

Ordinance 17.33
Signs and Billboards (R84.2.2)

REPEALED 9/26/2002

THE VILLAGE BOARD OF THE VILLAGE OF PARK RIDGE ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

Section I. SCOPE

In order to regulate the location of signs, billboards, buildings or other structures, the Village of Park Ridge by its Village Board does hereby impose the following restrictions in order to promote safety, to eliminate the creation of public nuisances, and improve the aesthetic quality and economic foundation of the Village. This section shall apply to signs on all private premises within all zoning districts, but does not apply to signs within public rights of way.

Section II. DEFINITIONS

Definitions contained in this Section shall apply except when the context clearly states otherwise.

1. **Sign.** A land use which is any material, structure or device, or part thereof, upon which letter or pictorial matter is placed or projected which advertises a product, place, activity, person, institution, organization or business in view of the public. All structural segments of a sign, including support poles, light fixtures, guide wires or other appurtenances to the sign shall be considered part of the sign, but shall not be measured as part of the sign.
2. **Sign, Animated.** Any sign or part thereof that produces intermittent or continuous movement or action and includes revolving and rotating signs or parts thereof.
3. **Sign Area.** Area requirements will apply only to one side of a sign having advertising on 2 sides and to 2 sides of a sign having advertising on 3 or more sides. Only advertising elements of a sign shall be measured in determining the allowed sign area. Sign area includes only length and width measurements across the surface plane of the sign and shall not include the measurement of the area of sign elements projecting at an angle to the overall surface plane of the sign. Total sign area includes the entire area within a single continuous perimeter enclosing the extreme limits of all sign elements intended to have an advertising function.
4. **Sign, Beacon (Rotating Light).** Any device which employs the use of a revolving light for the purpose of attracting attention or other advertising purposes.
5. **Sign, Flashing (Intermittent Lighting).** Any sign which contains a continually intermittent light or sequential flashing light source. Time and temperature signs and electronically controlled message devices are excluded from this category.
6. **Sign, Free-standing.** Any sign which is supported by poles, beams, columns, pylons, fences, walls or other devices which are supported by or are resting upon the ground surface or a prepared foundation. A free-standing sign includes bill boards and ground poles or pylon signs.
7. **Sign, Ground Pole or Pylon.** Any ground sign supported by or suspended from one or more freestanding columns.

8. **Sign, Illuminated.** Any sign as herein defined which is illuminated by electricity, natural gas or any other means, either directly or indirectly.
9. **Sign, Off-premise.** Any advertising sign not located upon the property or premises where the advertised subject is sold or located.
10. **Sign, Portable, Temporary.** A movable sign used for advertising on a temporary basis and is not permanently fixed to the premises or lands where it is located.
11. **Sign, Real Estate.** A sign advertising property or land.
12. **Sign, Roof.** A sign erected, constructed and maintained on or above the roof of any building.

Section III. SIGNS EXEMPTED FROM THIS SECTION

1. Memorial signs, tablets, names of buildings and date of erection when cut into any masonry surface or when constructed of metal and affixed flat against a structure.
2. Official signs, erected by government agencies for, by and including traffic control, parking restrictions, no trespassing, information, official notices and signs related to utility structures or facilities, but not excluding signs erected for other purposes by these government agencies.
3. Directional or regulatory signs as required to guide, direct or prohibit pedestrian or vehicular traffic onto or about public or private property not to exceed 8 square feet in size.
4. Signs required by local, State or Federal laws or regulations.
5. Murals for nonadvertising, artistic purposes, except they shall comply with section IV, subsections 2 and 3.

Section IV. GENERAL SIGN PROVISIONS

The following regulations shall apply to all signs not exempted by section III, above.

1. No person shall erect, relocate, construct or maintain within the limits of the Village any sign, billboard, fence or structure of any kind to be used for advertising purposes or upon which any advertisement is shown, painted or displayed in any way except as hereinafter specified.
2. Signs shall not resemble, imitate or approximate the shape, size, form or color of railroad or traffic signs, signals or devices. Signs shall not be placed so as to obstruct or interfere with traffic visibility.
3. No sign or any part of a sign of any anchor, brace, guide wire or guide rod shall be erected so as to hinder or prevent ingress or egress through any door, doorway or window, or to prevent or hinder the raising or placing of ladders against any building by the Fire Department. All signs shall comply with all applicable provisions of all other public health, nuisance, safety, fire or building codes or regulations.
4. Advertising murals or wall signs may be placed on structures in the District as conditional uses with Village Board approval.
5. No sign shall be painted on, attached to or affixed to trees, rocks or utility poles.

6. No sign, including off-premise signs, shall be painted on or attached to or supported by any vehicle or trailer of any kind unless it meets the requirements of this subsection.
7. No beacon or flashing type sign shall be permitted in any district except as specifically provided in this section.
8. Illuminated signs giving off intermittent or rotating beams shall not be permitted in any district, except signs showing time and temperature.
9. No sign shall contain or include any animated part.
10. Where a sign is illuminated, the source of light shall not shine upon any part of a residence or into any residential district so as to cause a nuisance.
11. No sign shall project across a property line or right of way line of public streets, alleys, railroads or utility easements.
12. Signs that advertise or identify uses that are no longer serving the purpose for which they were intended shall be removed by the tenant or owner of the building or grounds on which they are located within 6 months after discontinuance of said enterprise or use.
13. No roof sign shall be constructed or permitted in any zoning district.
14. Off-premise advertising signs, including billboards, will be permitted only upon special exceptions permitted by the Village of Park Ridge Board.
15. All signs which may be, or may hereafter become, unsafe or unsightly shall be repaired or removed by the owner, or the owner of the property upon which the sign stands, within 30 days upon notice by the Building Inspector.
16. Temporary rummage or garage sale signs may be displayed for purposes of advertising rummage or garage sales. No permit is required, but these signs may be no larger than 4 square feet and shall not be erected more than one week before the event.
17. Realtor signs pertaining to the lease or sale of a building or property shall be permitted in all districts provided such signs shall not exceed 6 square feet in gross area for each 40,000 square feet of lot area and shall not be illuminated, except as further restricted by this chapter.
18. Portable signs shall be permitted on a temporary basis not to exceed 14 days, but such temporary signs shall not be used on a periodic or a pre-scheduled basis, and only for or during special and nonregularly occurring events. Such signs may provide illumination and uncovered drop cords shall not be used. Such signs shall not exceed 50 square feet in area, nor shall they be placed within 5 feet of the right of way of any street, highway or other thoroughfare within the Village.

Section V. SIGN PERMITS

1. Permit Required

No sign regulated by this chapter shall hereinafter be located, erected, moved, reconstructed, extended, enlarged, converted or structurally altered without obtaining a sign permit from the Building Inspector.

2. Permit Fee and Plans

Prior to the issuance of a sign permit, the applicant shall submit to the Building Inspector a drawing to scale showing the size, height and location on the property where the sign is to be erected. The drawing shall also contain a brief description of the type of materials that are to be used for the sign. A fee shall be paid to the Building Inspector by the applicant prior to the issuance of a sign permit. Each sign shall require a separate permit.

Section VI. SIGN RESTRICTIONS FOR SINGLE FAMILY DISTRICT

No sign, business sign, name plate sign, or advertising sign shall be erected in the residential district except the following:

1. A name plate sign or professional name plate identifying the owner or occupant of a building or dwelling unit, provided the sign area does not exceed 4 square feet.
2. A sign pertaining to the lease or sale of a building or property, provided such sign shall not exceed 6 square feet in surface area per each lot and shall not be illuminated.
3. Temporary unilluminated signs identifying an engineer, architect, contractor or product engaged in or used in the construction of a building, provided such signs shall not exceed 50 square feet each in surface area and are no more than 15 feet in height, and provided such signs are removed within 60 days of the occupancy of the building.
4. One identification sign, not to exceed 20 square feet in area, for churches, clubs, or similar uses. Such sign shall be solely for the purpose of displaying the name of the institution and its activities or services. It may be illuminated, but not flashing.
5. Directional and regulating signs in parking areas necessary for the orderly movement of traffic, provided that such signs shall not be used as advertising space; however, the name or logo of the firm that controls the parking area may be included on the regulatory signs. The area of such signs shall not exceed 6 square feet.
6. Setbacks shall be as follows: no sign shall come within 10 feet of the right of way of any street, highway, thoroughfare, and no sign will be permitted to be located in such a location that will create a dangerous situation, a public nuisance or a unsightly distraction, and further, no sign shall be permitted that will advertise an activity prohibited by law.

Section VII. SIGN RESTRICTIONS FOR THE RETAIL DISTRICT

1. In the retail district, signs are allowed as provided herein below, provided further that no off-premise advertising signs of any character, including billboards, shall be permitted in these districts without a prior special exception from the Village of Park Ridge Board. The total surface area of all business signs on a zoning lot shall not exceed the sum of 2 square feet per lineal foot of lot frontage. On corner lots, the greatest width of the corner shall be the front for the purpose of this section. The total area of all business signs on a lot shall not exceed 100 square feet in gross surface area. Commercial buildings in the retail district with 3 or more tenants, or occupants, will be permitted to have a single sign listing each occupant or tenant as set forth herein below in subsection 7.
2. Advertising signs that are attached to buildings shall be limited to the signs which shall not extend more than 48 inches from the face of the building nor exceed 15 feet in heights above ground level with a clearance of 8 feet.
3. Advertising signs may be illuminated, but flashing or intermittent lighting is prohibited.

4. No free-standing sign in such districts shall exceed 8 feet in height above ground level. Ground pole or pylon signs, if granted conditional use permits, shall not exceed 15 feet in height above ground level.
5. Ground pole and pylon signs are permitted as conditional uses as provided in section IX below.
6. Setbacks shall conform to all setback requirements set forth in Section VI, Subsection 6. herein above.
7. Commercial buildings in retail districts with 3 or more occupants or tenants may be permitted to have a single sign conforming to the following requirements. The sign must be located 1 foot inside of the right of way, but no part may extend into the right of way. Names and listings of individual occupants or tenants will be of letters of not over 6 inches in height. The sign may be lighted from behind or in front, but flashing lights will not be permitted. The sign may, in addition, have a marquis for specific messages but said marquis may not be larger than 30 percent of the total sign area. The lowest part of the sign must be 10 feet above the thread of the paved area of the parking lot to prevent vehicle damage. The width of said sign may not exceed 6 feet.

Section VIII. EXISTING SIGNS

Signs lawfully existing at the time of the adoption of this section or lawfully existing at the time of the amendments thereto shall continue to exist as lawful signs. Existing signs which do not conform to provisions of this section, or amendments thereto, shall become nonconforming signs with respect only to the elements of nonconformance and the provisions of the Village of Park Ridge ordinances regarding nonconforming usage shall apply to such signs.

Section IX. ABOLISHMENT OR REPLACEMENT OF SIGNS

1. If a nonconforming sign is discontinued or terminated for a period of 30 days, any future use of the sign shall conform to the provisions of this section. When a nonconforming use or structure is damaged by fire, explosion, act of God or the public enemy to the extent of more than 50% of its current assessed value, it shall not be restored except in compliance with this section.
2. A current file containing all nonconforming signs in the Village of Park Ridge shall be maintained by the Building Inspector listing the owner's name and address, the use of the structure and assessed value at the time of its becoming a nonconforming use and the elements of nonconformance.

Section X. APPEALS

Appeals for a variance to this section regulating signs shall be filed with the Village of Park Ridge Board pursuant to the Village Ordinances.

Section XI. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication as provided by law.

Passed and adopted by the Village Board of the Village of Park Ridge on this nineteenth day of April, 1999

s/ _____
Thomas Gloudemans
Village President

s/ _____
Pat Wnuk
Village Clerk

Attest: s/ _____
Pat Wnuk
Village Clerk

Published: April 24, 1999

REPEALED 9/26/02