Square feet
	Pole Sign		Thirty-five (35) feet	Fifty (50) Square feet
	Ground Sign		Ten (10) feet	Sixty-five (65) Square feet
Identification Sign	Canopy Sign	No maximum number, but no more than one (1) per individual building use	Shall not project above or below the surface to which it is mounted	Twenty-five (25) percent of the canopy structure.
Identification Sign	Wall Sign	No maximum number, but no more than one (1) per building façade facing a street.	Shall not project above or below the surface to which it is mounted or exceed four feet in vertical dimension	No more than 15 percent of a wall surface, or no more than seventy-five (75) square feet, whichever is greater.
Identification Sign	Projecting Sign	One (1) per business or institutional use	Not more than three (3) feet above the wall on which it is mounted	Nine (9) square feet
Real Estate Sign	Non-illuminated Sign, Temporary Sign or Temporary Yard Sign	One (1) per premise	Ten (10) feet	Thirty-two (32) square feet

Additionally, signs in Business Districts shall meet the following additional regulations:

- (A) Canopy Signs. The vertical dimension of such signs shall not exceed eighteen (18) inches.
- (B) Pylon, Pole and Ground Signs. Individual business signage is permitted on Pylon, Pole, and Ground Signs. However, their area shall contribute to the permitted sign face area.
- (C) Supplementary Nameplates. Rear or side entrances to a retail business and service use may be identified by a Nameplate on the building.

11.09 Industrial District Signs

The combinations of Structural Types, Use Types and the maximum number of signs permitted, the maximum height permitted, and the maximum sign face area permitted in Industrial Districts are indicated below:

Chart 11.10

Use Type	Structural Type	Maximum Number Permitted	Maximum Height Permitted	Maximum Sign Face Area
Directional Sign	Yard Sign or Ground Sign	No maximum number		
Bulletin Board	Yard Sign or Pylon Sign	One (1) per public or institutional use	Eight (8) feet	Thirty-two (32) square feet
Nameplate	Wall Sign	One (1) per business or institutional use	Not applicable	Four (4) square feet
Supplementary Nameplate	Wall Sign	One (1) additional per business or industrial use	Not applicable	Four (4) square feet
Identification Sign	Pylon Sign	Choice of one (1) Pylon, Pole or Ground Sign per business entrance	Fifteen (15) feet	Fifty (50) Square feet
	Pole Sign		Thirty-five (35) feet	Fifty (50) Square feet
	Ground Sign		Ten (10) feet	Sixty-five (65) Square feet
Identification Sign	Canopy Sign	No maximum number, but no more than one (1) per individual building use	Shall not project above or below the surface to which it is mounted	Twenty-five (25) percent of the canopy structure.
Identification Sign	Wall Sign	No maximum number, but no more than one (1) per building façade facing a street.	Shall not project above or below the surface to which it is mounted or exceed four feet in vertical dimension	No more than 15 percent of a wall surface, or no more than seventy-five (75) square feet, whichever is greater.
Identification Sign	Projecting Sign	One (1) per business or institutional use	Not more than three (3) feet above the wall on	Nine (9) square feet

Use Type	Structural Type	Maximum Number Permitted	Maximum Height Permitted	Maximum Sign Face Area
			which it is mounted	
Real Estate Sign	Non-illuminated Sign, Temporary Sign or Temporary Yard Sign	One (1) per premise	Ten (10) feet	Thirty-two (32) square feet

Additionally, signs in the Light Industrial District (LI-1) shall meet the following additional regulations:

- (A) **Pylon, Pole and Ground Signs.** Individual business signage is permitted on Pylon, Pole, and Ground Signs. However, their area shall contribute to the permitted sign face area.
- (B) **Supplementary Nameplates.** Rear or side entrances to an industrial business or service may be identified by a Nameplate on the building.
- (C) **Directional Signs.** Directional signs shall not stand closer than five (5) feet to any side lot line, or exceed three (3) feet in height.

11.10 Administration

- (A) **Permits Required.** No sign over six (6) square feet in area, except those specifically exempted by this Resolution, shall be erected without a Permit issued by the Township Zoning Inspector. The permit application shall be accompanied by such scale drawings, photographs and other information as the Zoning Inspector may require.
- (B) **Fees:** Fees for Sign Permits shall be established by the Township Trustees.
- (C) **Appeals.** Appeals may be made to the Board of Zoning Appeals by the same procedure governing other zoning appeals.
- (D) **Durability.** All permanent business signs shall be of a durable nature as deemed by the Zoning Inspector.
- (E) **Removal of signs.** The Zoning Inspector may have a sign removed or may require that a sign be removed, when such sign is not in conformance with this Zoning Resolution.

11.11 Sign Application and Permit

- (A) Application for sign permit. Applications for a permit to erect, place, illuminate or alter a sign shall be made to the Zoning Inspector. The application shall be submitted on forms furnished by the Township and shall be made either separately or with the application for a Building Permit.
- (B) Application requirements. Each application for a Sign Permit shall be accompanied by drawings to scale that show:
 - (C) The width of the building faces which abut the frontage street and, for a building located on a corner lot, the building depth facing the secondary street.
 - (D) The sign design and layout proposed, including the total area of the sign and the size, height, character, material and color of letters, lines and symbols.
 - (E) For Illuminated Signs, the number and types of lamps and lens material and a statement in writing that the illumination of each sign will comply with the provisions of the National Electric Code.
 - (F) The exact location of the sign in relation to the building and property lines.
 - (G) Colored photographs of existing buildings or accurately colored rendering of proposed buildings.
 - (H) Details and specifications for construction, erection and attachments as may be required by the Eaton Township Zoning Resolution, and the name and business contact information for the sign contractor or company.
 - (I) Zoning Inspector Review and Approval. The Zoning Inspector shall review the application and drawings to determine whether the proposed sign meets the standards in this Chapter. A Sign Permit may be issued by the Zoning Inspector upon his/her determination that the proposed sign is designed to meet all other applicable laws and regulations.

11.12 Advertising Adjacent To Interstate and Primary Highway System

Notwithstanding the other Sections of this Chapter, owners and applicants for all permitted advertising devices or signs located within three thousand (3000) feet of the edge of a highway controlled by the Ohio Department of Transportation Office of Advertising Device Control shall comply with the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Administrative Code.

11.13 Maintenance of Signs

Any signs and structures not maintained in a safe condition and free of defects shall be deemed to be in need of maintenance. Any sign in need of maintenance shall be painted, repaired, altered or removed as directed by the Zoning Inspector within thirty (30) days of the Zoning Inspector's notification. Notification shall be deemed sufficient if mailed by certified mail to the last known

address of the owner of the property or to the property owner's address as shown on the records of the Lorain County Auditor's Office. Should any sign remain in need of maintenance after the thirty (30) days, it may be removed by the Township Trustees pursuant to Section 505.87 of the Ohio Revised Code.

11.14 **Nonconforming Signs**

A sign conforming to the regulations prevailing on the effective date of this regulation but which does not conform with the regulations of this or a subsequent amendment shall be construed as a legal nonconforming sign.

- (A) **Legal Nonconforming Signs.** Legal nonconforming signs may be repaired or replaced so long as their appearance remains identical to that existing at the time of the effective date of this ordinance. Where such repair or placement changes the appearance of the sign but does not bring it into compliance with the provisions of this Article, the Zoning Inspector may provide notice that it is not a legal nonconforming sign. Notification shall be deemed sufficient if mailed by certified mail to the last known address of the owner of the property or to the property owner's address as shown on the records of the Lorain County Auditor's Office.
- (B) **Other nonconforming signs.** Any other nonconforming sign shall be removed by property owner within thirty (30) days of the Zoning Inspector's notification for removal. Notification shall be deemed sufficient if mailed by certified mail to the last known address of the owner of the property or to the property owner's address as shown on the records of the Lorain County Auditor's Office. Should any other nonconforming signs remain after the thirty (30) days, it may be removed by the Township Trustees pursuant to Section 505.87 of the Ohio Revised Code.

11.15 **Abandoned Signs**

An on-premises sign whose use has ceased, or any sign not used to identify or advertise a person or an ongoing or seasonal building, institution, organization, activity, place, object or product for a period of at least ninety (90) days shall be deemed to be abandoned. Any abandoned signs shall be removed within thirty (30) days of the Zoning Inspector's notification for their removal. Notification shall be deemed sufficient if mailed by certified mail to the last known address of the owner of the property or to the property owner's address as shown on the records of the Lorain County Auditor's Office. Should any abandoned signs remain after the thirty (30) days, it may be removed by the Township Trustees pursuant to Section 505.87 of the Ohio Revised Code.

11.16 **Sign Specification Plate**

All signs hereafter erected, if electrified, shall contain a permanently legible specification plate no less than two (2) inches by four (4) inches indicating the date of installation, the primary voltage and the voltage and amperage of any electrical components in connection therewith, and conformity with the National Electric Codes.

11.17 **Exemptions to Regulations**

The following types of signs are not regulated by height, area or number.

- (A) Signs which are an integral part of the original construction of vending or similar machines, fuel pumps, or similar devices.
- (B) Cornerstones and permanent building plaques displaying the date of construction, building name or similar information.
- (C) Street name signs.
- (D) Holiday decorations displayed for customary periods of time.