



Calvert County
Board of Appeals
150 Main St.
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

APPLICATION FOR ZONING APPEAL

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:

Property Address N/A

Tax Map No. _____ Parcel _____ Block _____ Section _____ Lot _____

Property Zoning _____

Has the property ever been the subject of a previous Board of Appeals action? _____

If yes, please provide Case No. and approximate hearing date:

PROPERTY OWNER(S):

PRINTED NAME(S): N/A

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

APPLICANT(S) (if different from owner) AND/OR AGENT:

PRINTED NAME: DAVID BURY

MAILING ADDRESS: 4310 KING FISHER CT

CHESAPEAKE BEACH, MD 20732

ONE COPY ONLY

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS REQUESTED TO ASSIST IN PROCESSING YOUR APPLICATION. IT IS NOT PART OF THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE CASE.

Board of Appeals staff may need to contact you regarding your appeal. Please provide the following:

PROPERTY OWNER INFORMATION:

TELEPHONE: _____ ALTERNATE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

APPLICANT INFORMATION:

TELEPHONE: 443-684-3924 ALTERNATE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS burglar@gmail.com

The Board of Appeals staff generally visits each property prior to preparing a staff report. Does the Board of Appeals staff have your permission to visit your property during normal work hours (8:30-3:30, Monday-Friday)? N/A

Do you have a dog that is kept outdoors on the property during the day? —

Directions to the subject property from Route 2-4:

N/A

STAFF USE:

Date Filed: _____

Fees Paid: _____

Receipt No.: _____

Rec'd By: _____

Case No.: _____

PURPOSE OF APPEAL

THIS APPLICATION IS FILED FOR: (check all items that apply)

- Variance Multiple Variances
- Revision to Previously Approved Variance(s)
- Special Exception
- Extension of the Time Limit on a Special Exception
- Revision/Modification of a Special Exception
- Expansion or Revision of a Non-Conforming Use
- Reconsideration of a Previous Decision by Board
- Re-Scheduling a Case Previously Postponed
- Decision on an Alleged Error

Please Briefly Describe Your Request. You may include a supplemental page if necessary.

See attached

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge and ability, the information I have provided in this application is complete and correct, and I request that my application be scheduled for the first available Board of Appeals public administrative hearing.

Owner's Signature and Date

[Handwritten Signature] *9 Mar 2018*

Applicant's Signature and Date

Co-Owner's Signature and Date

Co-Applicant's Signature and Date

PURPOSE OF APPEAL

Background:

- While approving the sign for the Magic Tunnel car wash on Route 4 in Prince Frederick, Mary Beth Cook, Zoning Officer, made an interpretation (after consulting with John Norris) that the electronic car wash sign should be permitted. However, that interpretation was never put in writing, published, or attached to the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance (CCZO), as required by Section 1-4. (See Attachment A1, CCZO Section 1-4, Attachment A2, correspondence Re: new sign regulations, and A3, Magic Tunnel car wash sign application)
- It was actually not until the News Release dated February 28, 2018 was posted on the County's website and researched further that the interpretation was made public as new wording in the adopted sign regulations. The news release states: "The regulations permit electronic message center signs in the Prince Frederick Town Center and Employment Center zoning districts along MD Route 2/4, West Dares Beach Road and MD Route 231 west of MD Route 2/4." (See Attachment B, February 28, 2018 News Release)
- The proposed sign regulations were presented several times leading up to and at the joint public hearing, and the interpretation was never mentioned, presented or included in any drafts. (See Attachment C, Slides presented at public hearing re: EMCs & Public Hearing Draft of Sign Regulations)
- The new wording stating that "backlit" signs are to be considered EMCs was illegally added to Ordinance #04-18 when the regulations were adopted. The adopted regulations, which were attached to Ordinance #04-18 as Exhibit B, contain four instances of new wording that were not included in the public hearing draft (See Attachment D, Exhibit B of Ordinance #04-18):
 - Table 6-1 - Line which shows that EMCs are prohibited everywhere except the Prince Frederick Town Center and Signs Outside the Town Centers (Exhibit B Page 7);
 - Table 6-1 - Footnote #4 which states, "Building signs and freestanding signs on sites having frontage along Route 2/4, Dares Beach Road West, or Route 231 west of Route 2/4 may be backlit." (Exhibit B Page 7);
 - Table 6-1 - Footnote #5 which states, "Outside of any Town Center, building signs and freestanding signs on property zoned EC (Employment Center) along the roads specified in footnote 4 immediately above may be backlit." (Exhibit B Page 8); and
 - Article 12, Definition of EMC to which the following sentence was added: "A backlit sign is considered an EMC as permitted in Table 6-1 footnotes 4 and 5." (Exhibit B Page 21).

The above new wording was not included in the public hearing draft. While four options were proposed for EMCs, the new wording was not among them. The new wording was not presented at the public hearing, was not sent to agencies for comments, and was not presented to or considered by the Planning Commission when they were making their recommendation.

- The legal notice for the public hearing states "The proposed changes may be substantively modified, revised, amended or otherwise changed based upon comments received at the public hearing." (emphasis added) However, no comments regarding the new wording were submitted at the public hearing because the new wording was not included in any documents or presentations on which the public could have commented. Therefore, the new wording should not be permitted to be included in the adopted regulations. (See Attachment E, Public Hearing Legal Notice)

- Ordinance #04-18 was not properly advertised after it was signed, as required by Maryland Annotated Code Local Government Section 9-106. Ordinance #04-18 states “BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland that this amendatory Ordinance shall be effective upon recordation and without publication of a fair summary.” However, State law requires that an Ordinance or Resolution may not take effect until a fair summary is published in at least one newspaper in the County. The State law contains no exception to that requirement. (See Attachment F, Maryland Annotated Code Section 9-106 and Attachment G, Ordinance #04-18)
- In his motion on December 12, 2017 concerning action on EMCs, Commissioner Slaughenhaupt stated: “Mr. President, I make a motion that on this topic, electronic message centers, we defer the decision for about 18 months and have the following occur: that this recommendation be brought forward in June of 2019 for a decision and secondly that in the meantime, whatever the current regulations are regarding electronic message signs stay in effect, even if the rest of the Ordinance goes through.” The motion passed 5-0.

The “current regulations” as stated in the motion did not allow EMCs or any signs with moving parts or animation, as shown in Ordinance #04-18 Exhibit A (wording proposed to be deleted). (See Attachments H1 & H2, Excerpts of Ordinance #04-18 Exhibit A, CCZO for areas outside the Town Centers and the Prince Frederick Zoning Ordinance) The magic tunnel car wash sign (and possibly others) were approved based on the unwritten interpretation by the Zoning Officer and County Attorney. An interpretation is not a regulation, especially if it is not written and published.

- The County posted a copy of Ordinance #04-18 on the County’s website (see: <http://www.co.cal.md.us/DocumentCenter/View/18140>). However, two pages were omitted that are contained in the version recorded by the Clerk of the Circuit Court. The Clerk of the Circuit Court has certified the recorded copy, which includes the two missing pages (stamped Book 00053, Pg. 253 and 255) (See Attachment I). The page stamped #253 is part of Exhibit A and includes the revised definition of EMCs. Exhibit A is the “marked up” version of the text amendments. Note: Ordinance #04-18 as posted on the County’s website has been archived to preserve its appearance as of the date of this application. See: <https://web.archive.org/web/20180309175227/http://www.co.cal.md.us/DocumentCenter/View/18140>
- The version of Ordinance #04-18 published on the website contains confusing information, as two pages contain different versions of the definition of EMCs. These pages are included in Exhibit B, which is supposed to be the “clean copy” of the text amendments. (See Attachment D, Excerpts from Exhibit B, two instances of the definition of “Electronic Message Center (EMC) on pages stamped #312 and #316

Application for Decision on Alleged Error:

Based on the above background, this application is being filed in accordance with CCZO Section 11-4, which grants the Board of Appeals authority to hear appeals “in any other order, requirement, decision or determination made by the Zoning Officer or the Zoning Officer’s designee or any other administrative official in the administration and enforcement of this Ordinance”. The following is a list of the alleged errors:

1. Failure to publish the zoning interpretation by the Zoning Officer that allows EMCs in Prince Frederick and outside Town Centers. (Required under Section 1-4.01 of the CCZO);

2. Mary Beth Cook's statements in her email was incorrect for 2 reasons:

"In response to your question below, at their December 12, 2017 meeting the BOCC voted to defer a decision on the topic of electronic message centers until June 2019, but added **whatever regulations are currently in place stay in effect**, regardless of other changes that may be approved, and directed staff to study acceptable measure in other jurisdictions, including legalities, to provide information with future proposed amendments."

- a. The highlighted language is not included in Ordinance #04-18; and
- b. The regulations which were "currently in place" prohibited EMCs;

3. The interpretation itself (that backlit signs should be considered EMCs) was incorrect in that the sign industry defines "backlit" and "EMC" signs differently than the interpretation. The International Sign Association uses the following definitions (see:

<https://www.signs.org/signs-101/glossary-of-sign-terms-and-definitions>):

- a. Backlighting Letter (used in a backlit sign): A channel letter, with an open or translucent back, that is illuminated. Light is directed against a surface behind the letter, producing a halo effect. Also known as a silhouette or halo lighted.
- b. Electronic Message Center: A sign that uses computer-generated messages or some other means of changing the words. These signs also include lamps, LEDs, LCDs, or flipper matrix.

4. Adoption of Ordinance #04-18 was incorrect for the following reasons:

- a. Ordinance #04-18 includes new CCZO language that was not included in the public hearing draft, was not presented at the public hearing, was not sent to agencies for comments, and was not presented to or considered by the Planning Commission when they were making their recommendation;
- b. A "fair summary" of the Ordinance was not published in the local newspaper, as required by Section 9-106 of the Md. Annotated Code. (Note: The 30-day appeal period should have begun after the Resolution was published in the paper, which would have been mid-February); and
- c. No comments were submitted at the public hearing that would allow insertion of the new wording attached to Ordinance #04-18;

5. Ordinance #04-18 was improperly posted on the County's website, with pages of the recorded version omitted and duplicate conflicting pages which added. These omissions and additions caused confusion for any citizen reviewing the Ordinance online.

Actions Requested:

Based on the above-stated reasons, the applicant is requesting the following:

1. That the Board of Appeals find that the Zoning Officer erred by not publishing the interpretation in writing or attaching it to the CCZO as required;
2. That the Board of Appeals find that new wording based on the unwritten interpretation should not have been adopted by the Board of County Commissioners and should not have been added to Ordinance #04-18;
3. That the Board of Appeals find that the Zoning Officer was incorrect in her interpretation regarding EMCs;

4. That the Board of Appeals order that all sign permits granted based upon that interpretation be revoked;
5. That the Board of Appeals find that the Board of County Commissioners erred in adopting Ordinance #04-18 and order that Ordinance #04-18 be repealed;
6. That the Board of Appeals find that an error was made by failing to publish a fair summary of Ordinance #04-18 as required by State law;
7. That the Board of Appeals find that an error was made in the posting of Ordinance #04-18 by omitting two pages and including duplicate but conflicting pages in Exhibit B; and
8. That the Board of Appeals order that all sign permits granted based on Ordinance #04-18 be revoked and that no additional permits for EMCs be granted.

ATTACHMENTS:

A1-CCZO Section 1-4

A2-Correspondence Re: adopted sign regulations

A3 Magic Tunnel sign application

B-February 28, 2018 News Release

C-Public Hearing Draft of Sign Regulations

D-Exhibit B of Ordinance #04-18 (adopted regulations)

E-Public Hearing Legal Notice

F-Maryland Annotated Code Section 9-106

G-Ordinance #04-18*

H1-Excerpts of Ordinance #04-18 Exhibit A from CCZO

H2-Excerpts of Ordinance #04-18 Exhibit A from Prince Frederick Zoning Ordinance

I-Two pages omitted from the recorded version of Ordinance #04-18

*NOTE: Ordinance #04-18 with its attachments contains over 100 pages. Only excerpts are attached to reduce paper, printing and confusion. The posted Ordinance can be found here:

<http://www.co.cal.md.us/DocumentCenter/View/18140> (but without the two omitted pages)

1-4 ZONING OFFICER**1-4.01. Zoning Officer Responsibilities [Amended 1-19-2012]**

There is a Zoning Officer for the County who shall be responsible for:

- A. giving approval for building permits,
- B. enforcement of the provisions of this Ordinance,
- C. determining whether a use or structure is legally non-conforming in accordance with Section 2-6 herein, and
- D. clarifying the intent of this Ordinance. Should there be a question on the application of a Section of the Ordinance; the Zoning Officer shall determine the proper application. Should the determination involve a legal interpretation of the Ordinance, an "official interpretation" shall be approved and signed by the Zoning Officer after consultation with the County Attorney. The Zoning Officer shall keep a volume containing all zoning interpretations. Annotations pertaining to the interpretation shall be added to the Zoning Ordinance at appropriate locations. Interpretations shall not become part of the Zoning Ordinance until they have been enacted pursuant to procedures set forth in Section 1-6. The following parties shall be notified within seven days following the interpretation. The Board of County Commissioners, Planning Commission, Department of Planning and Zoning, and the County Attorney.

*****6th EMAIL*****

From: Cook, Mary Beth
Date: Mon, Mar 5, 2018 at 4:20 PM
Subject: Possible erroneous post on P&Z website re sign regulations
To: David Bury

David,

The consultation with the County Attorney's Office was done verbally. I do not have anything in writing to provide to you.

Thank you,

Mary Beth Cook
Deputy Director/Zoning Officer
Calvert County Department of Planning & Zoning
150 Main Street
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
410.535.2348

*****5th EMAIL*****

From: David Bury
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2018 12:09 PM
To: Cook, Mary Beth
Cc: Plummer-Welker, Jenny L.
Subject: Possible erroneous post on P&Z website re sign regulations

Ms Cook, thank you once again for your speedy and helpful reply. I do have one further request.

Would it be possible to provide me with a copy of the written correspondence from the County Attorney's Office that determined that EMC signs fit the definition of back-lit signs?

Thank you very much, and appreciating your patience on this matter

David Bury
4310 King Fisher Ct
Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732

ATTACHMENT A2
Correspondence Re: adopted
sign regulations

*****4th EMAIL*****

On Fri, Mar 2, 2018 at 4:07 PM, Cook, Mary Beth wrote:

Mr. Bury,

P&Z staff consulted with the County Attorney's Office regarding the Magic Tunnel Car Wash EMC sign at the time of permit application. It was determined that EMC signs would be considered back lit and permitted where ever back lit signs were allowed.

Enjoy your weekend,

Mary Beth Cook
Deputy Director/Zoning Officer
Calvert County Department of Planning & Zoning
150 Main Street
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
410.535.2348

*****3rd EMAIL*****

From: David Bury
Sent: Thursday, March 01, 2018 4:34 PM
To: Cook, Mary Beth
Cc: Plummer-Welker, Jenny L.
Subject: Possible erroneous post on P&Z website re sign regulations

Ms Cook, thanks very much for your reply. I hadn't been aware of the "whatever regulations are currently in place stay in effect" language.

Can I please ask for some additional clarification, though?

Re "back-lit" EMC signs, I'm not sure what the term "back-lit" means. Is there a special kind of EMC sign that is back-lit, or is the County defining all EMC signs as back-lit? For example, does the current EMC sign at the Magic Tunnel car wash in Prince Frederick qualify as a back-lit EMC sign permitted under current regulations? This sign relies on a large array of forward-projecting LEDs on the front of the sign, and not on any illumination coming from the back of the sign.

Very respectfully
David Bury

ATTACHMENT A2
Correspondence Re:
adopted sign regulations

*****2nd EMAIL*****

On Thu, Mar 1, 2018 at 3:57 PM, Cook, Mary Beth wrote:

Mr. Bury,

In response to your question below, at their December 12, 2017 meeting the BOCC voted to defer a decision on the topic of electronic message centers until June 2019, but added whatever regulations are currently in place stay in effect, regardless of other changes that may be approved, and directed staff to study acceptable measure in other jurisdictions, including legalities, to provide information with future proposed amendments.

This department worked with the County Attorney to develop language to specifically address the bolded language above. Under the previous sign regulations, EMC signs were permitted as "back-lit" signs in the Prince Frederick Town Center and Employment Center zoning districts along MD Route 2/4, West Dares Beach Road and MD Route 231 west of MD Route 2/4. That language was adopted by resolution in the updated sign regulations recorded on January 31, 2018.

Please contact me if you have any additional questions.

Thank you,
Mary Beth Cook
Deputy Director/Zoning Officer
Calvert County Department of Planning & Zoning
150 Main Street
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
410.535.2348

*****1st EMAIL*****

From: David Bury
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 4:48 PM
To: Planning and Zoning
Subject: Possible erroneous post on P&Z website re sign regulations

Today's (28 February) new post on the Planning and Zoning website on enforcement of the new sign regulations includes the statement that:

"The regulations permit electronic message center signs in the Prince Frederick Town Center and Employment Center zoning districts along MD Route 2/4, West Dares Beach Road and MD Route 231 west of MD Route 2/4

As I remember, the BOCC at the 31 January 2018 instead decided to temporarily retain the prohibition on electronic message center signs in all locations for an additional 18 months, and then readdress the issue at that time. Am I correct?

Best regards
David Bury

ATTACHMENT A2
Correspondence Re:
adopted sign regulations

PFARC # 2013-05
August 1, 2013
Page two

Project Description: Wall Sign
Materials: Aluminum and Plexiglass
Dimensions: 162 square feet
Lighting: Internal
Color: White and maroon lettering. Logo colors are as presented in the attached illustration.
Design and Details: As presented in the attached illustration (dated January 31, 2013).

Project Description: Directional Signage
Color: To match bronze light poles
Design and Details: The Committee recommends approval of all styles of directional signage submitted at the meeting (see attached sheet entitled "Exterior Fixtures" for presented options).

Project Description: Freestanding Sign
Materials: Brick and stone base
Dimensions: 4-feet x 8-feet double sided sign (32 square feet)
Color: White and maroon. Logo colors are as presented in the attached illustration.
Lighting: Indirect. The "Time" and "Temperature" will be displayed in LED.
Design and Details: As presented in the attached application and illustrations (dated January 31, 2013). Location of freestanding sign is shown on the striping and signage plan (October 2008).

Architectural Review Committee Recommendation: The Committee reviewed the application at its meeting on July 18, 2013, and recommended approval as described above.

Planning Commission Action: Approved as described above.

 Date 8/7/2013
Yolanda Hipski, AICP, Secretary, Planning Commission

Note: This approval is a condition of permit approval. You may need to obtain site plan approval from the Planning Commission and/or a permit from the Division of Inspections and Permits. Please include a copy of this approval with your application.

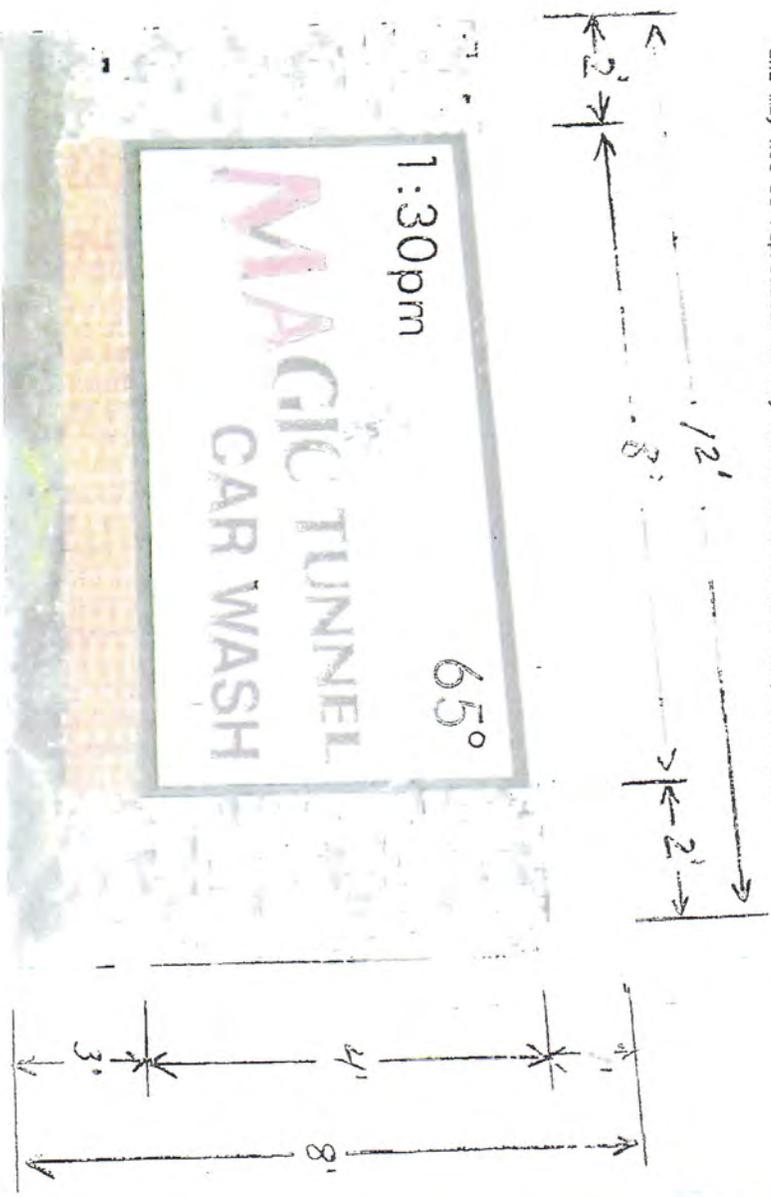
Attachments

c: Site Plan

ATTACHMENT A3

THE COLORS SHOWN IN THIS DRAWING ARE FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY AND MAY NOT BE A TRUE REPRESENTATION OF ACTUAL COLORS

*This Design is the Property of Waldorf Signs Inc. and may not be reproduced in any manner without written permission.



4' x 8' Double Sided Sign
32 Sq. Ft.

*Customer Responsible for All Permits, Inspections & Landlords or Assoc. Approval or Waldorf Signs Can Supply for Extra Charge, Permit Fees and Hourly Rate for Labor.
*Customers Responsibility for Approval of All Corporate Logos.

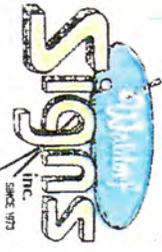
WITH APPROVAL OF THIS DRAWING I HEREBY GIVE WALDORF SIGNS INC. PERMISSION TO BEGIN PRODUCTION OF THE SIGNAGE ILLUSTRATED IN THIS DOCUMENT. I AGREE THAT ALL THE SPECIFICATION, SPELLING, COLORS AND ELEVATIONS LISTED IN THIS DRAWING ARE CORRECT AND APPROVED. ANY CHANGES TO THIS DRAWING AFTER PRODUCTION HAS STARTED WILL RESULT IN ADDITIONAL CHARGES.
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County News and Highlights

Posted on: February 28, 2018

Review and Enforcement of Calvert County's New Sign Regulations Gets Underway

The Calvert County Department of Planning & Zoning announced its code enforcement staff will soon be visiting with business owners to explain and enforce the county's recently updated sign regulations. The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners adopted updated sign regulations Jan. 31, 2018, to Section 6-8 of the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance.

The following is a list of the major changes made to the sign regulations:



- The adopted regulations are content neutral in order to comply with the U.S. Supreme Court's Reed v. Town of Gilbert case opinion.
- The sign regulations purpose statement was expanded to incorporate language specific to the promotion of businesses.
- Sign regulations are now more user-friendly:
 - o The regulations are now located in one document instead of multiple documents.
 - o Information regarding sign dimensions, sign types and the location of a sign now appears in charts for easier reference.
 - o Maximum sign areas and sign heights for freestanding signs both in and out of the town centers appear in charts for ease of use.
 - o All permanent sign regulations are consolidated in one section and all temporary sign regulations are consolidated in another for ease of use.
- A temporary sign is now defined by the construction and material make-up of the sign, not a time limit. Temporary sign categories now include air-activated, balloon, flags, banners, blades and yard signs.

• The regulations permit electronic message center signs in the Prince Frederick Town Center and Employment Center zoning districts along MD Route 2/4, West Dares Beach Road and MD Route 231 west of MD Route 2/4.

The county's code enforcement staff will begin enforcing these new regulations by assisting business owners through the transition as follows:

- Enforcement staff will soon begin speaking with businesses and advising what is and is not permissible under the new regulations. Staff will provide businesses that are out of compliance with a zoning inspection report including a correction date (30 days from date of issuance) along with an online link to the new regulations.
- After the initial visit, staff will continue to monitor the signs and work with the businesses to bring them into compliance.
- After the 30-day correction period, staff will re-inspect each location. If the re-inspection results in a violation, a zoning enforcement case will be opened and the business will be issued a notice of violation with a new corrective action date.
- A third site inspection will occur after the corrective action date on the notice of violation. If still in violation, the business owner will be advised again, in an effort to gain compliance through communication. If not resolved by an agreed date, the business owner will receive a citation and \$500 fine.
- If no compliance occurs after the citation deadline, staff will file the matter with the County Attorney's Office to schedule for court.

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Electronic Message Centers

- Criteria included in proposed regulations
- Proposed text amendments include several options for consideration for where EMCs would be permitted.



ATTACHMENT C-
Public Hearing Draft
of Sign Regulations
(presentation slide)

Electronic Message Centers

Sign Type Symbols P-A = Permitted with Architectural Design Review P = Permitted without Architectural Design Review X = Not Permitted S = Permitted with Special Exception	Town Center, District or Area [1]									
	Dunkirk Town Center	Huntingtown Town Center - Mixed Use District	Huntingtown Town Center - All Other Districts [2]	Lusby Town Center	Owings Town Center	Prince Frederick Town Center	Saint Leonard Town Center	Solomons Town Center - North of Lore Road	Solomons Town Center - South of Lore Road	Signs Outside of Town Centers [1]
Electronic Message Centers and Reader Boards [3]										
Electronic Message Centers OPTION A	X	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	X	X	P-A [4]
Electronic Message Centers OPTION B	X	X	X	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	X	X	P-A [4]
Electronic Message Centers OPTION C	S-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	S-A	S-A	P-A [4]
Electronic Message Centers OPTION D	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

ATTACHMENT C-
Public Hearing Draft
of Sign Regulations
(presentation slide)

[1] Signs in the Rural Commercial District and Town Centers are subject to architectural review according to applicable design guidelines, as amended from time to time. [2] Nonresidential permitted uses in the other Huntingtown Town Center districts (Neighborhood District and Residential District) shall comply with all the requirements of the Mixed Use District. Nonresidential uses allowed by conditional use or special exception shall comply with the sign requirements of the Mixed Use District unless more stringent requirements are set as part of the conditional use or special exception approval. [3] This subsection of Table 6-1 identifies where electronic message centers and reader boards are permitted as a portion of a permitted freestanding or building sign in accordance with the provisions of Section 6-8.07. Such signs shall not be permitted in addition to any other permitted signs. [4] Outside of any Town Center, electronic message centers shall only be permitted on property zoned I-1.

6-8 Signs

6-8.01 Purpose

These regulations balance the need to protect the public safety and welfare, the need for a well maintained and attractive community and the need for adequate identification, communication and advertising. The regulations for signs have the following specific objectives:

- A. To allow businesses, institutions and individuals to exercise their right to free speech by displaying messages on a sign, and to allow audiences to receive such information;
- B. To foster successful businesses by providing those businesses with the means for reasonable and appropriate communication and identification;
- C. To ensure that signs are designed, constructed, installed and maintained according to minimum standards to safeguard life, health, property and public welfare;
- D. To allow and promote positive conditions for communication by sign;
- E. To reflect and support the desired ambience and development patterns of the various zoning districts, overlay districts, planning areas and sub-areas and promote an attractive built environment; and
- F. To allow for adequate and effective signs whose dimensional characteristics further the interests of public safety and the needs of the motorist, where signs are viewed from a road.

6-8.02 General Provisions

- A. Sign regulations apply to each zoning district within Calvert County, excluding incorporated towns and any established municipality that has its own zoning authority. Permanent signs in the Town Centers and the Rural Commercial District are subject to Architectural Review according to applicable design guidelines, as amended from time to time.
- B. Where the Federal government or State of Maryland maintains statutes controlling certain signs or messages, the Federal government's or State's laws, regulations and standards shall supersede this Chapter. The minimum signage that is required by Federal or State law shall not count toward the signage allowed by this Ordinance.
- C. Except as permitted in these regulations, no sign shall be erected, affixed or displayed without a sign permit.
- D. No sign shall obstruct or interfere with ingress or egress from any door, window or fire escape. No sign shall resemble or imitate signs or signals erected by the County or other governmental agency for the regulation of traffic or parking.
- E. No part of a sign shall have animation, moving parts, flashing lights or changing colors unless specifically permitted for electronic message centers in this Chapter.
- F. No sign shall be located where it will interfere with the sight distance on the right-of-way of any road, public or private, and shall not impair or impact sight distance requirements of the Calvert County Road Ordinance and the current American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Highway Safety Manual.

- G. No sign or structure to which a sign is affixed shall be allowed to remain if it is unsafe or endangers the safety of a building, premise, person or structure to which a sign is affixed. The Zoning Officer shall order such signs, or structures which a sign is affixed, to be made safe, repaired or removed as necessary to address the condition subject of the order. Such order shall be made in accordance with Section 1-7 of this Ordinance, as amended from time to time.
- H. Any sign proposed to be located or replaced in a designated Calvert County Historic District must be approved by the Historic District Commission in accordance with the provisions of County Code Chapter 57, Sections 57-12 and 57-13, as amended from time to time.
- I. All external illumination shall be in accordance with the provisions of Section 6-6.01 of this Ordinance.
- J. Messages and structures shall be constructed in accordance with all applicable codes and shall be maintained in good repair and condition at all times. Maintenance shall include replacing or repairing of worn or damaged parts of a sign or sign structure in order to maintain the message and structure in good repair and condition at all times.
- K. Signs that cannot be seen from a right-of-way, waterway, or an adjoining property are exempt from the regulations in Section 6-8.
- L. Inward-facing signs within a stadium, open-air theater, parks, arena or other similar use facility, which signs can be viewed only by persons within such stadium, open-air theater, parks, arena or other similar facility are exempt from the regulations in Section 6-8.

6-8.03 Measurements and Calculations

- A. Overall freestanding sign height shall be measured from the lowest point at the base of the sign or structure along the closest road to the highest point of the sign or structure. The use of berms, grading or other means in order to achieve a greater sign height shall not be permitted except where site conditions are such that the proposed sign location is below the grade of the closest adjacent roadway, then the freestanding sign or structure's height shall be measured from the center line of the pavement of the adjacent road closest to the base of the sign. For signs along waterways, the sign height shall be measured from the base of the sign.
- B. The sign area shall be computed in square feet by means of the smallest square, rectangle, triangle or circle, or combination thereof that encompasses the extreme limits of the sign message. See Figure 1, Figure 2 and Figure 3 for examples implementing this means of measurement

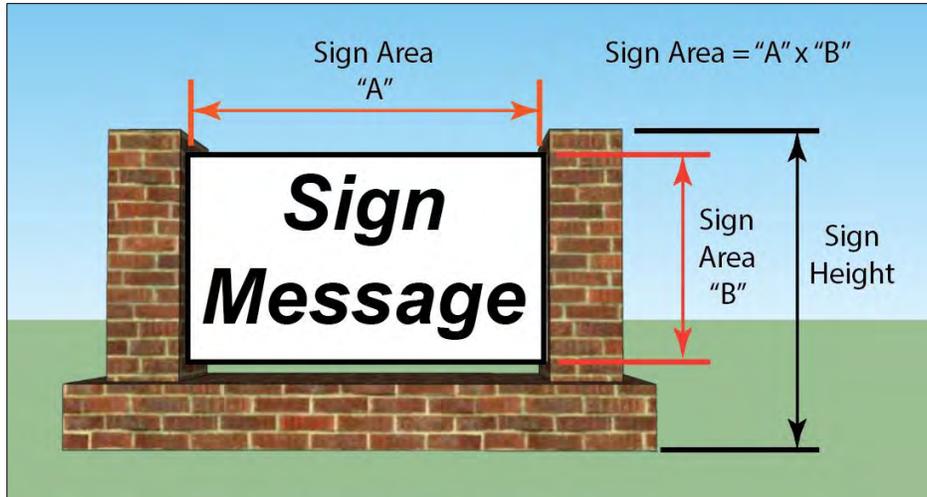


Figure 1: Example of the calculation of the sign area and height of a freestanding sign.

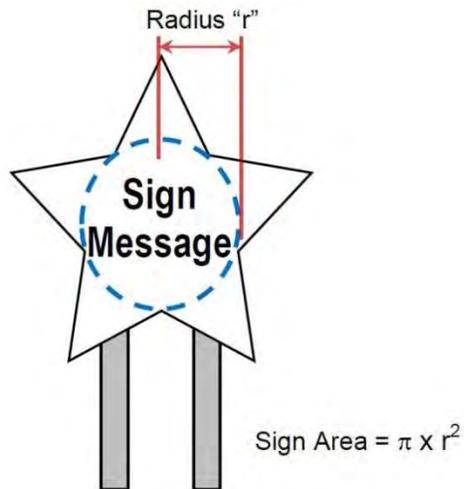


Figure 2: Example of sign area computation by the smallest circle encompassing the extreme limits of the sign message. For the purposes of calculations, π equals 3.14.

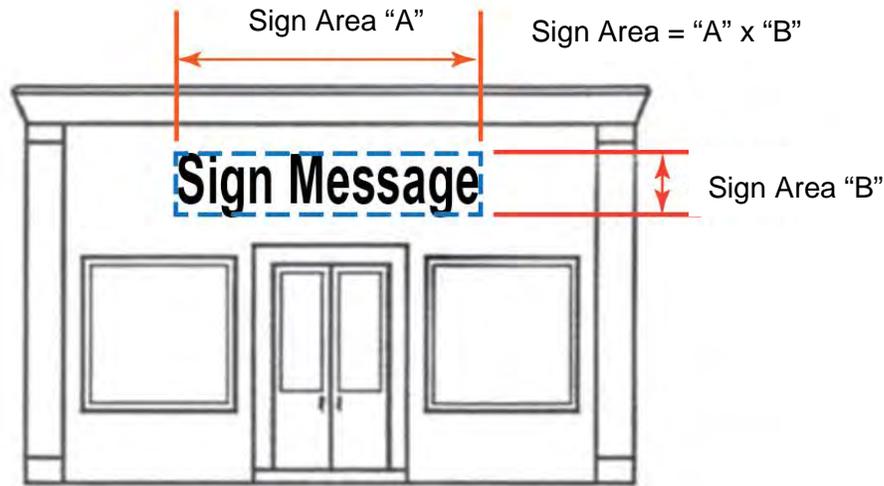


Figure 3: Example of sign area calculation for wall signs.

- C. In the case of a three-dimensional (3-D) sign, the sign area shall be calculated by the smallest square, rectangle or circle that encompasses the profile of the sign message. The profile used shall be the largest area of the sign message visible from any one point.
- D. For the purposes of this Chapter, the sign area for a sign with more than one face (multi-faced signs) shall be computed by adding together the area of all sign faces.
- E. Only one (1) side of a double sided sign is counted in determining the sign area provided that the two sign faces are placed back to back, so that both faces cannot be viewed from any one (1) point at the same time, and when such sign faces are part of the same sign structure and are not more than twenty-four (24) inches apart. Where the two (2) sides are not of equal size, the sign area shall be computed by the measurement of the largest of the sign areas.
- F. All fractions for various shapes will be rounded to the closest whole number.

6-8.04 Prohibited Signs

The following types of signs are specifically prohibited within the County:

- A. Vehicle signs viewed from a public road with the primary purpose of providing signage not otherwise allowed by this Ordinance. Vehicles or trailers shall not be parked to be used primarily as advertising signs. This does not apply to a vehicle parked at a place of business or an owner's/driver's residence and is the primary means of transportation to and from his or her place of employment. Furthermore, this does not apply to any signage for vehicles required by State or Federal law.
- B. Billboards with the exception of billboards established prior to February 27, 1992, refer to Section 6-8.13 E.
- C. Signs that are affixed to any structures, trees or other natural vegetation, rocks or poles or otherwise placed in or overhang into the public right-of-way.
- D. Any sign erected or placed on or above a traffic control device or its supporting structure not placed by a governmental agency or with the permission of a governmental agency:

1. Any sign so placed, unless previously approved by the Calvert County Department of Public Works, may be removed by the County.
2. If the placement or removal of any sign damages the traffic control device or its supporting structure, that person or entity found responsible for the placement of such sign shall be responsible for repairing or replacing the traffic control device and its supporting structure at no additional cost to the County or State.

E. OPTION A [Prohibit signs on bus shelters.]

Signs on bus shelters.

OPTION B [Delete prohibition: Allow signs on bus shelters, regulate as a permanent building sign, Section 6-8.08, with a temporary message.]

~~Signs on bus shelters.~~

- F. Signs that extend above the top of the roofline of the building to which it is affixed.

6-8.05 Signs Permitted in All Areas without a Permit

Each sign exempt from the permit process shall still comply with all applicable safety, height, area and location standards established in Section 6-8. The following signs do not require a sign permit:

- A. This Ordinance does not apply to any traffic control devices “TCDs” as identified in the latest version of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices “MUTCD” and other State and County design standards related to traffic control or management that are installed by the Calvert County Department of Public Works or the Maryland State Highway Administration.
- B. Any other signs installed by County governmental agencies on its own property.
- C. Flags.
- D. Signs or notices issued by any court, officer or other person or organization in performance of a public duty or required by law to be posted.
- E. Certain temporary signs as established in Section 6-8.12 of this Ordinance.
- F. Window signs are allowed provided they comply with all other sign regulations in this Ordinance.
- G. Properties with agricultural use assessment from the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation may have individual non-illuminated signs not exceeding six square feet where seeds or crops are planted in a specific field.
- H. Official signs erected by public utility, oil, gas, mining or construction companies to warn of danger or hazardous conditions, including signs indicating the presence of underground cables, gas lines and similar devices.



Figure 4: The window area is illustrated within the dashed line area for the two storefronts in the above image.

6-8.06 Permitted Signs

- A. Table 6-1 identifies where different types of signs are permitted in each of the Town Centers, districts or areas.
- B. Each sign type shall comply with its sign type-specific standards established in this Ordinance at 6-8.07 through 6-8.12.
- C. Illumination of Permanent Freestanding or Building Signs
 - 1. Illuminated signs are permitted in all zoning districts, except in designated Calvert County Historic Districts and as otherwise provided herein, where internally illuminated signs are prohibited. Signs must comply with the Outdoor Lighting Regulations in Section 6-6.01 of this Ordinance, including glare control requirements.
 - 2. For signs in the Solomons Town Center, south of Lore Road, signs may only be illuminated by an external light source.
- D. Sign Materials
 - 1. Signs may be constructed of any durable materials with the exception that:
 - a. Permanent signs in the Solomons Town Center north of Lore Road shall be constructed of any durable, nonreflective, matte-finish materials.
 - b. Permanent signs in the Solomons Town Center south of Lore Road shall be constructed of wood or those materials with a wood-like appearance. Materials other than wood may be used for signposts, frames and supporting structures.

TABLE 6-1: SUMMARY TABLE OF PERMITTED SIGN TYPES

Sign Type Symbols P-A = Permitted with Architectural Design Review P = Permitted without Architectural Design Review X= Not Permitted S = Permitted with Special Exception	Town Center, District or Area [1]									
	Dunkirk Town Center	Huntingtown Town Center - Mixed Use District	Huntingtown Town Center - All Other Districts [2]	Lusby Town Center	Owings Town Center	Prince Frederick Town Center	Saint Leonard Town Center	Solomons Town Center - North of Lore Road	Solomons Town Center - South of Lore Road	Signs Outside of Town Centers [1]
Permanent Freestanding Signs										
Directional Signs	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Drive-Up Signs	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Other Freestanding Signs	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A
Subdivision Signs	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A
Permanent Building Signs										
Awning or Canopy Signs	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A
Projecting Signs	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A
Wall Signs	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A
Electronic Message Centers and Reader Boards [3]										
Electronic Message Centers OPTION A	X	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	X	X	P-A [4]
Electronic Message Centers OPTION B	X	X	X	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	X	X	P-A [4]
Electronic Message Centers OPTION C	S-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	S-A	S-A	P-A [4]
Electronic Message Centers OPTION D	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Reader Boards	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A
Portable Signs										
A-Frame or T-Frame Signs	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Temporary Signs										
Air-Activated Signs	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Balloon Signs	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Banner Signs	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Blade Signs	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Pennants	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Yard Signs	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
NOTES:										
[1] Signs in the Rural Commercial District and Town Centers are subject to architectural review according to applicable design guidelines, as amended from time to time.										
[2] Nonresidential permitted uses in the other Huntingtown Town Center districts (Neighborhood District and Residential District) shall comply with all the requirements of the Mixed Use District. Nonresidential uses allowed by conditional use or special exception shall comply with the sign requirements of the Mixed Use District unless more										

TABLE 6-1: SUMMARY TABLE OF PERMITTED SIGN TYPES

Sign Type Symbols P-A = Permitted with Architectural Design Review P = Permitted without Architectural Design Review X= Not Permitted S = Permitted with Special Exception	Town Center, District or Area [1]									
	Dunkirk Town Center	Huntingtown Town Center - Mixed Use District	Huntingtown Town Center - All Other Districts [2]	Lusby Town Center	Owings Town Center	Prince Frederick Town Center	Saint Leonard Town Center	Solomons Town Center - North of Lore Road	Solomons Town Center - South of Lore Road	Signs Outside of Town Centers [1]
stringent requirements are set as part of the conditional use or special exception approval.										
[3] This subsection of Table 6-1 identifies where electronic message centers and reader boards are permitted as a portion of a permitted freestanding or building sign in accordance with the provisions of Section 6-8.07. Such signs shall not be permitted in addition to any other permitted signs.										
[4] Outside of any Town Center, electronic message centers shall only be permitted on property zoned I-1.										

6-8.07 Permanent Freestanding Sign Regulations

- A. The sign shall be affixed to a permanent foundation or structure.
- B. An issued sign permit is required prior to installing for all permanent signs unless otherwise specified.
- C. Permanent Freestanding Signs shall comply with the following regulations based upon their classification.
 - 1. Directional Signs (Permanent)
 - a. One sign may be permitted per individual driveway intersection with any public road;
 - b. The maximum sign area shall be five (5) square feet; and
 - c. The maximum sign height shall be three (3) feet.
 - 2. Drive-Up Signs (Permanent)
 - a. One drive-up sign is permitted for each drive-up lane with a maximum sign area of thirty-six (36) square feet each.
 - b. The above maximum sign area shall not apply to any drive-up signs located in the rear of the building not visible from a public right-of-way or screened with a fence, wall, landscaping or other screening methods that fully block the view of the drive-up signage from view of all public rights-of-way.
 - c. Drive-up signs may be internally illuminated and comply with the requirements of Section 6-6.01 except as restricted by Section 6-8.06.C.1 and 2 of this Ordinance.
 - 3. Other Freestanding Signs (Permanent)

Other types of freestanding signs may be permitted upon property for which the use is nonresidential and upon properties for which the use is residential if a home occupation has been approved by the Calvert County Department of Community Planning and Building in accordance with the following regulations:

 - a. For the purposes of this Chapter 6-8, nonresidential properties shall include lots and parcels of record with agricultural, business & personal service, commercial, recreational, industrial, public or institutional uses.

- b. One freestanding sign not to exceed four (4) square feet in size and six (6) feet in height may be approved on residential properties that contain an approved commercial business (home occupation).
- c. For freestanding signs proposed to be located upon properties for which a building or structure has been constructed and the use for which is nonresidential, the sign area and sign height for freestanding signs permitted on any nonresidential property shall not exceed that set forth at Table 6-2 and:
 - i. Except as otherwise provided herein, only one freestanding sign is permitted per lot or parcel of record as of the effective date of this amendment.
 - ii. Parcels that have frontage on two or more roadways may have a freestanding sign along each roadway.
 - iii. For lots or parcels of record as of the effective date of this amendment, with greater than five hundred (500) feet of road frontage, additional freestanding signs may be approved for every additional five hundred (500) feet of road frontage subject to the following criteria:
 - a) Materials, landscaping and design for multiple freestanding signs shall be similar;
 - b) The location of the multiple signage shall be shown on a site plan or plot plan; and
 - c) Each freestanding sign shall meet all other requirements of this Ordinance.
 - iv. If a use is situated on a lot or parcel of record as of the effective date of this amendment with a narrow road frontage of less than fifty (50) feet or is of a shape that prevents the establishment of a freestanding sign along the road, the applicable freestanding sign may be located on an adjacent lot or parcel without affecting the sign area allowed on the adjacent lot or parcel of record as of the effective date of this amendment without being subject to the multiple sign rules of Section 6-8.07 C. 3. i, above provided that:
 - a) A special exception is granted by the Board of Appeals;
 - b) The height and area of the freestanding sign shall be based on the zoning district of the property to which it serves, as determined by the Zoning Officer;

OPTION A

- c) The freestanding sign shall be located on a separate sign structure from any signage allowed on the lot or parcel of record as of the effective date of this amendment where it is to be located;
- d) The size of the sign for the property with the narrow lot or parcel of record as of the effective date of this amendment frontage shall be no more than fifty (50) percent of the maximum size allowed; and

OPTION B *[Delete provision d and re-letter rest of section]*

- c) The freestanding sign shall be located on a separate sign structure from any signage allowed on the lot or parcel of record as of the effective date of this amendment where it is to be located;

~~d) The size of the sign for the property with the narrow lot or parcel of record as of the effective date of this amendment frontage shall be no more than fifty (50) percent of the maximum size allowed;~~

OPTION C

- c) The freestanding sign shall either be located on a separate sign structure from any signage allowed on the lot or parcel of record as of the effective date of this amendment where it is to be located, or shall be or be incorporated into the sign structure allowed on the lot or parcel of record as of the effective date of this amendment where it is to be located;
- d) ~~The size of the sign for the property with the narrow lot or parcel of record as of the effective date of this amendment frontage shall be no more than fifty (50) percent of the maximum size allowed; If signage from the adjacent properties are to be located on one (1) freestanding sign, then the sign area shall not exceed the combined maximum freestanding sign area of what would be allowed for the individual signs;~~
- e) The sign owner shall be required to obtain, record and submit proof of an easement from the person or entity who owns the property where the sign is to be located to demonstrate that the property owner has authorized placement of the sign in the applicable location. Such easement shall either be permanent, allowing placement of such sign in perpetuity, or if temporary, shall establish an expiration date for the easement. For a temporary easement, the sign shall be removed on or before the expiration date of the easement. Failure to remove the sign on or before the expiration date shall be considered a violation of this Ordinance.
- f) For nonresidential properties having no permanent buildings, a maximum of fifty (50) square feet of signage is permitted with a maximum height as established in Table 6-2.
- g) The setback requirement for freestanding signs shall be a minimum of ten (10) feet from the right-of-way except in the following instances:
- i) Any freestanding sign located along an arterial road and within forty (40) feet of the side lot line shall adhere to the front setback requirement for the district in which it is located.
 - ii) If located along a collector or local road and within thirty (30) feet of the side lot line, the sign shall conform to the front setback requirement for the district in which it is located (See Figure 5).

TABLE 6-2: MAXIMUM SIGN AREA (IN SQUARE FEET) AND SIGN HEIGHT (IN FEET) OF FREESTANDING SIGNS

	Town Center, District or Area									
	Dunkirk Town Center	Huntingtown Town Center - Mixed Use District	Huntingtown Town Center - All Other Districts	Lusby Town Center	Owings Town Center	Prince Frederick Town Center	Saint Leonard Town Center	Solomons Town Center - North of Lore Road	Solomons Town Center - South of Lore Road	Signs Outside of Town Centers
Maximum Sign Area	50	20	20	20	20	See Note [1]	20	50	20	50
Maximum Sign Height	10	8	8	8	8	See Note [2]	8	10	10 except as allowed in Note [2]	18
Maximum Sign Area for Commercial Business on Residential Property	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Maximum Sign Height for Commercial Business on Residential Property	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Directional Signs Maximum Sign Area	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Directional Signs Maximum Sign Height	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Drive-Up Signs Maximum Sign Area	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36
Subdivision Signs Maximum Sign Area	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36
Subdivision Signs Maximum Sign Height	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8

Note [1]

The maximum sign area in Prince Frederick Town Center shall be:

- a) 90 square feet along MD 2/4;
- b) 50 square feet along 231, Dares Beach Road and all other existing and future roads within Entry District, Village District, New Town District and Forest District; and
- c) 20 square feet along Armory Road, Church Street, Duke Street and Main Street, all other existing and future roads within the Old Town District & Old Town Transition District.

Note [2]

The maximum sign height for selected special areas in the Prince Frederick and Solomons Town Centers shall be:

- a) 22 feet in Prince Frederick along MD 2/4, Entry District;
- b) 14 feet in Prince Frederick along MD 2/4 and all other districts; and
- c) 8 feet in the Solomons C1 Sub-area.

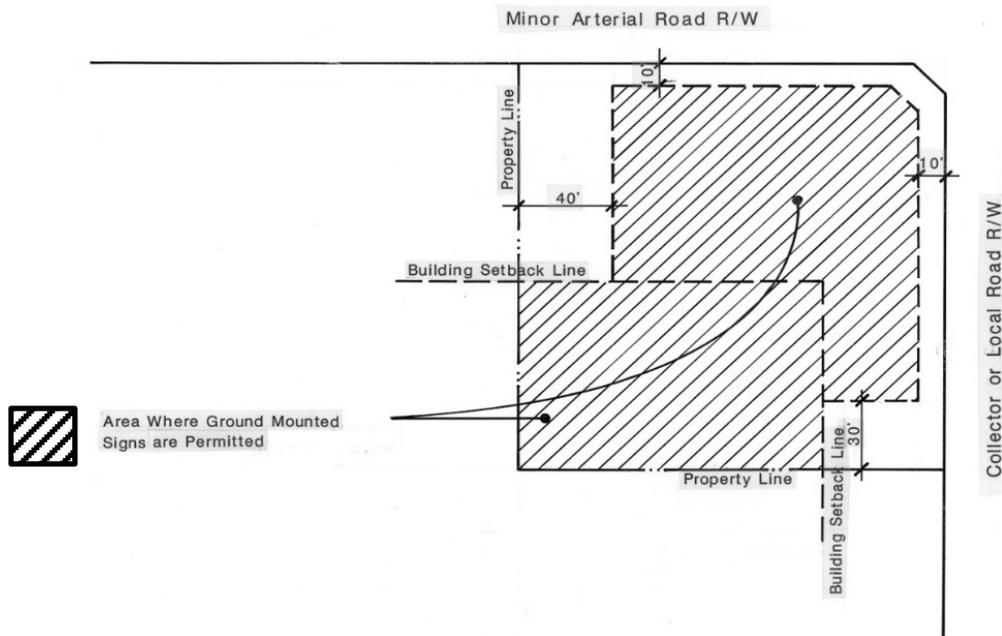


Figure 5: Allowable locations for freestanding signs.

4. Subdivision Signs (Permanent)

Not more than two (2) subdivision signs meeting the following minimum requirements and limitations may be permitted at each subdivision entrance:

- a. Such signs shall be set back fifteen (15) feet from the right-of-way of any adjoining arterial or collector roads; five (5) feet from the right-of-way of a subdivision road; and five (5) feet from all other property lines.
- b. The size of each sign face shall not exceed thirty-six (36) square feet in area.
- c. The size of the structure containing a sign face shall not exceed two hundred (200) square feet in area, excluding the sign face.
- d. The height of the structure containing a sign face shall be no more than eight (8) feet, and shall comply with the requirements of Section 6-8.03.A of this Ordinance.
- e. Maintenance of the sign shall be the responsibility of the developer or homeowners association of the subdivision, which obligation may be assigned.

6-8.08 Building Signs (Permanent)

A. General Provisions

Permanent building signs shall comply with the following regulations based upon their classification:

- 1. Table 6-3 establishes the maximum amount of permanent building sign area allowed on any single building wall.

2. The building sign area allowed on each individual building wall in Table 6-3 shall not be aggregated and placed on a single building wall (e.g., if each wall is thirty (30) feet long, a maximum of seventy (70) square feet of building sign area may be placed on each wall).
3. The building sign area allowed in Table 6-3 shall include the total amount of all awning, canopy, projecting or wall signs on each wall. Standards for each individual building sign type follow Table 6-3.
4. A cumulative measurement shall be taken for the entire building regardless of multiple uses or multiple businesses sharing party walls.
5. Buildings with separate uses on two or more stories are allowed fifty (50) percent more building area signage than specified in Table 6-3.

TABLE 6-3 PERMANENT BUILDING SIGN AREA ALLOWED	
Length of Front Building Wall (feet)	Maximum Square Footage of all Building Signs (square feet)
10-19	30
20-29	50
30-39	70
40-49	90
50-59	110
60-69	125
70-79	140
80-89	155
90-99	170
100 or Greater	For building walls that are longer than one hundred (100) feet, add one square foot of maximum sign area for every linear foot over one hundred (100) feet.

B. Building Sign Types (Permanent)

1. Awning or Canopy Signs (Permanent)
 - a. The construction of the awning or canopy structure shall comply with the current International Building Code in effect with the applicable local and State amendments.
2. Projecting Signs (Permanent)
 - a. A projecting sign may be attached to the ceiling or wall of an outdoor arcade if it complies with the height clearance of this subsection.
 - b. All components of the projecting sign shall have a minimum height clearance of eight (8) feet above the sidewalk and (fifteen) 15 feet above any driveway or vehicular use area.
 - c. Projecting signs shall not extend above the roofline of the building.
 - d. All projecting signs shall be separated from other projecting signs by a minimum of five (5) feet.

3. Wall Signs (Permanent)
 - a. A wall sign may be painted directly on a building wall, mounted on the façade wall or mounted on a raceway.
 - b. A wall sign shall not protrude more than eighteen (18) inches from the wall or face of the building to which it is attached, regardless of whether a raceway is used.
 - c. Wall signs shall not extend above the roofline of the building or past the sides of a façade to which it is attached.
 - d. Wall signs may not be attached to a penthouse or any roof structure including but not limited to mechanical equipment or roof screening.

6-8.09 Electronic Message Centers (EMCs) and Reader Boards

- A. Where permitted, as indicated in Table 6-1 of this Ordinance, up to fifty (50) percent of any permitted freestanding sign, canopy sign, wall sign or window sign may be composed of a reader board or an EMC.
- B. Except as otherwise provided herein, only one (1) EMC is permitted on any single lot or parcel of record as of the effective date of this amendment. Parcels that have frontage on two or more roadways may have one (1) EMC sign along each roadway.
- C. EMCs shall be prohibited in Historic Districts.
- D. EMC signs, when allowed, are subject to the following conditions:
 1. One (1) EMC per side of the sign structure, but no more than two (2) sides.
 2. The message on an EMC may not change or move more often than once every **[insert length of time]** except where an EMC with a total area of less than one hundred sixty (160) square inches and which is set back a minimum of thirty (30) feet from the right-of-way, or the minimum setback for buildings, whichever is greater, may be fully animated.
OPTION A thirty (30) seconds
OPTION B twenty (20) seconds
 3. The images and messages displayed must be static, and the transition from one static display to another must be instantaneous without any special effects. See definition of Static/Instant Message Change.
 4. EMCs must be designed and equipped to freeze the device in one position if a malfunction occurs. The displays must also be equipped with a means to immediately discontinue the display if it malfunctions, and the sign owner must immediately stop the dynamic display when notified by the Zoning Officer that it is not complying with the standards of this Ordinance.
 5. The EMC shall come equipped with an automatic dimming photocell, which automatically adjusts the display's brightness based on ambient light conditions.

6. The brightness level shall not exceed 0.3 foot candles over ambient levels as measured in accordance with the procedure and distances for measurement of brightness specified by the International Sign Association in its *Night-time Brightness Level Recommendations for On-Premise Electronic Message Centers* (August 2016 and as updated from time to time).
7. EMCs shall not be located within two hundred (200) feet of the property line of a residential structure. This setback does not apply to residential structures on mixed use properties.
8. All EMCs shall be shielded from view of residential structures on adjacent properties through the use of a fence, wall or vegetative buffer that is installed to shield the view of the sign from the residential structure. Such fence, wall or vegetative buffer shall comply with any applicable regulations in this Ordinance and must be shown in the permit application.

6-8.10 Master Sign Plan

The master sign plan allowance established herein is to provide for additional permanent signage for large-scale nonresidential, mixed use or residential developments and/or is to allow creativity and flexibility in establishing a cohesive and aesthetically pleasing overall design of signage within a development. The master sign plan provides a review process where any development that includes one building of twenty-five thousand (25,000) square feet or more of gross floor area, or multiple buildings, on a single parcel, with cumulative total of twenty-five thousand (25,000) square feet of gross floor area or more can submit a master sign plan package that illustrates all the signage that will be used on the lot or parcel of record as of the effective date of this amendment and the relationships of all these signs to the development.

- A. Master sign plans shall be submitted to the Calvert County Department of Community Planning and Building for any nonresidential development which meets the square foot threshold in 6-8.10 above, and where the applicant wishes to submit a single, comprehensive sign plan for review.
- B. A master sign plan is intended to promote consistency among signs within a development and enhance the compatibility of signs with the architectural and site design features within a development.
- C. A master sign plan may include more than one (1) freestanding sign per development or other deviations from the standards of this Ordinance.
- D. An application for review of a master sign plan shall include:
 1. A master sign plan, drawn to scale, delineating the site proposed to be included within the master sign plan and the general locations of all permanent signs including freestanding and building signs and the property lines, buildings, roadways, and rights-of-way;
 2. Drawings or sketches indicating the dimensions, location and sign area for all the permanent signs;
 3. Drawings or sketches indicating the exterior surface details of all buildings on the site on which wall signs, awning signs, canopy signs, projecting signs, window signs or other building signs are proposed; and
 4. Information regarding the illumination of any signs.

- E. In order for the Calvert County Planning Commission, or its designee, to approve a master sign plan, it or its designee must find all of the following:
 - 1. That the plan's contribution to the design of the site and surrounding area will be superior to the quality than would result under the regulations and standards of this Ordinance;
 - 2. That the signs proposed as part of the master sign plan will create a uniform sign package for the site related to materials, lighting, design and other features of the individual signs; and
 - 3. That the proposed signs are compatible with the style or character of improvements and are well-related to each other in terms of location and spacing.
- F. The Calvert County Planning Commission, or its designee, may grant its approval subject to conditions as it deems necessary to carry out the intent of this Chapter 6-8.10.
- G. Upon approval of a master sign plan, permits will be issued only for those signs approved under the master sign plan, subject to all conditions of approval.

6-8.11 Portable Signs

Portable signs shall be constructed and maintained according to the following standards, specifications and regulations:

- A. Each sign board face shall not exceed twelve (12) square feet with a maximum width of three (3) feet and a maximum height of four (4) feet.
- B. The sign shall only be displayed outside during hours of operation.
- C. Any business may apply and receive approval for not more than one (1) portable sign.
- D. If placed on a sidewalk, the sign shall be placed in such a manner as to maintain a minimum of four (4) feet of sidewalk clearance for the safe passage of pedestrians.
- E. The sign shall be located in front of the establishment which the sign serves.
- F. The sign must be free-standing and shall not be affixed, chained, anchored or otherwise secured to the ground or to any pole, parking meter, tree, tree grate, fire hydrant, railing or other structure.
- G. The sign must not obstruct entry or exit doors, parking meters, bicycle racks, and other features legally in the right-of-way or required as part of any building, fire or other safety code.
- H. The sign must not interfere with the opening of car doors in legal parking spaces, or with the operation of wheelchair lifts and ramps, cab stands, loading zones or bus stops.
- I. The sign shall be weighted so that it is stable and windproof.
- J. The sign must be constructed of durable, weather-proof materials, such as slate, marker board, stainless steel, aluminum, aluminum composite, laminate plastic, or medium density overlay plywood painted with enamel paint. Rough cut plywood is not an acceptable material for the sign.
- K. The sign cannot have sharp edges or any protrusions or features that could be a hazard to pedestrians.

- L. Calvert County Government shall be indemnified and held harmless from any liability resulting from accident or injury caused by erection and maintenance of such signs.

6-8.12 Temporary Signs

A. General Provisions

1. Temporary signs shall be constructed and maintained according to the following standards, specifications and regulations:
2. Temporary signs shall not be mounted, attached, affixed, installed or otherwise secured in a manner that will make the sign a permanent sign.
3. No temporary sign shall be mounted, attached, affixed, installed or otherwise secured so as to protrude above the roofline of a building.
4. Temporary signs shall not be illuminated.
5. With the exception of portable (A-Frame and T-Frame) signs (see Section 6-8.11.), all temporary signs, regardless of the message, are prohibited in the road right-of-way.
6. All temporary signs shall be secured in such a manner as to prevent swinging or other significantly noticeable movement resulting from the wind.
7. Because of the nature of materials typically used to construct temporary signs and to avoid deteriorating signs and all safety concerns that accompany such a condition, temporary signs shall be removed or replaced when such sign is deteriorated as determined by the Calvert County Department of Community Planning and Building.
8. Temporary signs shall not be posted in any place or in any manner that is destructive to public property including, but not limited to rights-of-way, utility poles, public trees, etc.

B. Temporary Signs on Properties for Sale or Lease

1. Table 6-4 establishes the maximum area and height of temporary signs allowed on properties that are for sale or lease.
2. Only one (1) sign shall be permitted at any single time for each road on which the property fronts.
3. The sign is limited to yard signs subject to the sign type standards in Section 6-8.12 I. 2. d.

TABLE 6-4 TEMPORARY SIGNS ON PROPERTIES FOR SALE OR LEASE		
PARCEL SIZE	MAXIMUM SIGN AREA	MAXIMUM HEIGHT
Less than two (2) acres	Ten (10) square feet	Four (4) feet
Two acres to ten (10) acres	Sixteen (16) square feet	Six (6) feet
Over ten (10) acres	Thirty-two (32) square feet	Six (6) feet

C. Temporary Signs on Residential Property

1. Residential lots or parcels of record as of the effective date of this amendment may have a maximum of twenty (20) square feet of temporary signage.
2. Such signs shall be limited to banner signs or yards signs.
3. Banner signs may be attached to a building, fence or other similar structure. A banner sign attached to posts and mounted in a yard or landscape area shall be regulated as a temporary yard sign. There are no maximum height standards but a banner sign shall not be mounted in a manner that extends above the roofline if attached to a building.
4. The maximum height of a temporary yard sign shall be six (6) feet.
5. Such signs with a sign area of sixteen (16) square feet or more shall only be permitted for up to one hundred eighty (180) days in a single calendar year and shall require a sign permit.

D. Temporary Signs on Non-Residential Property

For the purposes of this Chapter 6-8.12, nonresidential properties shall include lots and parcels of record with agricultural, business & personal service, commercial, recreational, industrial, public or institutional uses.

1. Nonresidential lots or parcels of record as of the effective date of this amendment may have a maximum of two (2) temporary signs from the following temporary sign types:
 - a. Air-Activated or Balloon Signs
 - i. Only one (1) balloon or air-activated sign is allowed on any parcel, at any given time.
 - ii. The maximum height shall be fifteen (15) feet.
 - iii. The sign shall be securely anchored to the ground.
 - iv. The sign shall be set back from any right-of-way, roadway or any parking space a minimum distance equal to its height. Such setback shall include any wires, rope or other materials used to securely fasten the sign to the ground.
 - v. The sign shall not obstruct sidewalks.
 - b. Banner Signs
 - i. Banner signs may be attached to a building, fence or other similar structure. A banner sign attached to posts and mounted in a yard or landscape area shall be regulated as a temporary yard sign.
 - ii. The maximum sign area of any single banner sign shall be twenty (20) square feet.
 - iii. A banner sign shall not be mounted in a manner that extends above the roofline if attached to a building.
 - c. Blade Signs
 - i. Up to two (2) blade signs are permitted at any one time, but each blade sign shall be separated from another blade sign by fifty (50) lineal feet. For parcels longer than fifty (50) lineal feet, one (1) additional blade sign is permitted for each additional fifty (50) lineal feet.

- ii. The maximum height of a blade sign shall be twelve (12) feet with a maximum width of two (2) feet at its widest dimensions.
 - iii. The signs shall be securely anchored in the ground or within a portable base designed to securely anchor the sign.
 - iv. The sign shall be set back ten (10) feet from any right-of-way, roadway, sidewalk or any parking space.
- d. Yard Signs
- i. There shall be a maximum of two (2) faces to the sign, mounted back-to-back.
 - ii. The maximum height of a temporary yard sign shall be six (6) feet.
 - iii. The maximum sign area of a yard sign shall be twenty (20) square feet.

6-8.13 Nonconforming Signs

- A. Nonconforming signs may continue to be used, regardless of change in content, until the sign structure is sought to be replaced, expanded or relocated. At that time, the nonconforming aspects of the sign shall be brought into conformance with the requirements of this Ordinance.
- B. Nonconforming signs must be maintained in good condition. Maintenance required by this Subsection shall include replacing or repairing of worn or damaged parts of a sign or sign structure in order to maintain the sign or sign structure in good repair and condition at all times, and is not a change or modification prohibited by Section 6-8.13 A.
- C. Removal of a nonconforming sign or replacement of a nonconforming sign with a conforming sign is required when:
 - 1. A nonconforming sign, or more than 50% of the size of a nonconforming sign, nonconforming sign structure or the building to which a nonconforming sign is attached, is destroyed or damaged by a fire, flood, windstorm or similar abnormal event, or for any reason or by any means taken down, altered or removed; or
 - 2. The condition of the nonconforming sign or nonconforming sign structure has deteriorated and the deterioration exceeds fifty (50) percent of the size of the sign structure prior to its deterioration; or
 - 3. The use of the nonconforming sign, or the property on which it is located, has ceased, become vacant or been unoccupied for a period of one hundred twenty (120) consecutive days or more.
- D. Intent to abandon is not required as a basis for removal under this subsection. Removal shall be the responsibility of the owner of the property on which the sign is located.
- E. Billboards established prior to February 27, 1992, are subject to the following:
 - 1. Any billboard must be maintained in good repair and condition, in accordance with all applicable codes, at all times, provided neither the sign area nor sign height are increased.
 - 2. No portion of any billboard shall be converted into an Electronic Message Center.

3. Billboards that have an illumination system in the same manner as in place at the effective date of these regulations may continue to be illuminated. The type of external illumination may be replaced with a more energy efficient type external illumination.
4. Billboards that do not have an illumination system as of the effective the effective date of this amendment may not be illuminated.
5. Billboards shall also be subject to the nonconforming sign provisions of 6-8.13.

6-8.14 Violations

Any violation of this Section shall be enforced in accordance with the procedures contained in Section 1-7 of this Ordinance.

6-8.15 Variances and Appeals

See Article 11 of this Ordinance for variances and appeals.

6-8.16 Definitions

3-D Sign	An effect used in a sign that provides the three dimensions of width, length and depth.
Affix	Stick, attach or fasten an object to something else.
A-Frame Sign	A portable sign which is ordinarily in the shape of an “A” or some variation thereof, which is readily moveable and is not permanently attached to the ground or any structure. As distinguished from “T-frame sign.”
Air-Activated Sign	A sign, all or any part of, which is designed to be moved by action of forced air so as to make the sign appear to be animated or otherwise have motion. As distinguished from “balloon sign.”
Awning Sign	A sign painted on, printed on or attached flat against the surface of an awning which is a shelter projecting from and supported by the exterior wall of a building constructed of nonrigid materials on a supporting framework. See also definition of "canopy sign."
Balloon Sign	A sign that is an air-inflated object, which may be of various shapes, made of flexible fabric, resting on the ground or a structure, and equipped with a portable blower motor that provides a constant flow of air into the device. Balloon signs are restrained, attached or held in place by a cord, rope, cable or similar method. As distinguished from “air-activated sign.”
Billboard	A type of nonconforming sign exceeds allowed sign area and/or height provisions, which existed prior to February 27, 1992 and has been inventoried by Calvert County.
Banner Sign	Canvas, plastic, fabric or similar lightweight, nonrigid material that can be mounted to a structure with cord, rope, cable or a similar method. If such sign is supported by stakes in the ground, it shall be considered a yard sign.

Blade Sign	A temporary sign that is constructed of cloth, canvas, plastic fabric or similar lightweight, nonrigid material and that is supported by a single, rigid or semi-rigid vertical member mounted into the ground or on a portable structure.
Building Signs	Signs mounted directly on a building, or attached to the façade, roof or other elements of a building. Such signs shall include awning signs, canopy signs, wall signs and projecting signs.
Canopy Sign	A sign attached to the soffit or fascia of a canopy of a covered entrance or walkway, which is a permanent structure made of cloth, metal or other material attached or unattached to a building for the purpose of providing shelter to patrons or automobiles, or as a decorative feature on a building wall. A canopy is not a completely enclosed structure but typically is supported by features other than the building façade (e.g., structural legs, building extensions, etc.). As distinguished from “awning sign.”
Directional Sign	A small permanent sign located near driveway access points and/or at the intersection of internal access drives.
Display	Make a prominent exhibition in a place where it can easily be seen.
Drive-Up Sign	Any signage located along a drive-up lane that is oriented toward the customer or user in the drive-up lane.
Durable	Able to withstand wear, pressure or damage; hard-wearing and not easily worn over a long duration.
Electronic Message Center (EMC)	A variable message sign that utilizes computer-generated messages or some other mechanical or electronic means of changing copy. These signs include displays using one or more lamps, light emitting diodes (LEDs), liquid-crystal display (LCDs) or a flipper matrix.
Erect	Construct or installing a building, wall or other structure.
Flag	A sign made of nonrigid material such as canvas or vinyl, and having no enclosing or supporting framework. A flag is usually rectangular or triangular in shape, and is attached at one end to a pole.
Flashing Light or 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 any externally mounted intermittent light source.
Freestanding Sign	Any sign supported upon the ground by a monument, pedestal, pole, bracing or other permanent measure and not attached to any building.
Master Sign Plan	A comprehensive plan that provides for variation in the amount, location or features of permanent signage that shows the general locations of all signs.
Multi-Faced Sign	A sign having at least two (2) display faces, where the sign faces are not mounted back-to-back and where the faces are such that the interior angle of the faces is greater than ninety-one (91) degrees and not being a three-way dimensional sign.

Off-Premise Sign	A sign that directs attention to a business, commodity, service or entertainment conducted, sold or offered at a location other than the premises on which the sign is located.
On-Premise Sign	A sign that directs attention to a business, commodity, service or entertainment conducted, sold or offered on the same lot, parcel, site or property where the sign is located.
Pennants	A triangular or irregular piece of fabric or other material, whether or not containing a message of any kind, commonly attached by strings or strands, or supported on small poles, intended to flap in the wind.
Permanent Sign	A sign permitted by this ordinance to be located on the premises for an unlimited period of time and designed to be permanently attached to a structure or the ground.
Portable Sign	A sign that is capable of being transported because of being lighter and smaller in size. Examples: A-Frame and T-Frame signs.
Projecting Sign	A sign that is affixed to a building or wall and extends more than eighteen (18) inches beyond the face of such building or wall. A projecting sign shall also include a sign hung under an arcade.
Raceway	An elongated metal enclosure used to mount individual channel lettering and/or to conceal related transformers and wiring for wall-mounted signs.
Reader Board	A sign or portion of a sign where it is possible to change the copy on a frequent basis but where such sign change must be manually made and is not made electronically.
Residential Property	A parcel of record that is improved by a one- or two-family structure occupied as a residence. "Residential Property" does not include a farm.
Right-of-way	(1) A strip of land acquired by reservation, dedication, forced dedication, prescription or condemnation and intended to be occupied or currently occupied by a road, crosswalk, railroad, electric transmission lines, oil or gas pipeline, water line, sanitary storm sewer and other similar uses; (2) Generally, the right of one to pass over the property of another.
Sign	Any object, device, display or structure or part thereof situated outdoors or adjacent to the interior of a window or doorway which is used to advertise, identify, display, direct or attract attention to an object, person, institution, organization, business, product, service, event or location by any means including words, letters, pictures, logos, figures, designs, symbols, fixtures, colors, illumination or projected images.
Sign Structure	Any structure designed for the support of a sign.
Static/Instant Message Change	On electronic message centers, a static or instant message change is when one message changes to another message instantly without rotating, scrolling, fading, dissolving, blinking, audio, pyrotechnic or flashing elements or other movement of the message.

Subdivision Entrance	See entrance definition in the Calvert County Road Ordinance.
Subdivision Sign	A sign placed at the entrance of subdivisions from State or County highways.
Temporary Sign	Any sign which is movable, not permanently attached to the ground, a structure or other sign, designed or constructed in such a manner that it can be moved or relocated without involving any structural or support changes, intended for a limited period of display or constructed out of cloth, canvas, plastic sheet, cardboard or other like materials.
T-Frame Sign	A portable sign which is ordinarily in the shape of an upside down "T" or some variation thereof, which is readily moveable and is not permanently attached to the ground or any structure. As distinguished from "A-frame sign."
Vehicle Sign	Any sign permanently or temporarily attached to or placed on a vehicle or trailer. Signs attached to a motor vehicle or trailer shall include, without limitation, any signage painted on, physically applied to, or otherwise affixed to the vehicle.
Wall Sign	A sign attached directly to an exterior wall of a building and which does not extend more than eighteen (18) inches from nor above the roof line or beyond the limits of the outside wall, with the exposed face of the sign in a plane parallel to the building wall. Murals and other painted signs are considered wall signs pursuant to this section.
Window Sign	Any sign viewable through and/or affixed in any manner to a window or exterior glass door such that it is intended to be viewable from the exterior including, but not limited to, window paintings and signs located inside a building but visible primarily from the outside of the building. This does not include merchandise and other displays located in a window, or print intended to be viewable from the interior of a building.
Yard Sign	Any temporary sign placed on the ground or attached to a supporting structure, posts or poles, that is not attached to any building.

**ARTICLE 12
DEFINITIONS**

<u>Term</u> (Date of Amendment)	<u>Definition</u>
3-D Sign	An effect used in a sign that provides the three dimensions of width, length and depth.
Affix	Stick, attach or fasten an object to something else.
A-Frame Sign	A portable sign which is ordinarily in the shape of an "A" or some variation thereof, which is readily moveable and is not permanently attached to the ground or any structure. As distinguished from "T-frame sign."
Air-Activated Sign	A sign, all or any part of, which is designed to be moved by action of forced air so as to make the sign appear to be animated or otherwise have motion. As distinguished from "balloon sign."
Awning Sign (9/22/09)	A sign that is either attached to, affixed to, or painted on an awning or canopy. A sign painted on, printed on or attached flat against the surface of an awning which is a shelter projecting from and supported by the exterior wall of a building constructed of nonrigid materials on a supporting framework. See also definition of "canopy sign."
Balloon Sign	A sign that is an air-inflated object, which may be of various shapes, made of flexible fabric, resting on the ground or a structure, and equipped with a portable blower motor that provides a constant flow of air into the device. Balloon signs are restrained, attached or held in place by a cord, rope, cable or similar method. As distinguished from "air-activated sign."
Billboard	A type of nonconfirming sign that exceeds allowed sign area and/or height provisions, which existed prior to February 27, 1992 and has been inventoried by Calvert County.
Banner Sign (9/22/09)	A sign constructed of lightweight fabric material and designed to be attached at both ends. Canvas, plastic, fabric or similar lightweight, nonrigid material that can be mounted to a structure with cord, rope, cable or a similar method. If such sign is supported by stakes in the ground, it shall be considered a yard sign.
Blade Sign	A temporary sign that is constructed of cloth, canvas, plastic fabric or similar lightweight, nonrigid material and that is supported by a single, rigid or semi-rigid vertical member mounted into the ground or on a portable structure.
Building Signs	Signs mounted directly on a building, or attached to the façade, roof or other elements of a building. Such signs shall include awning signs, canopy signs, wall signs and projecting signs.

Canopy Sign	A sign attached to the soffit or fascia of a canopy of a covered entrance or walkway, which is a permanent structure made of cloth, metal or other material attached or unattached to a building for the purpose of providing shelter to patrons or automobiles, or as a decorative feature on a building wall. A canopy is not a completely enclosed structure but typically is supported by features other than the building façade (e.g., structural legs, building extensions, etc.). As distinguished from “awning sign.”
Directional Sign	See: Off-Premise Directional Sign or On-Premise Directional Sign. A small permanent sign located near driveway access points and/or at the intersection of internal access drives.
Display	Make a prominent exhibition in a place where it can easily be seen.
Drive-Up Sign	Any signage located along a drive-up lane that is oriented toward the customer or user in the drive-up lane.
Durable	Able to withstand wear, pressure or damage; hard-wearing and not easily worn over a long duration.
Electronic Message Center (EMC)	A variable message sign that utilizes computer-generated messages or some other mechanical or electronic means of changing copy. These signs include displays using one or more lamps, light emitting diodes (LEDs), liquid-crystal display (LCDs) or a flipper matrix.
Erect	Construct or installing a building, wall or other structure.
Flag (9/22/09)	Any fabric material attached to or designed to be flown from a flagpole or similar device. A sign made of nonrigid material such as canvas or vinyl, and having no enclosing or supporting framework. A flag is usually rectangular or triangular in shape, and is attached at one end to a pole.
Flashing Light or 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 any externally mounted intermittent light source.
Free-Standing Freestanding Sign	Any non-movable sign not affixed to a building. Any sign supported upon the ground by a monument, pedestal, pole, bracing or other permanent measure and not attached to any building.
Master Sign Plan	A comprehensive plan that provides for variation in the amount, location or features of permanent signage that shows the general locations of all signs.
Multi-Faced Sign	A sign having at least two (2) display faces, where the sign faces are not mounted back-to-back and where the faces are such that the interior angle of the faces is greater than ninety-one (91) degrees and not being a three-way dimensional sign.

Off-Premise Directional Sign	Signs displaying directional messages not located on the premises.
Off-Premise Sign	A sign that directs attention to a business, commodity, service or entertainment conducted, sold or offered at a location other than the premises on which the sign is located.
On-Premise Directional Sign	Signs displaying directional messages within the boundaries of a development.
On-Premise Sign	A sign that directs attention to a business, commodity, service or entertainment conducted, sold or offered on the same lot, parcel, site or property where the sign is located.
Pennants	A triangular or irregular piece of fabric or other material, whether or not containing a message of any kind, commonly attached by strings or strands, or supported on small poles, intended to flap in the wind.
Permanent Sign	A sign permitted by this ordinance to be located on the premises for an unlimited period of time and designed to be permanently attached to a structure or the ground.
Portable Sign	A sign that is not permanently affixed to a building, structure or the ground, including any sign attached to or displayed on a vehicle that is used for the expressed purpose of advertising a business establishment, product, service, or entertainment, when that vehicle is so parked as to attract the attention of motoring or pedestrian traffic capable of being transported because of being lighter and smaller in size. Examples: A-Frame and T-Frame signs.
Projecting Sign	A sign that is affixed to a building or wall and extends more than eighteen (18) inches beyond the face of such building or wall. A projecting sign shall also include a sign hung under an arcade.
Raceway	An elongated metal enclosure used to mount individual channel lettering and/or to conceal related transformers and wiring for wall-mounted signs.
Reader Board (9/22/09)	A visual display board of text on a sign. A sign or portion of a sign where it is possible to change the copy on a frequent basis but where such sign change must be manually made and is not made electronically.
Residential Property	A parcel of record that is improved by a one- or two-family structure occupied as a residence. "Residential Property" does not include a farm.
Sandwich Board Sign (9/22/09)	A portable See A-frame sign readable on both sides See A-Frame Sign or T-Frame Sign.
Sign	Any object, device, display or structure or part thereof, situated outdoors or adjacent to the interior of a window or doorway which is used to advertise, identify, display, direct or attract attention to an object, person, institution, organization, business, product, service, event or location by any means including words, letters, pictures, logos, figures, designs, symbols, fixtures, colors, illumination or projected images that can be seen from a right-of-way or adjoining property.

Sign Structure	Any structure designed for the support of a sign.
Static/Instant Message Change	On electronic message centers, a static or instant message change is when one message changes to another message instantly without rotating, scrolling, fading, dissolving, blinking, audio, pyrotechnic or flashing elements or other movement of the message.
Subdivision Entrance	The intersection of an interior subdivision road with the local, collector, or arterial road from which it gains access. See entrance definition in the Calvert County Road Ordinance.
Subdivision Entrance Sign (06/03/08)	A sign and/or structure containing a sign located at, and identifying the entrance to, an approved subdivision. A sign placed at the entrance of subdivisions from State or County highways.
Temporary Sign	Any sign which is movable, not permanently attached to the ground, a structure or other sign, designed or constructed in such a manner that it can be moved or relocated without involving any structural or support changes, intended for a limited period of display or constructed out of cloth, canvas, plastic sheet, cardboard or other like materials.
T-Frame Sign	A portable sign which is ordinarily in the shape of an upside down "T" or some variation thereof, which is readily moveable and is not permanently attached to the ground or any structure. As distinguished from "A-frame sign."
Vehicle Sign	Any sign permanently or temporarily attached to or placed on a vehicle or trailer. Signs attached to a motor vehicle or trailer shall include, without limitation, any signage painted on, physically applied to, or otherwise affixed to the vehicle.
Wall Sign	A sign attached directly to an exterior wall of a building and which does not extend more than eighteen (18) inches from nor above the roof line or beyond the limits of the outside wall, with the exposed face of the sign in a plane parallel to the building wall. Murals and other painted signs are considered wall signs pursuant to this section.
Window Sign	Any sign viewable through and/or affixed in any manner to a window or exterior glass door such that it is intended to be viewable from the exterior including, but not limited to, window paintings and signs located inside a building but visible primarily from the outside of the building. This does not include merchandise and other displays located in a window, or print intended to be viewable from the interior of a building.
Yard Sign	Any temporary sign placed on the ground or attached to a supporting structure, posts or poles, that is not attached to any building.

6-8 Signs

6-8.01 Purpose

These regulations balance the need to protect the public safety and welfare, the need for a well maintained and attractive community and the need for adequate identification, communication and advertising. The regulations for signs have the following specific objectives:

- A. To allow businesses, institutions and individuals to exercise their right to free speech by displaying messages on a sign, and to allow audiences to receive such information;
- B. To foster successful businesses by providing those businesses with the means for reasonable and appropriate communication and identification;
- C. To ensure that signs are designed, constructed, installed and maintained according to minimum standards to safeguard life, health, property and public welfare;
- D. To allow and promote positive conditions for communication by sign;
- E. To reflect and support the desired ambience and development patterns of the various zoning districts, overlay districts, planning areas and sub-areas and promote an attractive built environment; and
- F. To allow for adequate and effective signs whose dimensional characteristics further the interests of public safety and the needs of the motorist, where signs are viewed from a road.

6-8.02 General Provisions

- A. Sign regulations apply to each zoning district within Calvert County, excluding incorporated towns and any established municipality that has its own zoning authority. Permanent signs in the Town Centers and the Rural Commercial District are subject to Architectural Review according to applicable design guidelines, as amended from time to time.
- B. Where the Federal government or State of Maryland maintains statutes controlling certain signs or messages, the Federal government's or State's laws, regulations and standards shall supersede this Chapter. The minimum signage that is required by Federal or State law shall not count toward the signage allowed by this Ordinance.
- C. Except as permitted in these regulations, no sign shall be erected, affixed or displayed without a sign permit.
- D. No sign shall obstruct or interfere with ingress or egress from any door, window or fire escape. No sign shall resemble or imitate signs or signals erected by the County or other governmental agency for the regulation of traffic or parking.
- E. No part of a sign shall have animation, moving parts, flashing lights or changing colors unless specifically permitted for electronic message centers in this Chapter.
- F. No sign shall be located where it will interfere with the sight distance on the right-of-way of any road, public or private, and shall not impair or impact sight distance requirements of the Calvert County Road Ordinance and the current American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Highway Safety Manual.

- G. No sign or structure to which a sign is affixed shall be allowed to remain if it is unsafe or endangers the safety of a building, premise, person or structure to which a sign is affixed. The Zoning Officer shall order such signs, or structures which a sign is affixed, to be made safe, repaired or removed as necessary to address the condition subject of the order. Such order shall be made in accordance with Section 1-7 of this Ordinance, as amended from time to time.
- H. Any sign proposed to be located or replaced in a designated Calvert County Historic District must be approved by the Historic District Commission in accordance with the provisions of County Code Chapter 57, Sections 57-12 and 57-13, as amended from time to time.
- I. All external illumination shall be in accordance with the provisions of Section 6-6.01 of this Ordinance.
- J. Messages and structures shall be constructed in accordance with all applicable codes and shall be maintained in good repair and condition at all times. Maintenance shall include replacing or repairing of worn or damaged parts of a sign or sign structure in order to maintain the message and structure in good repair and condition at all times.
- K. Signs that cannot be seen from a right-of-way, waterway, or an adjoining property are exempt from the regulations in Section 6-8.
- L. Inward-facing signs within a stadium, open-air theater, parks, arena or other similar use facility, which signs can be viewed only by persons within such stadium, open-air theater, parks, arena or other similar facility are exempt from the regulations in Section 6-8.

6-8.03 Measurements and Calculations

- A. Overall freestanding sign height shall be measured from the lowest point at the base of the sign or structure along the closest road to the highest point of the sign or structure. The use of berms, grading or other means in order to achieve a greater sign height shall not be permitted except where site conditions are such that the proposed sign location is below the grade of the closest adjacent roadway, then the freestanding sign or structure's height shall be measured from the center line of the pavement of the adjacent road closest to the base of the sign. For signs along waterways, the sign height shall be measured from the base of the sign.
- B. The sign area shall be computed in square feet by means of the smallest square, rectangle, triangle or circle, or combination thereof that encompasses the extreme limits of the sign message. See Figure 1, Figure 2 and Figure 3 for examples implementing this means of measurement

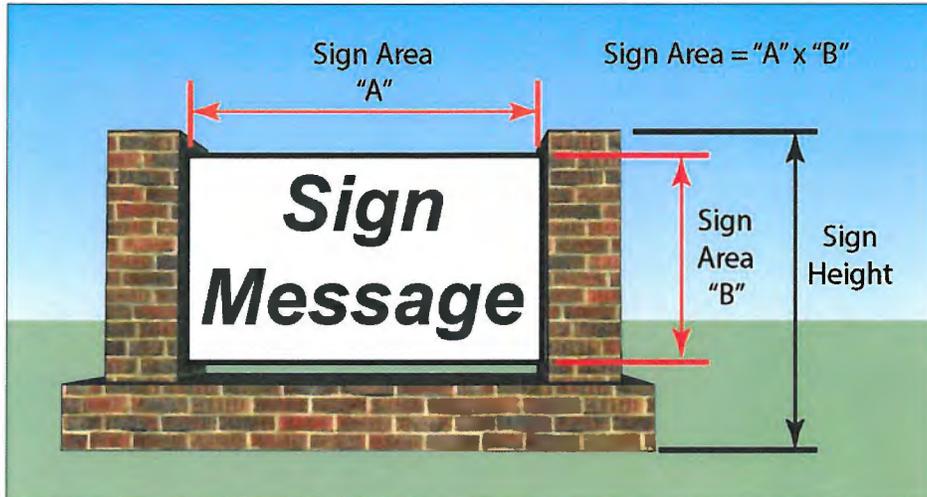


Figure 1: Example of the calculation of the sign area and height of a freestanding sign.

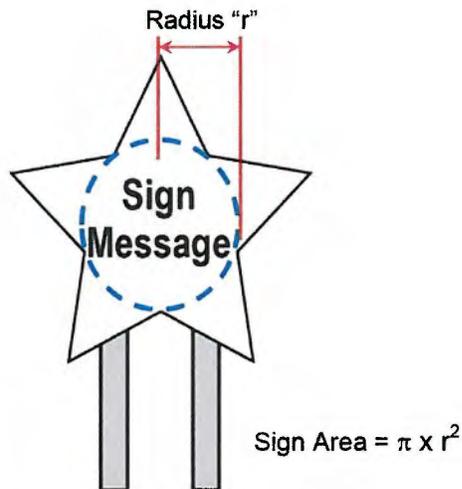


Figure 2: Example of sign area computation by the smallest circle encompassing the extreme limits of the sign message. For the purposes of calculations, π equals 3.14.

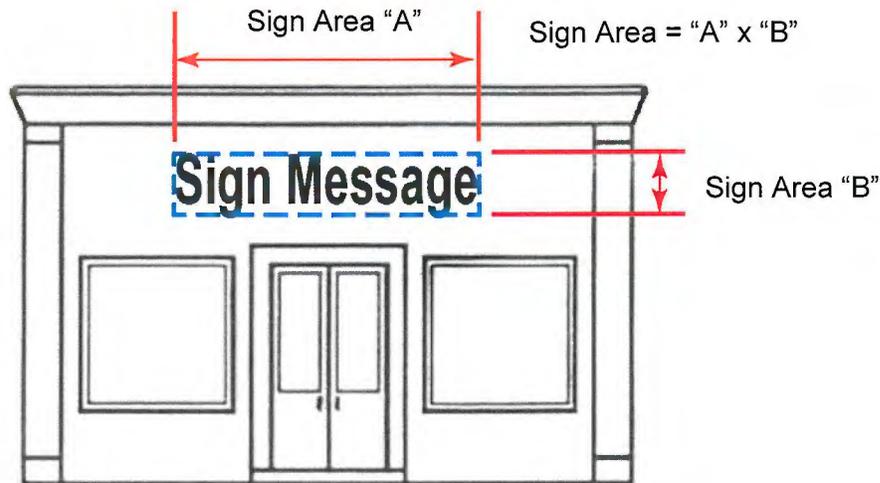


Figure 3: Example of sign area calculation for wall signs.

- C. In the case of a three-dimensional (3-D) sign, the sign area shall be calculated by the smallest square, rectangle or circle that encompasses the profile of the sign message. The profile used shall be the largest area of the sign message visible from any one point.
- D. For the purposes of this Chapter, the sign area for a sign with more than one face (multi-faced signs) shall be computed by adding together the area of all sign faces.
- E. Only one (1) side of a double sided sign is counted in determining the sign area provided that the two sign faces are placed back to back, so that both faces cannot be viewed from any one (1) point at the same time, and when such sign faces are part of the same sign structure and are not more than twenty-four (24) inches apart. Where the two (2) sides are not of equal size, the sign area shall be computed by the measurement of the largest of the sign areas.
- F. All fractions for various shapes will be rounded to the closest whole number.

6-8.04 Prohibited Signs

The following types of signs are specifically prohibited within the County:

- A. Vehicle signs viewed from a public road with the primary purpose of providing signage not otherwise allowed by this Ordinance. Vehicles or trailers shall not be parked to be used primarily as advertising signs. This does not apply to a vehicle parked at a place of business or an owner's/driver's residence and is the primary means of transportation to and from his or her place of employment. Furthermore, this does not apply to any signage for vehicles required by State or Federal law.
- B. Billboards with the exception of billboards established prior to February 27, 1992, refer to Section 6-8.13 E.
- C. Signs that are affixed to any structures, trees or other natural vegetation, rocks or poles or otherwise placed in or overhang into the public right-of-way.
- D. Any sign erected or placed on or above a traffic control device or its supporting structure not placed by a governmental agency or with the permission of a governmental agency:

1. Any sign so placed, unless previously approved by the Calvert County Department of Public Works, may be removed by the County.
 2. If the placement or removal of any sign damages the traffic control device or its supporting structure, that person or entity found responsible for the placement of such sign shall be responsible for repairing or replacing the traffic control device and its supporting structure at no additional cost to the County or State.
- E. Signs that extend above the top of the roofline of the building to which it is affixed.

6-8.05 Signs Permitted in All Areas without a Permit

Each sign exempt from the permit process shall still comply with all applicable safety, height, area and location standards established in Section 6-8. The following signs do not require a sign permit:

- A. This Ordinance does not apply to any traffic control devices "TCDs" as identified in the latest version of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices "MUTCD" and other State and County design standards related to traffic control or management that are installed by the Calvert County Department of Public Works or the Maryland State Highway Administration.
- B. Any other signs installed by County governmental agencies on its own property.
- C. Flags.
- D. Signs or notices issued by any court, officer or other person or organization in performance of a public duty or required by law to be posted.
- E. Certain temporary signs as established in Section 6-8.12 of this Ordinance.
- F. Window signs are allowed provided they comply with all other sign regulations in this Ordinance.
- G. Properties with agricultural use assessment from the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation may have individual non-illuminated signs not exceeding six square feet where seeds or crops are planted in a specific field.
- H. Official signs erected by public utility, oil, gas, mining or construction companies to warn of danger or hazardous conditions, including signs indicating the presence of underground cables, gas lines and similar devices.



Figure 4: The window area is illustrated within the dashed line area for the two storefronts in the above image.

6-8.06 Permitted Signs

- A. Table 6-1 identifies where different types of signs are permitted in each of the Town Centers, districts or areas.
- B. Each sign type shall comply with its sign type-specific standards established in this Ordinance at 6-8.07 through 6-8.12.
- C. Illumination of Permanent Freestanding or Building Signs
 1. Illuminated signs are permitted in all zoning districts, except in designated Calvert County Historic Districts and as otherwise provided herein, where internally illuminated signs are prohibited. Signs must comply with the Outdoor Lighting Regulations in Section 6-6.01 of this Ordinance, including glare control requirements.
 2. For signs in the Solomons Town Center, south of Lore Road, signs may only be illuminated by an external light source.
- D. Sign Materials
 1. Signs may be constructed of any durable materials with the exception that:
 - a. Permanent signs in the Solomons Town Center north of Lore Road shall be constructed of any durable, nonreflective, matte-finish materials.
 - b. Permanent signs in the Solomons Town Center south of Lore Road shall be constructed of wood or those materials with a wood-like appearance. Materials other than wood may be used for signposts, frames and supporting structures.

TABLE 6-1: SUMMARY TABLE OF PERMITTED SIGN TYPES

Sign Type Symbols P-A = Permitted with Architectural Design Review P = Permitted without Architectural Design Review X= Not Permitted S = Permitted with Special Exception S-A = Permitted with Special Exception with Architectural Design Review	Town Center, District or Area [1]									
	Dunkirk Town Center	Huntingtown Town Center - Mixed Use District	Huntingtown Town Center - All Other Districts [2]	Lusby Town Center	Owings Town Center	Prince Frederick Town Center	Saint Leonard Town Center	Solomons Town Center - North of Lore Road	Solomons Town Center - South of Lore Road	Signs Outside of Town Centers [1]
Permanent Freestanding Signs										
Directional Signs	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Drive-Up Signs	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Other Freestanding Signs	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A
Subdivision Signs	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A
Permanent Building Signs										
Awning or Canopy Signs	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A
Projecting Signs	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A
Wall Signs	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A
Electronic Message Centers and Reader Boards [3]										
Electronic Message Centers	X	X	X	X	X	X/P-A [4]	X	X	X	X/P-A [5]
Reader Boards	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A
Portable Signs										
A-Frame or T-Frame Signs	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Temporary Signs										
Air-Activated Signs	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Balloon Signs	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Banner Signs	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Blade Signs	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Pennants	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Yard Signs	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
NOTES:										
[1] Signs in the Rural Commercial District and Town Centers are subject to architectural review according to applicable design guidelines, as amended from time to time.										
[2] Nonresidential permitted uses in the other Huntingtown Town Center districts (Neighborhood District and Residential District) shall comply with all the requirements of the Mixed Use District. Nonresidential uses allowed by conditional use or special exception shall comply with the sign requirements of the Mixed Use District unless more stringent requirements are set as part of the conditional use or special exception approval.										
[3] This subsection of Table 6-1 identifies where electronic message centers and reader boards are permitted as a portion of a permitted freestanding or building sign in accordance with the provisions of Section 6-8.07. Such signs shall not be permitted in addition to any other permitted signs.										
[4] Building signs and freestanding signs on sites having frontage along Route 2/4, Dares Beach Road West or Route 231 west of Route 2/4 may be backlit.										

NEW TEXT

NEW TEXT

TABLE 6-1: SUMMARY TABLE OF PERMITTED SIGN TYPES

Sign Type Symbols	Town Center, District or Area [1]									
	P-A = Permitted with Architectural Design Review P = Permitted without Architectural Design Review X= Not Permitted S = Permitted with Special Exception S-A = Permitted with Special Exception with Architectural Design Review	Dunkirk Town Center	Huntingtown Town Center - Mixed Use District	Huntingtown Town Center - All Other Districts [2]	Lusby Town Center	Owings Town Center	Prince Frederick Town Center	Saint Leonard Town Center	Solomons Town Center - North of Lore Road	Solomons Town Center - South of Lore Road
[5] Outside of any Town Center, building signs and freestanding signs on property zoned EC (Employment Center) along the roads specified in footnote [4] immediately above may be backlit.										

NEW TEXT

6-8.07 Permanent Freestanding Sign Regulations

- A. The sign shall be affixed to a permanent foundation or structure.
- B. An issued sign permit is required prior to installing for all permanent signs unless otherwise specified.
- C. Permanent Freestanding Signs shall comply with the following regulations based upon their classification.
 - 1. Directional Signs (Permanent)
 - a. One sign may be permitted per individual driveway intersection with any public road;
 - b. The maximum sign area shall be five (5) square feet; and
 - c. The maximum sign height shall be three (3) feet.
 - 2. Drive-Up Signs (Permanent)
 - a. One drive-up sign is permitted for each drive-up lane with a maximum sign area of thirty-six (36) square feet each.
 - b. The above maximum sign area shall not apply to any drive-up signs located in the rear of the building not visible from a public right-of-way or screened with a fence, wall, landscaping or other screening methods that fully block the view of the drive-up signage from view of all public rights-of-way.
 - c. Drive-up signs may be internally illuminated and comply with the requirements of Section 6-6.01 except as restricted by Section 6-8.06.C.1 and 2 of this Ordinance.
 - 3. Other Freestanding Signs (Permanent)

Other types of freestanding signs may be permitted upon property for which the use is nonresidential and upon properties for which the use is residential if a home occupation has been approved by the Calvert County Department of Planning & Zoning in accordance with the following regulations:

 - a. For the purposes of this Chapter 6-8, nonresidential properties shall include lots and parcels of record with agricultural, business & personal service, commercial, recreational, industrial, public or institutional uses.

- b. One freestanding sign not to exceed four (4) square feet in size and six (6) feet in height may be approved on residential properties that contain an approved commercial business (home occupation).
- c. For freestanding signs proposed to be located upon properties for which a building or structure has been constructed and the use for which is nonresidential, the sign area and sign height for freestanding signs permitted on any nonresidential property shall not exceed that set forth at Table 6-2 and:
 - i. Except as otherwise provided herein, only one freestanding sign is permitted per lot or parcel of record as of the effective date of this amendment.
 - ii. Parcels that have frontage on two or more roadways may have a freestanding sign along each roadway.
 - iii. For lots or parcels of record as of the effective date of this amendment, with greater than five hundred (500) feet of road frontage, additional freestanding signs may be approved for every additional five hundred (500) feet of road frontage subject to the following criteria:
 - a) Materials, landscaping and design for multiple freestanding signs shall be similar;
 - b) The location of the multiple signage shall be shown on a site plan or plot plan; and
 - c) Each freestanding sign shall meet all other requirements of this Ordinance.
 - iv. If a use is situated on a lot or parcel of record as of the effective date of this amendment with a narrow road frontage of less than fifty (50) feet or is of a shape that prevents the establishment of a freestanding sign along the road, the applicable freestanding sign may be located on an adjacent lot or parcel without affecting the sign area allowed on the adjacent lot or parcel of record as of the effective date of this amendment without being subject to the multiple sign rules of Section 6-8.07 C. 3. i, above provided that:
 - a) A special exception is granted by the Board of Appeals;
 - b) The height and area of the freestanding sign shall be based on the zoning district of the property to which it serves, as determined by the Zoning Officer;
 - c) The freestanding sign shall either be located on a separate sign structure from any signage allowed on the lot or parcel of record as of the effective date of this amendment where it is to be located, or shall be or be incorporated into the sign structure allowed on the lot or parcel of record as of the effective date of this amendment where it is to be located;
 - d) If signage from the adjacent properties are to be located on one (1) freestanding sign, then the sign area shall not exceed the combined maximum freestanding sign area of what would be allowed for the individual signs;

- e) The sign owner shall be required to obtain, record and submit proof of an easement from the person or entity who owns the property where the sign is to be located to demonstrate that the property owner has authorized placement of the sign in the applicable location. Such easement shall either be permanent, allowing placement of such sign in perpetuity, or if temporary, shall establish an expiration date for the easement. For a temporary easement, the sign shall be removed on or before the expiration date of the easement. Failure to remove the sign on or before the expiration date shall be considered a violation of this Ordinance.
- f) For nonresidential properties having no permanent buildings, a maximum of fifty (50) square feet of signage is permitted with a maximum height as established in Table 6-2.
- g) The setback requirement for freestanding signs shall be a minimum of ten (10) feet from the right-of-way except in the following instances:
 - i) Any freestanding sign located along an arterial road and within forty (40) feet of the side lot line shall adhere to the front setback requirement for the district in which it is located.
 - ii) If located along a collector or local road and within thirty (30) feet of the side lot line, the sign shall conform to the front setback requirement for the district in which it is located (See Figure 5).

TABLE 6-2: MAXIMUM SIGN AREA (IN SQUARE FEET) AND SIGN HEIGHT (IN FEET) OF FREESTANDING SIGNS

	Town Center, District or Area									
	Dunkirk Town Center	Huntingtown Town Center - Mixed Use District	Huntingtown Town Center - All Other Districts	Lusby Town Center	Owings Town Center	Prince Frederick Town Center	Saint Leonard Town Center	Solomons Town Center - North of Lore Road	Solomons Town Center - South of Lore Road	Signs Outside of Town Centers
Maximum Sign Area	50	20	20	20	20	See Note [1]	20	50	20	50
Maximum Sign Height	10	8	8	8	8	See Note [2]	8	10	10 except as allowed in Note [2]	18
Maximum Sign Area for Commercial Business on Residential Property	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Maximum Sign Height for Commercial Business on Residential Property	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Directional Signs Maximum Sign Area	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Directional Signs Maximum Sign Height	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Drive-Up Signs Maximum Sign Area	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36
Subdivision Signs Maximum Sign Area	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36
Subdivision Signs Maximum Sign Height	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8

Note [1]

The maximum sign area in Prince Frederick Town Center shall be:

- a) 90 square feet along MD 2/4;
- b) 50 square feet along 231, Dares Beach Road and all other existing and future roads within Entry District, Village District, New Town District and Forest District; and
- c) 20 square feet along Armory Road, Church Street, Duke Street and Main Street, all other existing and future roads within the Old Town District & Old Town Transition District.

Note [2]

The maximum sign height for selected special areas in the Prince Frederick and Solomons Town Centers shall be:

- a) 22 feet in Prince Frederick along MD 2/4, Entry District;
- b) 14 feet in Prince Frederick along MD 2/4 and all other districts; and
- c) 8 feet in the Solomons C1 Sub-area.

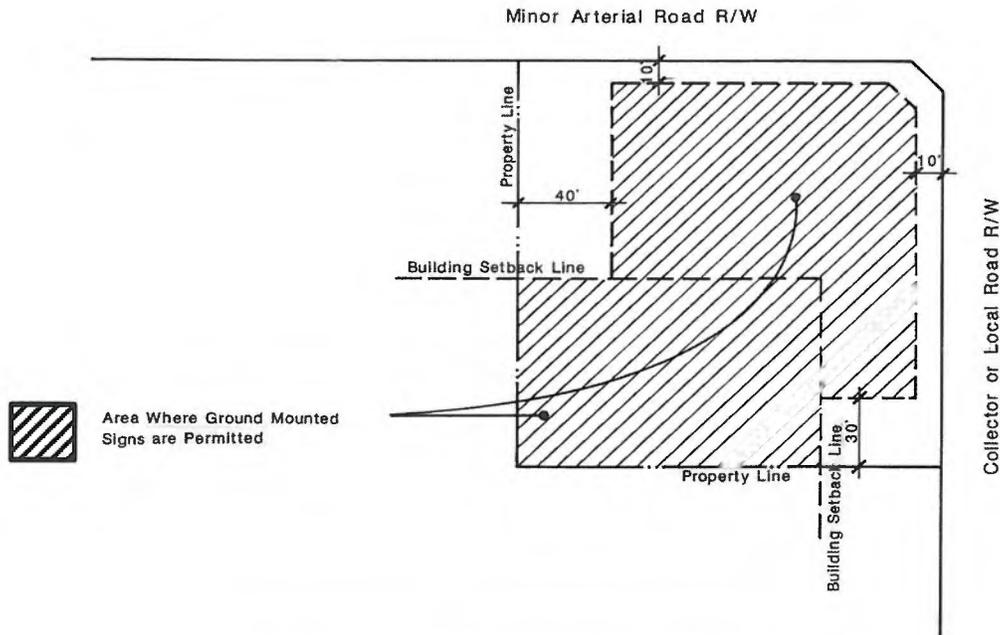


Figure 5: Allowable locations for freestanding signs.

4. Subdivision Signs (Permanent)

Not more than two (2) subdivision signs meeting the following minimum requirements and limitations may be permitted at each subdivision entrance:

- a. Such signs shall be set back fifteen (15) feet from the right-of-way of any adjoining arterial or collector roads; five (5) feet from the right-of-way of a subdivision road; and five (5) feet from all other property lines.
- b. The size of each sign face shall not exceed thirty-six (36) square feet in area.
- c. The size of the structure containing a sign face shall not exceed two hundred (200) square feet in area, excluding the sign face.
- d. The height of the structure containing a sign face shall be no more than eight (8) feet, and shall comply with the requirements of Section 6-8.03.A of this Ordinance.
- e. Maintenance of the sign shall be the responsibility of the developer or homeowners association of the subdivision, which obligation may be assigned.

6-8.08 Building Signs (Permanent)

A. General Provisions

Permanent building signs shall comply with the following regulations based upon their classification:

- 1. Table 6-3 establishes the maximum amount of permanent building sign area allowed on any single building wall.

2. The building sign area allowed on each individual building wall in Table 6-3 shall not be aggregated and placed on a single building wall (e.g., if each wall is thirty (30) feet long, a maximum of seventy (70) square feet of building sign area may be placed on each wall).
3. The building sign area allowed in Table 6-3 shall include the total amount of all awning, canopy, projecting or wall signs on each wall. Standards for each individual building sign type follow Table 6-3.
4. A cumulative measurement shall be taken for the entire building regardless of multiple uses or multiple businesses sharing party walls.
5. Buildings with separate uses on two or more stories are allowed fifty (50) percent more building area signage than specified in Table 6-3.

TABLE 6-3 PERMANENT BUILDING SIGN AREA ALLOWED	
Length of Front Building Wall (feet)	Maximum Square Footage of all Building Signs (square feet)
10-19	30
20-29	50
30-39	70
40-49	90
50-59	110
60-69	125
70-79	140
80-89	155
90-99	170
100 or Greater	For building walls that are longer than one hundred (100) feet, add one square foot of maximum sign area for every linear foot over one hundred (100) feet.

B. Building Sign Types (Permanent)

1. Awning or Canopy Signs (Permanent)
 - a. The construction of the awning or canopy structure shall comply with the current International Building Code in effect with the applicable local and State amendments.
2. Projecting Signs (Permanent)
 - a. A projecting sign may be attached to the ceiling or wall of an outdoor arcade if it complies with the height clearance of this subsection.
 - b. All components of the projecting sign shall have a minimum height clearance of eight (8) feet above the sidewalk and (fifteen) 15 feet above any driveway or vehicular use area.
 - c. Projecting signs shall not extend above the roofline of the building.
 - d. All projecting signs shall be separated from other projecting signs by a minimum of five (5) feet.

3. Wall Signs (Permanent)
 - a. A wall sign may be painted directly on a building wall, mounted on the façade wall or mounted on a raceway.
 - b. A wall sign shall not protrude more than eighteen (18) inches from the wall or face of the building to which it is attached, regardless of whether a raceway is used.
 - c. Wall signs shall not extend above the roofline of the building or past the sides of a façade to which it is attached.
 - d. Wall signs may not be attached to a penthouse or any roof structure including but not limited to mechanical equipment or roof screening.

6-8.09 Electronic Message Centers (EMCs) and Reader Boards

- A. Where permitted, as indicated in Table 6-1 of this Ordinance, up to fifty (50) percent of any permitted freestanding sign, canopy sign, wall sign or window sign may be composed of a reader board or an EMC.
- B. Except as otherwise provided herein, only one (1) EMC is permitted on any single lot or parcel of record as of the effective date of this amendment. Parcels that have frontage on two or more roadways may have one (1) EMC sign along each roadway.
- C. EMCs shall be prohibited in Historic Districts.
- D. EMC signs, when allowed by Table 6-1, are subject to the following conditions:
 1. One (1) EMC per side of the sign structure, but no more than two (2) sides.
 2. Reserved for future use.
 3. The images and messages displayed must be static, and the transition from one static display to another must be instantaneous without any special effects. See definition of Static/Instant Message Change.
 4. EMCs must be designed and equipped to freeze the device in one position if a malfunction occurs. The displays must also be equipped with a means to immediately discontinue the display if it malfunctions, and the sign owner must immediately stop the dynamic display when notified by the Zoning Officer that it is not complying with the standards of this Ordinance.
 5. The EMC shall come equipped with an automatic dimming photocell, which automatically adjusts the display's brightness based on ambient light conditions.
 6. The brightness level shall not exceed 0.3 foot candles over ambient levels as measured in accordance with the procedure and distances for measurement of brightness specified by the International Sign Association in its *Night-time Brightness Level Recommendations for On-Premise Electronic Message Centers* (August 2016 and as updated from time to time).
 7. EMCs shall not be located within two hundred (200) feet of the property line of a residential structure. This setback does not apply to residential structures on mixed use properties.

8. All EMCs shall be shielded from view of residential structures on adjacent properties through the use of a fence, wall or vegetative buffer that is installed to shield the view of the sign from the residential structure. Such fence, wall or vegetative buffer shall comply with any applicable regulations in this Ordinance and must be shown in the permit application.

6-8.10 Master Sign Plan

The master sign plan allowance established herein is to provide for additional permanent signage for large-scale nonresidential, mixed use or residential developments and/or is to allow creativity and flexibility in establishing a cohesive and aesthetically pleasing overall design of signage within a development. The master sign plan provides a review process where any development that includes one building of twenty-five thousand (25,000) square feet or more of gross floor area, or multiple buildings, on a single parcel, with cumulative total of twenty-five thousand (25,000) square feet of gross floor area or more can submit a master sign plan package that illustrates all the signage that will be used on the lot or parcel of record as of the effective date of this amendment and the relationships of all these signs to the development.

- A. Master sign plans shall be submitted to the Calvert County Department of Planning & Zoning for any nonresidential development which meets the square foot threshold in 6-8.10 above, and where the applicant wishes to submit a single, comprehensive sign plan for review.
- B. A master sign plan is intended to promote consistency among signs within a development and enhance the compatibility of signs with the architectural and site design features within a development.
- C. A master sign plan may include more than one (1) freestanding sign per development or other deviations from the standards of this Ordinance.
- D. An application for review of a master sign plan shall include:
 1. A master sign plan, drawn to scale, delineating the site proposed to be included within the master sign plan and the general locations of all permanent signs including freestanding and building signs and the property lines, buildings, roadways, and rights-of-way;
 2. Drawings or sketches indicating the dimensions, location and sign area for all the permanent signs;
 3. Drawings or sketches indicating the exterior surface details of all buildings on the site on which wall signs, awning signs, canopy signs, projecting signs, window signs or other building signs are proposed; and
 4. Information regarding the illumination of any signs.
- E. In order for the Calvert County Planning Commission, or its designee, to approve a master sign plan, it or its designee must find all of the following:
 1. That the plan's contribution to the design of the site and surrounding area will be superior to the quality than would result under the regulations and standards of this Ordinance;
 2. That the signs proposed as part of the master sign plan will create a uniform sign package for the site related to materials, lighting, design and other features of the individual signs; and

3. That the proposed signs are compatible with the style or character of improvements and are well-related to each other in terms of location and spacing.
- F. The Calvert County Planning Commission, or its designee, may grant its approval subject to conditions as it deems necessary to carry out the intent of this Chapter 6-8.10.
- G. Upon approval of a master sign plan, permits will be issued only for those signs approved under the master sign plan, subject to all conditions of approval.

6-8.11 Portable Signs

Portable signs shall be constructed and maintained according to the following standards, specifications and regulations:

- A. Each sign board face shall not exceed twelve (12) square feet with a maximum width of three (3) feet and a maximum height of four (4) feet.
- B. The sign shall only be displayed outside during hours of operation.
- C. Any business may apply and receive approval for not more than one (1) portable sign.
- D. If placed on a sidewalk, the sign shall be placed in such a manner as to maintain a minimum of four (4) feet of sidewalk clearance for the safe passage of pedestrians.
- E. The sign shall be located in front of the establishment which the sign serves.
- F. The sign must be free-standing and shall not be affixed, chained, anchored or otherwise secured to the ground or to any pole, parking meter, tree, tree grate, fire hydrant, railing or other structure.
- G. The sign must not obstruct entry or exit doors, parking meters, bicycle racks, and other features legally in the right-of-way or required as part of any building, fire or other safety code.
- H. The sign must not interfere with the opening of car doors in legal parking spaces, or with the operation of wheelchair lifts and ramps, cab stands, loading zones or bus stops.
- I. The sign shall be weighted so that it is stable and windproof.
- J. The sign must be constructed of durable, weather-proof materials, such as slate, marker board, stainless steel, aluminum, aluminum composite, laminate plastic, or medium density overlay plywood painted with enamel paint. Rough cut plywood is not an acceptable material for the sign.
- K. The sign cannot have sharp edges or any protrusions or features that could be a hazard to pedestrians.
- L. Calvert County Government shall be indemnified and held harmless from any liability resulting from accident or injury caused by erection and maintenance of such signs.

6-8.12 Temporary Signs

- A. General Provisions
 1. Temporary signs shall be constructed and maintained according to the following standards, specifications and regulations:

2. Temporary signs shall not be mounted, attached, affixed, installed or otherwise secured in a manner that will make the sign a permanent sign.
3. No temporary sign shall be mounted, attached, affixed, installed or otherwise secured so as to protrude above the roofline of a building.
4. Temporary signs shall not be illuminated.
5. With the exception of portable (A-Frame and T-Frame) signs (see Section 6-8.11.), all temporary signs, regardless of the message, are prohibited in the road right-of-way.
6. All temporary signs shall be secured in such a manner as to prevent swinging or other significantly noticeable movement resulting from the wind.
7. Because of the nature of materials typically used to construct temporary signs and to avoid deteriorating signs and all safety concerns that accompany such a condition, temporary signs shall be removed or replaced when such sign is deteriorated as determined by the Calvert County Department of Planning & Zoning.
8. Temporary signs shall not be posted in any place or in any manner that is destructive to public property including, but not limited to rights-of-way, utility poles, public trees, etc.

B. Temporary Signs on Properties for Sale or Lease

1. Table 6-4 establishes the maximum area and height of temporary signs allowed on properties that are for sale or lease.
2. Only one (1) sign shall be permitted at any single time for each road on which the property fronts.
3. The sign is limited to yard signs subject to the sign type standards in Section 6-8.12 I. 2. d.

TABLE 6-4 TEMPORARY SIGNS ON PROPERTIES FOR SALE OR LEASE		
PARCEL SIZE	MAXIMUM SIGN AREA	MAXIMUM HEIGHT
Less than two (2) acres	Ten (10) square feet	Four (4) feet
Two acres to ten (10) acres	Sixteen (16) square feet	Six (6) feet
Over ten (10) acres	Thirty-two (32) square feet	Six (6) feet

C. Temporary Signs on Residential Property

1. Residential lots or parcels of record as of the effective date of this amendment may have a maximum of twenty (20) square feet of temporary signage.
2. Such signs shall be limited to banner signs or yards signs.
3. Banner signs may be attached to a building, fence or other similar structure. A banner sign attached to posts and mounted in a yard or landscape area shall be regulated as a temporary yard sign. There are no maximum height standards but a banner sign shall not be mounted in a manner that extends above the roofline if attached to a building.
4. The maximum height of a temporary yard sign shall be six (6) feet.

5. Such signs with a sign area of sixteen (16) square feet or more shall only be permitted for up to one hundred eighty (180) days in a single calendar year and shall require a sign permit.

D. Temporary Signs on Non-Residential Property

For the purposes of this Chapter 6-8.12, nonresidential properties shall include lots and parcels of record with agricultural, business & personal service, commercial, recreational, industrial, public or institutional uses.

1. Nonresidential lots or parcels of record as of the effective date of this amendment may have a maximum of two (2) temporary signs from the following temporary sign types:

a. Air-Activated or Balloon Signs

- i. Only one (1) balloon or air-activated sign is allowed on any parcel, at any given time.
- ii. The maximum height shall be fifteen (15) feet.
- iii. The sign shall be securely anchored to the ground.
- iv. The sign shall be set back from any right-of-way, roadway or any parking space a minimum distance equal to its height. Such setback shall include any wires, rope or other materials used to securely fasten the sign to the ground.
- v. The sign shall not obstruct sidewalks.

b. Banner Signs

- i. Banner signs may be attached to a building, fence or other similar structure. A banner sign attached to posts and mounted in a yard or landscape area shall be regulated as a temporary yard sign.
- ii. The maximum sign area of any single banner sign shall be twenty (20) square feet.
- iii. A banner sign shall not be mounted in a manner that extends above the roofline if attached to a building.

c. Blade Signs

- i. Up to two (2) blade signs are permitted at any one time, but each blade sign shall be separated from another blade sign by fifty (50) lineal feet. For parcels longer than fifty (50) lineal feet, one (1) additional blade sign is permitted for each additional fifty (50) lineal feet.
- ii. The maximum height of a blade sign shall be twelve (12) feet with a maximum width of two (2) feet at its widest dimensions.
- iii. The signs shall be securely anchored in the ground or within a portable base designed to securely anchor the sign.
- iv. The sign shall be set back ten (10) feet from any right-of-way, roadway, sidewalk or any parking space.

d. Yard Signs

- i. There shall be a maximum of two (2) faces to the sign, mounted back-to-back.
- ii. The maximum height of a temporary yard sign shall be six (6) feet.

- iii. The maximum sign area of a yard sign shall be twenty (20) square feet.

6-8.13 Nonconforming Signs

- A. Nonconforming signs may continue to be used, regardless of change in content, until the sign structure is sought to be replaced, expanded or relocated. At that time, the nonconforming aspects of the sign shall be brought into conformance with the requirements of this Ordinance.
- B. Nonconforming signs must be maintained in good condition. Maintenance required by this Subsection shall include replacing or repairing of worn or damaged parts of a sign or sign structure in order to maintain the sign or sign structure in good repair and condition at all times, and is not a change or modification prohibited by Section 6-8.13 A.
- C. Removal of a nonconforming sign or replacement of a nonconforming sign with a conforming sign is required when:
 1. A nonconforming sign, or more than 50% of the size of a nonconforming sign, nonconforming sign structure or the building to which a nonconforming sign is attached, is destroyed or damaged by a fire, flood, windstorm or similar abnormal event, or for any reason or by any means taken down, altered or removed; or
 2. The condition of the nonconforming sign or nonconforming sign structure has deteriorated and the deterioration exceeds fifty (50) percent of the size of the sign structure prior to its deterioration; or
 3. The use of the nonconforming sign, or the property on which it is located, has ceased, become vacant or been unoccupied for a period of one hundred twenty (120) consecutive days or more.
- D. Intent to abandon is not required as a basis for removal under this subsection. Removal shall be the responsibility of the owner of the property on which the sign is located.
- E. Billboards established prior to February 27, 1992, are subject to the following:
 1. Any billboard must be maintained in good repair and condition, in accordance with all applicable codes, at all times, provided neither the sign area nor sign height are increased.
 2. No portion of any billboard shall be converted into an Electronic Message Center.
 3. Billboards that have an illumination system in the same manner as in place at the effective date of these regulations may continue to be illuminated. The type of external illumination may be replaced with a more energy efficient type external illumination.
 4. Billboards that do not have an illumination system as of the effective the effective date of this amendment may not be illuminated.
 5. Billboards shall also be subject to the nonconforming sign provisions of 6-8.13.

6-8.14 Violations

Any violation of this Section shall be enforced in accordance with the procedures contained in Section 1-7 of this Ordinance.

6-8.15 Variances and Appeals

See Article 11 of this Ordinance for variances and appeals.

6-8.16 Definitions

The following terms and phrases shall have the meaning ascribed to them unless the plain language of the provision specifically directs otherwise:

3-D Sign	An effect used in a sign that provides the three dimensions of width, length and depth.
Affix	Stick, attach or fasten an object to something else.
A-Frame Sign	A portable sign which is ordinarily in the shape of an "A" or some variation thereof, which is readily moveable and is not permanently attached to the ground or any structure. As distinguished from "T-frame sign."
Air-Activated Sign	A sign, all or any part of, which is designed to be moved by action of forced air so as to make the sign appear to be animated or otherwise have motion. As distinguished from "balloon sign."
Awning Sign	A sign painted on, printed on or attached flat against the surface of an awning which is a shelter projecting from and supported by the exterior wall of a building constructed of nonrigid materials on a supporting framework. See also definition of "canopy sign."
Balloon Sign	A sign that is an air-inflated object, which may be of various shapes, made of flexible fabric, resting on the ground or a structure, and equipped with a portable blower motor that provides a constant flow of air into the device. Balloon signs are restrained, attached or held in place by a cord, rope, cable or similar method. As distinguished from "air-activated sign."
Billboard	A type of nonconforming sign exceeds allowed sign area and/or height provisions, which existed prior to February 27, 1992 and has been inventoried by Calvert County.
Banner Sign	Canvas, plastic, fabric or similar lightweight, nonrigid material that can be mounted to a structure with cord, rope, cable or a similar method. If such sign is supported by stakes in the ground, it shall be considered a yard sign.
Blade Sign	A temporary sign that is constructed of cloth, canvas, plastic fabric or similar lightweight, nonrigid material and that is supported by a single, rigid or semi-rigid vertical member mounted into the ground or on a portable structure.
Building Signs	Signs mounted directly on a building, or attached to the façade, roof or other elements of a building. Such signs shall include awning signs, canopy signs, wall signs and projecting signs.

Canopy Sign	A sign attached to the soffit or fascia of a canopy of a covered entrance or walkway, which is a permanent structure made of cloth, metal or other material attached or unattached to a building for the purpose of providing shelter to patrons or automobiles, or as a decorative feature on a building wall. A canopy is not a completely enclosed structure but typically is supported by features other than the building façade (e.g., structural legs, building extensions, etc.). As distinguished from “awning sign.”
Directional Sign	A small permanent sign located near driveway access points and/or at the intersection of internal access drives.
Display	Make a prominent exhibition in a place where it can easily be seen.
Drive-Up Sign	Any signage located along a drive-up lane that is oriented toward the customer or user in the drive-up lane.
Durable	Able to withstand wear, pressure or damage; hard-wearing and not easily worn over a long duration.
Electronic Message Center (EMC)	A variable message sign that utilizes computer-generated messages or some other mechanical or electronic means of changing copy. These signs include displays using one or more lamps, light emitting diodes (LEDs), liquid-crystal display (LCDs) or a flipper matrix. A backlit sign is considered an EMC as permitted in Table 6-1 footnotes 4 and 5.
Erect	Construct or installing a building, wall or other structure.
Flag	A sign made of nonrigid material such as canvas or vinyl, and having no enclosing or supporting framework. A flag is usually rectangular or triangular in shape, and is attached at one end to a pole.
Flashing Light or 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 any externally mounted intermittent light source.
Freestanding Sign	Any sign supported upon the ground by a monument, pedestal, pole, bracing or other permanent measure and not attached to any building.
Master Sign Plan	A comprehensive plan that provides for variation in the amount, location or features of permanent signage that shows the general locations of all signs.
Multi-Faced Sign	A sign having at least two (2) display faces, where the sign faces are not mounted back-to-back and where the faces are such that the interior angle of the faces is greater than ninety-one (91) degrees and not being a three-way dimensional sign.
Off-Premise Sign	A sign that directs attention to a business, commodity, service or entertainment conducted, sold or offered at a location other than the premises on which the sign is located.
On-Premise Sign	A sign that directs attention to a business, commodity, service or entertainment conducted, sold or offered on the same lot, parcel, site or property where the sign is located.

NEW TEXT

Pennants	A triangular or irregular piece of fabric or other material, whether or not containing a message of any kind, commonly attached by strings or strands, or supported on small poles, intended to flap in the wind.
Permanent Sign	A sign permitted by this ordinance to be located on the premises for an unlimited period of time and designed to be permanently attached to a structure or the ground.
Portable Sign	A sign that is capable of being transported because of being lighter and smaller in size. Examples: A-Frame and T-Frame signs.
Projecting Sign	A sign that is affixed to a building or wall and extends more than eighteen (18) inches beyond the face of such building or wall. A projecting sign shall also include a sign hung under an arcade.
Raceway	An elongated metal enclosure used to mount individual channel lettering and/or to conceal related transformers and wiring for wall-mounted signs.
Reader Board	A sign or portion of a sign where it is possible to change the copy on a frequent basis but where such sign change must be manually made and is not made electronically.
Residential Property	A parcel of record that is improved by a one- or two-family structure occupied as a residence. "Residential Property" does not include a farm.
Right-of-way	(1) A strip of land acquired by reservation, dedication, forced dedication, prescription or condemnation and intended to be occupied or currently occupied by a road, crosswalk, railroad, electric transmission lines, oil or gas pipeline, water line, sanitary storm sewer and other similar uses; (2) Generally, the right of one to pass over the property of another.
Sign	Any object, device, display or structure or part thereof situated outdoors or adjacent to the interior of a window or doorway which is used to advertise, identify, display, direct or attract attention to an object, person, institution, organization, business, product, service, event or location by any means including words, letters, pictures, logos, figures, designs, symbols, fixtures, colors, illumination or projected images.
Sign Structure	Any structure designed for the support of a sign.
Static/Instant Message Change	On electronic message centers, a static or instant message change is when one message changes to another message instantly without rotating, scrolling, fading, dissolving, blinking, audio, pyrotechnic or flashing elements or other movement of the message.
Subdivision Entrance	See entrance definition in the Calvert County Road Ordinance.
Subdivision Sign	A sign placed at the entrance of subdivisions from State or County highways.

<p>Temporary Sign</p>	<p>Any sign which is movable, not permanently attached to the ground, a structure or other sign, designed or constructed in such a manner that it can be moved or relocated without involving any structural or support changes, intended for a limited period of display or constructed out of cloth, canvas, plastic sheet, cardboard or other like materials.</p>
<p>T-Frame Sign</p>	<p>A portable sign which is ordinarily in the shape of an upside down “T” or some variation thereof, which is readily moveable and is not permanently attached to the ground or any structure. As distinguished from “A-frame sign.”</p>
<p>Vehicle Sign</p>	<p>Any sign permanently or temporarily attached to or placed on a vehicle or trailer. Signs attached to a motor vehicle or trailer shall include, without limitation, any signage painted on, physically applied to, or otherwise affixed to the vehicle.</p>
<p>Wall Sign</p>	<p>A sign attached directly to an exterior wall of a building and which does not extend more than eighteen (18) inches from nor above the roof line or beyond the limits of the outside wall, with the exposed face of the sign in a plane parallel to the building wall. Murals and other painted signs are considered wall signs pursuant to this section.</p>
<p>Window Sign</p>	<p>Any sign viewable through and/or affixed in any manner to a window or exterior glass door such that it is intended to be viewable from the exterior including, but not limited to, window paintings and signs located inside a building but visible primarily from the outside of the building. This does not include merchandise and other displays located in a window, or print intended to be viewable from the interior of a building.</p>
<p>Yard Sign</p>	<p>Any temporary sign placed on the ground or attached to a supporting structure, posts or poles, that is not attached to any building.</p>

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Temporary Sign	Any sign which is movable, not permanently attached to the ground, a structure or other sign, designed or constructed in such a manner that it can be moved or relocated without involving any structural or support changes, intended for a limited period of display or constructed out of cloth, canvas, plastic sheet, cardboard or other like materials.
T-Frame Sign	A portable sign which is ordinarily in the shape of an upside down "T" or some variation thereof, which is readily moveable and is not permanently attached to the ground or any structure. As distinguished from "A-frame sign."
Vehicle Sign	Any sign permanently or temporarily attached to or placed on a vehicle or trailer. Signs attached to a motor vehicle or trailer shall include, without limitation, any signage painted on, physically applied to, or otherwise affixed to the vehicle.
Wall Sign	A sign attached directly to an exterior wall of a building and which does not extend more than eighteen (18) inches from nor above the roof line or beyond the limits of the outside wall, with the exposed face of the sign in a plane parallel to the building wall. Murals and other painted signs are considered wall signs pursuant to this section.
Window Sign	Any sign viewable through and/or affixed in any manner to a window or exterior glass door such that it is intended to be viewable from the exterior including, but not limited to, window paintings and signs located inside a building but visible primarily from the outside of the building. This does not include merchandise and other displays located in a window, or print intended to be viewable from the interior of a building.
Yard Sign	Any temporary sign placed on the ground or attached to a supporting structure, posts or poles, that is not attached to any building.

Attachment D
Adopted Regs

000530315

**ARTICLE 12
DEFINITIONS**

<u>Term</u> (Date of Amendment)	<u>Definition</u>
3-D Sign	An effect used in a sign that provides the three dimensions of width, length and depth.
Affix	Stick, attach or fasten an object to something else.
A-Frame Sign	A portable sign which is ordinarily in the shape of an "A" or some variation thereof, which is readily moveable and is not permanently attached to the ground or any structure. As distinguished from "T-frame sign."
Air-Activated Sign	A sign, all or any part of, which is designed to be moved by action of forced air so as to make the sign appear to be animated or otherwise have motion. As distinguished from "balloon sign."
Awning Sign (9/22/09)	A sign painted on, printed on or attached flat against the surface of an awning which is a shelter projecting from and supported by the exterior wall of a building constructed of nonrigid materials on a supporting framework. See also definition of "canopy sign."
Balloon Sign	A sign that is an air-inflated object, which may be of various shapes, made of flexible fabric, resting on the ground or a structure, and equipped with a portable blower motor that provides a constant flow of air into the device. Balloon signs are restrained, attached or held in place by a cord, rope, cable or similar method. As distinguished from "air-activated sign."
Billboard	A type of nonconfirming sign that exceeds allowed sign area and/or height provisions, which existed prior to February 27, 1992 and has been inventoried by Calvert County.
Banner Sign (9/22/09)	Canvas, plastic, fabric or similar lightweight, nonrigid material that can be mounted to a structure with cord, rope, cable or a similar method. If such sign is supported by stakes in the ground, it shall be considered a yard sign.
Blade Sign	A temporary sign that is constructed of cloth, canvas, plastic fabric or similar lightweight, nonrigid material and that is supported by a single, rigid or semi-rigid vertical member mounted into the ground or on a portable structure.
Building Signs	Signs mounted directly on a building, or attached to the façade, roof or other elements of a building. Such signs shall include awning signs, canopy signs, wall signs and projecting signs.

Attachment D
Adopted Regs

Canopy Sign	A sign attached to the soffit or fascia of a canopy of a covered entrance or walkway, which is a permanent structure made of cloth, metal or other material attached or unattached to a building for the purpose of providing shelter to patrons or automobiles, or as a decorative feature on a building wall. A canopy is not a completely enclosed structure but typically is supported by features other than the building façade (e.g., structural legs, building extensions, etc.). As distinguished from "awning sign."
Directional Sign	A small permanent sign located near driveway access points and/or at the intersection of internal access drives.
Display	Make a prominent exhibition in a place where it can easily be seen.
Drive-Up Sign	Any signage located along a drive-up lane that is oriented toward the customer or user in the drive-up lane.
Durable	Able to withstand wear, pressure or damage; hard-wearing and not easily worn over a long duration.
Electronic Message Center (EMC)	A variable message sign that utilizes computer-generated messages or some other mechanical or electronic means of changing copy. These signs include displays using one or more lamps, light emitting diodes (LEDs), liquid-crystal display (LCDs) or a flipper matrix.
Erect	Construct or installing a building, wall or other structure.
Flag (9/22/09)	A sign made of nonrigid material such as canvas or vinyl, and having no enclosing or supporting framework. A flag is usually rectangular or triangular in shape, and is attached at one end to a pole.
Flashing Light or 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 any externally mounted intermittent light source.
Freestanding Sign	Any sign supported upon the ground by a monument, pedestal, pole, bracing or other permanent measure and not attached to any building.
Master Sign Plan	A comprehensive plan that provides for variation in the amount, location or features of permanent signage that shows the general locations of all signs.
Multi-Faced Sign	A sign having at least two (2) display faces, where the sign faces are not mounted back-to-back and where the faces are such that the interior angle of the faces is greater than ninety-one (91) degrees and not being a three-way dimensional sign.
Off-Premise Sign	A sign that directs attention to a business, commodity, service or entertainment conducted, sold or offered at a location other than the premises on which the sign is located.
On-Premise Sign	A sign that directs attention to a business, commodity, service or entertainment conducted, sold or offered on the same lot, parcel, site or property where the sign is located.

Attachment D
Adopted Regs

0005316317

Exhibit B, Calvert County Zoning Ordinance, Article 12

Page 3

Pennants	A triangular or irregular piece of fabric or other material, whether or not containing a message of any kind, commonly attached by strings or strands, or supported on small poles, intended to flap in the wind.
Permanent Sign	A sign permitted by this ordinance to be located on the premises for an unlimited period of time and designed to be permanently attached to a structure or the ground.
Portable Sign	A sign that is capable of being transported because of being lighter and smaller in size. Examples: A-Frame and T-Frame signs.
Projecting Sign	A sign that is affixed to a building or wall and extends more than eighteen (18) inches beyond the face of such building or wall. A projecting sign shall also include a sign hung under an arcade.
Raceway	An elongated metal enclosure used to mount individual channel lettering and/or to conceal related transformers and wiring for wall-mounted signs.
Reader Board (9/22/09)	A sign or portion of a sign where it is possible to change the copy on a frequent basis but where such sign change must be manually made and is not made electronically.
Residential Property	A parcel of record that is improved by a one- or two-family structure occupied as a residence. "Residential Property" does not include a farm.
Sandwich Board Sign (9/22/09)	See A-Frame Sign or T-Frame Sign.
Sign	Any object, device, display or structure or part thereof situated outdoors or adjacent to the interior of a window or doorway which is used to advertise, identify, display, direct or attract attention to an object, person, institution, organization, business, product, service, event or location by any means including words, letters, pictures, logos, figures, designs, symbols, fixtures, colors, illumination or projected images.
Sign Structure	Any structure designed for the support of a sign.
Static/Instant Message Change	On electronic message centers, a static or instant message change is when one message changes to another message instantly without rotating, scrolling, fading, dissolving, blinking, audio, pyrotechnic or flashing elements or other movement of the message.
Subdivision Entrance	See entrance definition in the Calvert County Road Ordinance.
Subdivision Sign (06/03/08)	A sign placed at the entrance of subdivisions from State or County highways.
Temporary Sign	Any sign which is movable, not permanently attached to the ground, a structure or other sign, designed or constructed in such a manner that it can be moved or relocated without involving any structural or support changes, intended for a limited period of display or constructed out of cloth, canvas, plastic sheet, cardboard or other like materials.

Attachment D
Adopted Regs

0005318

T-Frame Sign	A portable sign which is ordinarily in the shape of an upside down "T" or some variation thereof, which is readily moveable and is not permanently attached to the ground or any structure. As distinguished from "A-frame sign."
Vehicle Sign	Any sign permanently or temporarily attached to or placed on a vehicle or trailer. Signs attached to a motor vehicle or trailer shall include, without limitation, any signage painted on, physically applied to, or otherwise affixed to the vehicle.
Wall Sign	A sign attached directly to an exterior wall of a building and which does not extend more than eighteen (18) inches from nor above the roof line or beyond the limits of the outside wall, with the exposed face of the sign in a plane parallel to the building wall. Murals and other painted signs are considered wall signs pursuant to this section.
Window Sign	Any sign viewable through and/or affixed in any manner to a window or exterior glass door such that it is intended to be viewable from the exterior including, but not limited to, window paintings and signs located inside a building but visible primarily from the outside of the building. This does not include merchandise and other displays located in a window, or print intended to be viewable from the interior of a building.
Yard Sign	Any temporary sign placed on the ground or attached to a supporting structure, posts or poles, that is not attached to any building.

Attachment D
Adopted Regs

**LEGAL NOTICE
JOINT PUBLIC HEARING
CALVERT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS & PLANNING COMMISSION
RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS REGARDING SIGN REGULATIONS**

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners and Planning Commission will hold a Joint Public Hearing on **Tuesday, August 22, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.**, at the Calvert Pines Senior Center, 450 West Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick, Maryland, to consider proposed amendments to the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance, Dunkirk Master Plan, Dunkirk Zoning Ordinance, Huntingtown Zoning Ordinance, Lusby Town Center Zoning Ordinance, Owings Town Center Zoning Ordinance, Prince Frederick Zoning Ordinance, St. Leonard Zoning Ordinance, and Solomons Town Center Zoning Ordinance.

PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENTS – August 22, 2017 PUBLIC HEARING		
Case No.	Section(s)	Summary of Proposed Text Amendments
TA 17-01	CCZO - Article 6-8 Signs	The amendments propose to rescind and replace the current regulations. New regulations include purpose; general provisions, including permanent signs in Town Centers and the Rural Community District being subject to applicable design guidelines; measurements and calculations; prohibited signs; signs permitted in all areas without a permit; permitted signs, including permanent freestanding signs, permanent building signs, electronic message centers and reader boards, portable signs, and temporary signs; sign materials; permanent freestanding sign regulations, including maximum sign area and height of freestanding signs; master sign plan; nonconforming signs; violations; variances and appeals; and definitions.
	CCZO - Article 12: Definitions	The amendments propose to amend some definitions, delete other definitions, and add definitions related to regulating signs.
	Dunkirk Master Plan - Chapter II, C. Appearance Guidelines, 2. County Actions	The amendments propose adding an action statement about the county adopting sign standards addressing size, materials, type, location, and lighting; revising the statement about limiting the number of free-standing signs and about reducing visual clutter; and eliminating the prohibition of certain types of signs and materials.
	Dunkirk Zoning Ordinance - Section D. Special Development Requirements, 3. Signs	The amendments propose to delete current sign regulations and to add a statement that the provisions of Section 6-8 of the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance apply.
	Huntingtown Zoning Ordinance - Article 8: Sign Regulations	
	Lusby Town Center Zoning Ordinance - Section 6-4 Signage	
	Owings Town Center Zoning Ordinance - Section 6-4 Signage	

	Prince Frederick Zoning Ordinance - Section V. Sign Design	
	St. Leonard Zoning Ordinance - Section 6.4 Sign Requirements	
	Solomons Town Center Zoning Ordinance - Section 6-8 Signs	

The description of cases provided in this legal notice is intended to give a fair summary of the changes to be considered at the public hearing. Because the changes are comprehensive and numerous, it is not practical to list them all in this notice. Interested persons are urged to view the proposed amendments in their entirety by either contacting the Department of Planning & Zoning at 410-535-1600 ext. 2334, Marybeth.Cook@calvertcountymd.gov or viewing the changes on the Calvert County website at: <http://www.co.cal.md.us/index.aspx>. The proposed changes may be substantively modified, revised, amended or otherwise changed based upon comments received at the public hearing.

The Board of County Commissioners does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex (including pregnancy) (except where age or sex are essential bona fide occupational requirements), sexual orientation, marital status, ancestry or national origin, religion, race, color, genetic information, actual or perceived disability, or gender-related identity or expression. Any reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities or linguistic barriers should be requested by contacting the Board of County Commissioners office at 410- 535-1600 ext. 2202 or TTY: 1-800-735-2258.

Md. LOCAL GOVERNMENT Code Ann. § 9-106

Copy Citation

Current through October 1, 2017, of the 2017 Regular Session of the Maryland General Assembly.

**Annotated Code of Maryland LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIVISION III. COUNTIES TITLE 9.
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS SUBTITLE 1. IN GENERAL**

§ 9-106. Acts, ordinances, and resolutions -- Generally

- (a) Scope of section.** -- This section applies only to commission counties.
- (b) Application of section.** -- This section applies only to a section of this article that specifically references this section.
- (c) Filing and recording of acts, ordinances, and resolutions.** --
- (1)** A copy of each act, ordinance, or resolution adopted by the county commissioners, certified by the presiding officer of the county commissioners and attested to by the clerk of the county commissioners, shall be filed with the clerk of the court of the county.
 - (2)** The clerk of the court shall record, date, and index the act, ordinance, or resolution without charge in a volume provided by the county commissioners.
- (d) Effective date of acts, ordinances, and resolutions.** -- An act, an ordinance, or a resolution adopted by the county commissioners may not take effect until:
- (1)** a copy has been filed with the clerk of the court of the county; and
 - (2)** a fair summary of the act, ordinance, or resolution has been published in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the county.
- (e) Admissibility of filed acts, ordinances, and resolutions as evidence in legal proceedings.** -- An act, an ordinance, or a resolution filed in accordance with this section shall be

admissible as evidence in any court proceeding on certification by the clerk of the court of the county.

History

An. Code 1957, art. 25, § 4(a)-(c); 2013, ch. 119, § 2.

Annotated Code of Maryland

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Amendments to the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance, Dunkirk Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance, Huntingtown Zoning Ordinance, Lusby Town Center Zoning Ordinance, Owings Town Center Zoning Ordinance, Prince Frederick Zoning Ordinance, St. Leonard Zoning Ordinance, and Solomons Town Center Zoning Ordinance

RE: Sign Regulations

Page 1 of 3

Pertaining to the Amendments of the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance (Article 6-8 Signs and Article 12 Definitions), Dunkirk Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance (Master Plan Chapter II C. 2.d. Signs and Zoning Ordinance Section D.3 Signs), Huntingtown Zoning Ordinance (Article 8 Sign Regulations), Lusby Town Center Zoning Ordinance (Article 6-4 Signage), Owings Town Center Zoning Ordinance (Article 6-4 Signage), Prince Frederick Zoning Ordinance (Chapter V Sign Design), St. Leonard Zoning Ordinance (Article 6.4 Sign Requirements), and Solomons Town Center Zoning Ordinance (Article 6-8 Signs)

RE: Sign Regulations

(Text Amendment Case No.17-01)

WHEREAS, Title 3 of the *Land Use Article* of the Maryland Annotated Code, as amended, empowers the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland (the “Board of County Commissioners”) to enact, adopt, amend, and execute a Master Plan, and Title 4 empowers the Board of County Commissioners to enact a Zoning Ordinance to promote the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Calvert County, and to provide for its administration, enforcement and amendment;

WHEREAS, by Ordinance 35-06, the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland has heretofore adopted the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance;

WHEREAS, by Ordinance 59-87, the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland has heretofore adopted the Dunkirk Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance;

WHEREAS, by Ordinance 41-93, the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland has heretofore adopted the Huntingtown Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance;

WHEREAS, by Ordinance 1-02, the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland has heretofore adopted the Lusby Town Center Zoning Ordinance;

WHEREAS, by Ordinance 22-00, the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland has heretofore adopted the Owings Town Center Zoning Ordinance;

WHEREAS, by Ordinance 27-89, the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland has heretofore adopted the Prince Frederick Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance;

WHEREAS, by Ordinance 24-95, the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland has heretofore adopted the St. Leonard Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance;

WHEREAS, by Ordinance 35-09, the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland has heretofore adopted the Solomons Town Center Zoning Ordinance;

WHEREAS, after study and evaluation, the Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning recommended to the Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners text amendments to the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance (“CCZO”), to Article 6-8, Signs, and Article 12, Definitions; the Dunkirk Master Plan Master Plan to Chapter II C. 2.d., Signs; the Dunkirk Zoning Ordinance to Section D.3, Signs; the Huntingtown Zoning Ordinance to Article 8, Sign

Amendments to the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance, Dunkirk Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance, Huntingtown Zoning Ordinance, Lusby Town Center Zoning Ordinance, Owings Town Center Zoning Ordinance, Prince Frederick Zoning Ordinance, St. Leonard Zoning Ordinance, and Solomons Town Center Zoning Ordinance

RE: Sign Regulations

Page 2 of 3

Regulations; the Lusby Town Center Zoning Ordinance to Article 6-4, Signage; the Owings Town Center Zoning Ordinance to Article 6-4, Signage; the Prince Frederick Zoning Ordinance to Chapter V, Sign Design; the St. Leonard Zoning Ordinance to Article 6.4, Sign Requirements; and the Solomons Town Center Zoning Ordinance to Article 6-8, Signs;

WHEREAS, after due notice was published, the Board of County Commissioners and the Planning Commission of Calvert County, Maryland (hereinafter, the "Planning Commission") conducted a joint public hearing on August 22, 2017, at which time the proposed amendments were discussed, staff's recommendations were considered, and public comment was solicited;

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of the open record period the Planning Commission voted to recommend adoption of the amendments at its meeting on November 15, 2017 and conveyed its recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners by resolution; and

WHEREAS, after considering the staff report, public comments presented at the public hearing regarding the proposed text amendments, and the recommendation of the Planning Commission, and in furtherance of the public health, safety and welfare, the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland determined it is in the best interest of the citizens of the county to enact the text amendments to the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance, Dunkirk Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance, Huntingtown Zoning Ordinance, Lusby Town Center Zoning Ordinance, Owings Town Center Zoning Ordinance, Prince Frederick Zoning Ordinance, St. Leonard Zoning Ordinance, and Solomons Town Center Zoning Ordinance, as set forth in Exhibit A, attached hereto and made a part hereof.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland, Article 6-8, Signs, and Article 12, Definitions, of the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance; Chapter II C. 2.d., Signs, of the Dunkirk Master Plan and Section D.3, Signs, of the Dunkirk Zoning Ordinance; Article 8, Sign Regulations, of the Huntingtown Zoning Ordinance; Article 6-4, Signage, of the Lusby Town Center Zoning Ordinance; Article 6-4, Signage, of the Owings Town Center Zoning Ordinance; Chapter V, Sign Design, of the Prince Frederick Zoning Ordinance; Article 6.4, Sign Requirements, of the St. Leonard Zoning Ordinance; and Article 6-8, Signs, of the Solomons Town Center Zoning Ordinance;

BE, and hereby **ARE**, amended by adopting the text amendments as shown in attached Exhibit A hereto and made a part hereof (Exhibit B depicts the amendments as they will actually appear in the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance, Dunkirk Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance, Huntingtown Zoning Ordinance, Lusby Town Center Zoning Ordinance, Owings Town Center Zoning Ordinance, Prince Frederick Zoning Ordinance, St. Leonard Zoning Ordinance, and Solomons Town Center Zoning Ordinance).

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland that, in the event any portion of this Ordinance or the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance, Dunkirk Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance, Huntingtown Zoning Ordinance, Lusby Town Center Zoning Ordinance, Owings Town Center Zoning Ordinance, Prince Frederick Zoning Ordinance, St. Leonard Town Zoning Ordinance, or Solomons Town Center Zoning Ordinance, are found to

6-8 SIGNS

6.8.01 Purpose

The purpose of this article is to regulate signs and to promote County businesses without significantly impacting overall County aesthetics, property values, public safety, or impinging on free speech.

SEE CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE GUIDE ENTITLED, "SIGN REGULATIONS AND PERMITS", AVAILABLE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING, FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

6.8.02 General Sign Provisions

In addition to any other regulations imposed by this Ordinance, all signs shall be subject to the following conditions:

- A. Signs shall not be internally illuminated. Materials for sign faces and frames shall be limited to wood or a material that has the appearance of wood.
- B. No sign shall have moving parts or project any intermittent or flashing illumination without approval of the Zoning Officer. Such approval may be granted only if it is determined that the sign will not adversely impact adjoining properties and/or traffic.
- C. No sign shall be displayed which uses the words "Stop" or "Danger" or presents or implies the need or requirement of stopping or the existence of danger as part of an advertising sign.
- D. No sign shall be located where it will interfere with traffic visibility on the right of way of any road.
- E. No sign shall be permitted which contains statements, words or pictures of an obscene character.
- F. No sign shall be placed on rocks, trees, or on poles maintained by public utilities.
- G. No sign shall be permitted which becomes unsafe or endangers the safety of a building, premise, or person. The Zoning Officer shall order such signs to be made safe or repaired or removed, such order to be complied with within 15 days of the receipt of such order.
- H. When a sign structure does not include current or up to date advertising information for a period of 120 continuous days, such sign structure shall be deemed a violation and shall be removed.
- I. All non conforming signs shall be removed when:
 - 1. when the business, enterprise, etc. advertised ceases to exist, or
 - 2. at the expiration date specified in the permit for erection.

Removal shall be the responsibility of the owner of the property on which the sign is located.
- J. Calculation of sign area in square feet. Sign area shall normally be the area of the face of the sign, except for the following situation:
 - 1. If the sign consists only of letters or figures, the area shall be calculated as if a rectangle were drawn around the exterior of the letters or figures.

The provisions of Section 6-8 of the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance apply in the Prince Frederick Town Center.

V. SIGN DESIGN

A. Illuminated signs shall be shielded so that no direct rays of light shall cause glare or reflection on any portion of an adjacent highway or residential building.

B. No sign shall have moving parts or project any intermittent or flashing illumination except signs that indicate time and temperature.

C. No sign shall be displayed which uses the words "Stop" or "Danger" or presents or implies the need or requirement of stopping or the existence of danger as part of an advertising sign.

D. No sign shall be located which will interfere with traffic visibility on the right-of-way of any road or on any slope or drainage easement of the road.

E. No sign shall be permitted which contains statements, words or pictures of an obscene character.

F. No sign shall be placed on rocks, trees, or on poles maintained by public utilities.

G. Portable signs are not permitted.

H. No sign shall be permitted which becomes unsafe or endangers the safety of a building, premise, or person. The Zoning Officer shall order such signs to be made safe or repaired or removed, such order to be complied with within 15 days of the receipt of such order.

I. When a sign structure does not include advertising information for a period of 120 continuous days, such sign structure shall be deemed a violation and shall be removed.

enterprise, etc. advertised ceases to exist or at the expiration date specified in the permit for erection; removal shall be the responsibility of the owner of the property on which the sign is located.

K. Unless determined by the Zoning Officer to be safe at a lesser distance, the setback from the right-of-way shall be a minimum of ten feet.

Exception: Any sign which is attached to the ground located on a minor arterial road and within 40 feet of the side lot line shall adhere to the front yard requirement for the district in which it is located. If located on a collector or local road and within 30 feet of the side lot line, the sign shall conform to the front yard requirement for the district in which it is located.

Prohibition of EMCs

Building Sign Design

1. Every building sign shall be designed as an integral architectural element of the building.

2. Signs on buildings shall not obstruct architectural features of the building. Signs shall not be mounted on roofs, extend above the roof line or above the second story of the building.

3. All signs for buildings within a shopping center, office complex, commercial park, or business center shall be uniform in design. Uniformity is defined as:

- a) having the same (or similar) dimensions or proportions
- b) having the same (or complimentary) background colors (where applicable)
- c) being of the same material.

4. The number of graphic elements (i.e., words and/or symbols) on a sign shall be held to the minimum needed to convey the sign's major message. A rule of thumb is to limit the number of syllables and symbols to 10.

Prohibition of EMCs

M. Freestanding Sign Design

1. Every freestanding sign shall be compatible with the building(s) to which it relates in terms of style, color, proportion and scale.

2. All individual signs on a freestanding base shall be uniform in design. Uniformity is defined as:

- a) having the same (or similar) dimensions or proportions
- b) having the same (or complimentary) background colors (where applicable)
- c) being of the same material.

3. Reader boards shall be limited to two lines and shall have the same background color and width dimensions as the primary sign.



Example of uniform sign design within a shopping center.

(5/29/01) 4. Height for Freestanding Signs

- a) The preferred height for all freestanding signs located along Route 2/4 is 10 feet or less.
- b) The maximum height allowed along Route 2/4 is 12 feet.
- c) The maximum height allowed along Route 231, Dares Beach Road West, and the Prince Frederick loop road is 10 feet.
- d) Exceptions:
 - Taller signs up to 14 feet may be approved provided that one or more of the following conditions exist:
 - i) A single sign represents more than one business.
 - ii) Site conditions are such that the only alternative is to place the sign below the grade of the existing adjacent roadway. In such a case, the height may be increased to equal the permitted height measured from the adjacent roadway grade.
 - iii) The location of the sign creates a non-self-imposed hardship. This may include obstructions within the line of sight or unusually long distances from a right-of-way.
 - iv) Along Route 2/4, an additional two feet of framing may be added if it adds an architectural element or for a company logo that enhances the overall appearance and effectiveness of the proposed sign (for a maximum height of 14 feet).
 - e) Height of freestanding signs along other existing and future roadways is a maximum height of 8 feet.



Monument signs such as this are preferred.

- 5. The base of the sign shall be solid and designed as an architecturally integrated element of the sign.
- 6. The number of graphic elements (i.e., words and symbols) on a freestanding sign shall be held to the minimum needed to convey the sign's major message. A rule of thumb is to limit the number of syllables and symbols to 10.
- 7. One freestanding sign is permitted per site. The Planning Commission may, upon recommendation by the Prince Frederick Architectural Review Committee, permit additional freestanding signs in cases where the site is very large (more than 1000 feet of road frontage) provided that signs are architecturally integrated with each other and with the site. Freestanding signs shall not be located within parking lots.

N. Materials and Lighting for Signs

- 1. Building signs and freestanding signs on sites having frontage along Route 2/4, Dares Beach Road West or Route 231 west of Route 2/4 may be wood, plastic or metal and backlit.
- 2. Building signs and freestanding signs on sites having frontage along all other existing and future roads shall be wood or wood appearance using indirect lighting only.

Regulations Re: "Backlit" signs

EX00053#253

Canopy Sign	A sign attached to the soffit or fascia of a canopy of a covered entrance or walkway, which is a permanent structure made of cloth, metal or other material attached or unattached to a building for the purpose of providing shelter to patrons or automobiles, or as a decorative feature on a building wall. A canopy is not a completely enclosed structure but typically is supported by features other than the building façade (e.g., structural legs, building extensions, etc.). As distinguished from "awning sign."
Directional Sign	See: Off-Premise Directional Sign or On-Premise Directional Sign. A small permanent sign located near driveway access points and/or at the intersection of internal access drives.
Display	Make a prominent exhibition in a place where it can easily be seen.
Drive-Up Sign	Any signage located along a drive-up lane that is oriented toward the customer or user in the drive-up lane.
Durable	Able to withstand wear, pressure or damage; hard-wearing and not easily worn over a long duration.
Electronic Message Center (EMC)	A variable message sign that utilizes computer-generated messages or some other mechanical or electronic means of changing copy. These signs include displays using one or more lamps, light emitting diodes (LEDs), liquid-crystal display (LCDs) or a flipper matrix. A backlit sign is considered an EMC as permitted in Table 6-1 footnotes 4 and 5.
Erect	Construct or installing a building, wall or other structure.
Flag (9/22/09)	Any fabric material attached to or designed to be flown from a flagpole or similar device. A sign made of nonrigid material such as canvas or vinyl, and having no enclosing or supporting framework. A flag is usually rectangular or triangular in shape, and is attached at one end to a pole.
Flashing Light or 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 any externally mounted intermittent light source.
Free Standing Freestanding Sign	Any non-movable sign not affixed to a building. Any sign supported upon the ground by a monument, pedestal, pole, bracing or other permanent measure and not attached to any building.
Master Sign Plan	A comprehensive plan that provides for variation in the amount, location or features of permanent signage that shows the general locations of all signs.
Multi-Faced Sign	A sign having at least two (2) display faces, where the sign faces are not mounted back-to-back and where the faces are such that the interior angle of the faces is greater than ninety-one (91) degrees and not being a three-way dimensional sign.



Attachment I
Omitted Page

Sign Structure	Any structure designed for the support of a sign.
Static/Instant Message Change	On electronic message centers, a static or instant message change is when one message changes to another message instantly without rotating, scrolling, fading, dissolving, blinking, audio, pyrotechnic or flashing elements or other movement of the message.
Subdivision Entrance	The intersection of an interior subdivision road with the local, collector, or arterial road from which it gains access. See entrance definition in the Calvert County Road Ordinance.
Subdivision Entrance Sign (06/03/06)	A sign and/or structure containing a sign located at, and identifying the entrance to, an approved subdivision. A sign placed at the entrance of subdivisions from State or County highways.
Temporary Sign	Any sign which is movable, not permanently attached to the ground, a structure or other sign, designed or constructed in such a manner that it can be moved or relocated without involving any structural or support changes, intended for a limited period of display or constructed out of cloth, canvas, plastic sheet, cardboard or other like materials.
T-Frame Sign	A portable sign which is ordinarily in the shape of an upside down "T" or some variation thereof, which is readily moveable and is not permanently attached to the ground or any structure. As distinguished from "A-frame sign."
Vehicle Sign	Any sign permanently or temporarily attached to or placed on a vehicle or trailer. Signs attached to a motor vehicle or trailer shall include, without limitation, any signage painted on, physically applied to, or otherwise affixed to the vehicle.
Wall Sign	A sign attached directly to an exterior wall of a building and which does not extend more than eighteen (18) inches from nor above the roof line or beyond the limits of the outside wall, with the exposed face of the sign in a plane parallel to the building wall. Murals and other painted signs are considered wall signs pursuant to this section.
Window Sign	Any sign viewable through and/or affixed in any manner to a window or exterior glass door such that it is intended to be viewable from the exterior including, but not limited to, window paintings and signs located inside a building but visible primarily from the outside of the building. This does not include merchandise and other displays located in a window, or print intended to be viewable from the interior of a building.
Yard Sign	Any temporary sign placed on the ground or attached to a supporting structure, posts or poles, that is not attached to any building.

Attachment I
Omitted Page