

ARTICLE XISIGNS

11-101 PURPOSES

The regulation of signs by this Code is intended to promote and protect the public health, safety, and welfare by reducing the depreciation of property values caused by signs that are incompatible with the use to which they are associated or with surrounding land uses; by creating a more attractive economic and business climate within the office and commercial areas of the Village; by enabling the public to locate goods, services, and facilities in the Village without confusion; by enhancing and protecting the physical appearance of all areas of the Village; by protecting signs from obstruction by other signs; and by reducing the distractions, obstructions, and hazards to pedestrian and auto traffic caused by the indiscriminate placement and use of signs.

11-102 SCOPE

The regulations of this Section shall govern and control the erection, enlargement, expansion, alteration, operation, maintenance, relocation, and removal of all signs within the Village visible from any street, sidewalk, or public or private common open space. Any sign not expressly permitted by these regulations shall be prohibited. The regulations of this Section relate to the location of signs, by function and type, within zoning districts and shall be in addition to provisions of the LaGrange Building and Electrical Codes applicable to the construction and maintenance of signs. Regulations concerning the use and termination of nonconforming signs appear in Section 12-106 of this Code.

11-103 SIGN PERMIT REQUIRED

Except as expressly provided in Section 11-106, no sign shall be erected, enlarged, expanded, altered, relocated, or maintained unless a Sign Permit shall have first been issued in accordance with the provisions of Section 14-404 of this Code. No Sign Permit shall be required for an alteration of a sign involving only routine maintenance or the changing of parts designed to be changed in any manner that does not change the functional classification of the sign; provided, however, that this exception shall not permit a change of the message on any sign without a Sign Permit therefor. Nothing in this Subsection shall

be construed to authorize the changing of a sign without a permit to identify a use or business not previously identified by such sign.

11-104 CLASSIFICATION OF SIGNS

A. Functional Types. For purposes of this Code, signs shall be classified as follows according to function:

1. Advertising Sign. A sign, other than an off premises identification sign, that directs attention to or identifies a business, commodity, service, or entertainment conducted, sold, or offered at a location other than the premises on which the sign is located. This term shall include signs, other than customary identification lettering and advertising posters on buses and taxicabs, attached to parked or moving vehicles.
2. Attention-Getting Device. A sign designed to attract attention by means of flashing or moving parts, bright color or light, or movement of any kind. Examples of such signs include pennants hung in series, banners, garrison-sized flags, other than official flag of the United States, whirligigs, spinners, streamers, flashing lights, search lights, and balloons.
3. Bulletin Board Sign. A sign accessory to an educational, civic, or religious organization that identifies the institution or organization on whose premises it is located and that contains only the name of the institution or organization, the name or names of persons connected with it, and greetings, announcements of events, or activities occurring at the institution, or similar messages.
4. Business Sign. A sign that directs attention to or identifies a business or profession conducted, or to a commodity or service sold, offered, or manufactured, or to an entertainment offered on the premises where the sign is located.
5. Changeable Message Sign. A sign, other than a bulletin board or a public service sign, having a face or faces that allow the message on the sign to be readily changed by means of light banks, removable letters, or other device.

6. Civic Event Sign. A temporary sign that announces or identifies a civic use, purpose, event, or program.
7. Construction Sign. A temporary sign erected on premises on which construction is taking place, during the period of such construction, indicating the names of the architects, engineers, landscape architects, contractors, and similar artisans, and the owners, financial supporters, sponsors, and similar persons or firms having a role or interest in the construction activity.
8. Election Sign. A temporary sign announcing or supporting political candidates or issues in connection with any national, state, or local election.
9. Governmental Sign. A sign erected and maintained pursuant to and in discharge of any governmental function or required by any law, ordinance, or governmental regulation.
10. Holiday Decorations. Signs in the nature of decorations, clearly incidental to and customarily and commonly associated with any national, local, or religious holiday.
11. Identification Sign. A sign giving only the name, trademark, or other readily recognized symbol or address, or any combination thereof, of a building, business, development, or establishment on the premises where it is located.
12. Joint-Identification Sign. An identification sign limited in content to the identification of a planned development, office plaza or park, shopping center, or the like and not containing any reference to the individual uses sharing the development, plaza, park, center, or the like.
13. Memorial Sign. A sign or tablet memorializing a person, place, event, or structure.
14. Nameplate Sign. A sign limited in content to the name or address, or both, of the owner or occupant of a building or premises on which it is located. If any premises is occupied by more than one occupant, the nameplate sign may identify all such occupants as well

as the premises and may include necessary directional information.

15. Off-Premises Identification Sign. A sign giving only the name, trademark, or other readily recognized symbol or address, or any combination thereof, of a building or development, which sign is located off the lot on which such building or development is located.
 16. Official Flag or Emblem. A flag or emblem of a government or of a membership organization.
 17. On-Site Informational Sign. A sign commonly associated with, and limited to, information and directions necessary or convenient for persons coming on the property, including signs marking entrances and exits, parking areas, one-way drives, rest rooms, pick-up and delivery areas, and the like.
 18. Political Message Sign. A sign, other than an election sign, expressing a non-commercial message regarding an issue of political or public concern.
 19. Private Sale Sign. A temporary sign advertising private sales of personal property at "house sales," "garage sales," "rummage sales," and the like.
 20. Private Warning Sign. A sign limited in content to messages of warning, caution, or danger.
 21. Public Service Sign. A sign displaying only the time, temperature, stock market quotations, or civic messages by means of a lampbank.
 22. Real Estate Sign. A sign pertaining to the sale or lease of the premises, or a portion of the premises, on which the sign is located.
 23. Restaurant Menu Display. A sign consisting solely of the printed menu currently in use at, or a critic's review of, the restaurant in the premises on which the sign is located.
- B. Structural Types. For purposes of this Code, signs shall be classified as follows according to structure:
1. Awning, Canopy, or Marquee Sign. A sign that is mounted or painted on or attached to an awning, canopy, or marquee that is otherwise permitted by this

Code. No such sign shall project above, below, or beyond the physical dimensions of such awning, canopy, or marquee. No awning or canopy sign shall contain any message other than the name of the business and the address number and a logo.

2. Ground Sign. Any sign, other than a pylon sign, placed upon or supported by the ground independently of any other structure. Ground signs include any sign mounted on a free-standing pole or other supports so that the bottom edge of the sign face is less than four feet above grade.
3. Moving or Animated Sign. Any sign or part of a sign that changes physical position by any movement or rotation or that gives the visual impression of such movement or rotation.
4. Portable Sign. A sign that is not permanently affixed to a building, a structure, or the ground, but not including customary identification lettering on vehicles or advertising posters on buses and taxicabs.
5. Projecting Sign. A sign that is wholly or partially dependent upon a building for support and that projects more than 18 inches from such building.
6. Pylon Sign. A sign that is mounted on a freestanding pole or other supports so that the bottom edge of the sign face is four feet or more above grade.
7. Roof Sign. A sign that is mounted or painted on the roof of a building, or that is wholly dependent upon a building for support and that projects above the highest point of a building with a flat roof, the eaves line of a building with a gambrel, gable, or hip roof, or the deck line of a building with a mansard roof.
8. Temporary Sign. A sign or advertising display constructed of cloth, canvas, fabric, paper, plywood, or other light material and intended to be displayed for a short period of time.
9. Wall Sign. A sign fastened to the wall of a building or structure in such a manner that the wall becomes the supporting structure for, or forms the background surface of, the sign and that does not project more

than 18 inches from such building or structure. No wall sign shall itself be taller than five feet.

10. Window Sign. A sign that is applied or attached to the exterior or interior of a window, or located within the interior of a structure and within five feet from a window.

11-105 GENERAL STANDARDS

The following general standards shall apply to all signs.

A. Illumination.

1. Location and Design of Light Source. Whenever an external artificial light source is used for a sign, such source shall be located, shielded, and directed so as not to be directly visible from any public street or private residence. No receptacle or device housing a permitted light source for a sign shall protrude more than 18 inches from the face of the sign or building to which it is attached.
2. Level of Illumination. In no event shall the illumination of any sign, resulting from any internal or external artificial light source, exceed 50-foot candles when measured with a standard light meter held perpendicular to the sign face at a distance equal to the narrowest dimension of such sign face. All artificial illumination shall be so designed, located, shielded, and directed as to prevent the casting of glare or direct light upon adjacent property or streets.
3. Signs Adjacent to Residential Areas. Any illuminated sign located on a lot abutting or across a street from, and visible from, any residentially zoned area shall not be illuminated between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. except that such sign may remain illuminated during such time as the activity to which the sign pertains is open for business so long as such sign is not a public or private nuisance.
4. Flashing Lights Prohibited. Except for public service signs when expressly permitted by this Section, no flashing, blinking, or intermittent lights shall be permitted.

- B. Electrical Elements. All wiring, fittings, and materials used in the construction, connection, and operation of electrically illuminated signs shall be in accordance with the provisions of the LaGrange Electrical Code. An Underwriter's Laboratories label, or an equivalent certification, shall be affixed to every electrical component incorporated into a sign. Each illuminated sign shall have a readily accessible disconnection switch.

No metal sign illuminated by any means requiring internal wiring and no electrical fixtures attached to any sign shall be lower than nine feet from grade unless it is grounded by the use of a grounding conductor run with the circuit conductors and is also grounded by being bonded to a grounding electrode at the sign site.

- C. Structural Elements. The construction and structural components of all signs shall be in accordance with the standards and regulations of the LaGrange Building Code. All permanent signs shall be constructed of fire-resistant materials and shall be capable of withstanding wind pressures of at least 30 pounds per square foot of surface area and of receiving dead loads based on the actual weight of the structure.
- D. Glass. Any glass forming any part of any sign shall be safety glass. All single pieces of glass having an area exceeding three square feet shall be wire-reinforced safety glass.
- E. Minimum Elevation of Certain Signs. The bottom of every awning, canopy, marquee, and wall sign shall be elevated at least eight feet above grade, except that one wall-mounted identification sign not greater than one square foot in area may be elevated to not less than four feet above grade. Whenever possible, wall signs on the same facade shall maintain the same top and bottom elevations above grade.
1. Exception for C-1 District. One wall-mounted identification sign not greater than 4 square feet in area may be elevated to not less than 4 feet above grade. (Subject to ADA and ANSI requirements.)
- F. Obstruction of Access Ways. No sign or sign structure shall obstruct free ingress to or egress from a fire escape, door, window, or other required access way, or be attached to any standpipe or fire escape.

- G. Obstruction of Window Surface. No sign shall project over, occupy, or obstruct any window surface required for light or ventilation by any applicable provision of the LaGrange Building Code.
- H. Traffic Safety.
1. Confusion with Traffic Signals. No sign shall be maintained at any location where by reason of its position, size, shape, content, color, or illumination it may obstruct, impair, obscure, interfere with the view of, or be confused with any traffic control sign, signal, or device or where it may interfere with, mislead, or confuse traffic.
 2. Obstruction of Sight Triangles Prohibited. No sign, nor any part of a sign other than a supporting pole or brace no greater than 18 inches in width or diameter, shall be located lower than eight feet from grade within the area defined in Section 154-25 of the LaGrange Municipal Code.
- I. Signs in Rights-of-Way. No sign, except governmental and civic signs authorized in this Article XI, shall be placed in or extend into or over any public property or right-of-way. Civic event signs may extend on, into, or over a public right-of-way upon the specific prior approval of the Village Manager.
- J. Civic Event Signs. No civic event signs authorized in this Article XI shall be permitted except upon the specific prior approval of the Village Manager.
- K. Sign Maintenance. The owner of a sign and the owner of the premises on which such sign is located shall be jointly and severally liable to maintain such sign, including its illumination sources, in compliance with this Code and all applicable laws, in a safe and secure condition, and in a neat and orderly condition and good-working order at all times, and to prevent the development of any rust, corrosion, rotting or other deterioration in the physical appearance or safety of such sign. The premises around ground signs shall be kept clean and free of all rubbish and weeds. Such activities as painting, repainting, cleaning, replacement of plastic face, or other normal repair of a sign not involving structural changes shall be considered normal maintenance of the sign, provided that such repair or replacement is caused by breakage or

deterioration of the sign or its face and does not include the substitution of a new or different advertiser. Any sign that is not maintained in a condition approximate to that when erected may be removed by the Village Manager.

L. Sign Measurement.

1. Area to be Included. The supporting structure or bracing of a sign shall be omitted in measuring the area of the sign unless such structure or bracing is made part of the message or face of the sign. When a sign has more than one display face, all faces shall be included in determining the area of the sign.
2. Area of Signs With Backing. The area of all signs with backing shall be measured by computing the area of the sign backing.
3. Area of Signs Without Backing. The area of all signs without backing shall be measured by computing the area of the smallest regular geometric figures that can separately encompass all words, letters, figures, emblems, and other elements of the sign message.
4. Area of Signs With and Without Backing. The area of all signs formed by a combination of elements with and without backing shall be measured by combining the area of such elements measured in accordance with the foregoing subparagraphs.

M. Signs on Lots with Multiple Users. When more than one user occupies a zoning lot, the owner of the lot shall be responsible for allocating permitted signage among such users.

N. Sign Spacing. No sign shall be nearer than two feet to any other sign or structure, other than a structure to which it is lawfully attached.

O. Obscene Matter. No sign shall include or display any obscene, indecent, or immoral matter.

P. General Safety. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section, no sign shall be constructed or maintained in any area or in any manner so as to create a nuisance or a threat to the public safety or welfare.

11-106 SIGNS PERMITTED IN ANY DISTRICT WITHOUT PERMIT OR FEE

Except as regulated by Section 11-105 of this Article and as expressly prohibited in Section 11-107 of this Article, and notwithstanding any other contrary provisions of this Code, the following signs may, subject to the following limitations, be erected and maintained in any district without obtaining a Sign Permit or paying the fee required for such Permit:

- A. Bulletin Board Signs. Such signs shall be limited to no more than one wall or ground sign per zoning lot, shall be no more than 25 square feet in area, and shall be permitted only in connection with public, religious, and civic institutions. No ground sign shall be higher than six feet. No ground sign shall be closer to any sidewalk or street line than eight feet, or closer to any other lot line than six feet, or, in either case, no closer than the distance of the required yard or setback, whichever is less. No such sign shall be permitted in any residential district.
- B. Civic Event Signs. Such signs shall be limited to no more than one wall or ground sign per zoning lot. No such sign shall be larger than 15 square feet in area. Such signs shall be displayed for a period of not more than 14 days unless specifically approved for a longer period of time by the Village Manager upon application filed therefore.
- C. Election Signs. Such signs shall be located entirely on private property pursuant to the owner's consent, shall be permitted not more than 60 days prior to an election, and shall be removed within five days after that election. Unless such sign includes on its face the name of the person or organization responsible for such sign, the owner of the private property on which such sign is located shall be deemed responsible for such sign.
- D. Governmental Signs. The content and size of any such sign shall not exceed the requirements of the law, ordinance, or regulation pursuant to which such sign is erected.
- E. Holiday Decorations. Such signs shall be displayed for a period of not more than 45 days before nor more than 20 days following the holiday in connection with which they are displayed; any other provision of this Section to the contrary notwithstanding, such signs may be of any type, number, area, height, location, illumination, or animation so long as they create no safety hazard, nuisance, or adverse impact on the adjacent properties.

- F. Memorial Signs. Such signs shall be limited to no more than one wall or ground sign per zoning lot, shall be made of durable materials such as bronze, stone, or concrete, shall not be illuminated, and shall not exceed three square feet in area. No ground sign shall be higher than two feet, or closer to any sidewalk or street line than 10 feet or any lot line than six feet.
- G. Nameplate Signs. Such signs shall be limited to no more than one wall or ground sign per occupancy, shall be no more than one square foot in area per occupancy and in no event more than three square feet in area, and shall not be illuminated. No ground sign shall be higher than four feet nor closer to any sidewalk or street line than 10 feet or any lot line than six feet.
- H. Official Flags and Emblems. Such signs may be displayed on flag poles and when so displayed shall not exceed 24 square feet in area. Such signs also may be displayed in the form of a wall sign and when so displayed shall not exceed three square feet in area.
- I. On-Site Informational Signs. Such signs shall be limited to wall or ground signs of not more than three square feet in area, shall be, if a ground sign, not more than four feet in height, and shall be illuminated only as necessary to accomplish their intended purpose. No such sign shall be permitted in any residential district.
- J. Political Message Signs. Such signs shall be permitted on private property; provided, however, that no more than two such signs shall be permitted per lot, no such sign shall be located within any required yard or setback, and no such sign shall exceed six square feet in sign area.
- K. Private Sale Signs. Such signs shall be no more than six square feet in area, shall be located entirely on the premises where such sale is to be conducted, shall be clearly marked with the name, address, and telephone number of the person responsible for the removal of such sign, shall be erected not more than 24 hours before such sale, and shall be removed within 24 hours following the conclusion of such sale. No ground sign shall be higher than four feet, nor closer to any sidewalk or street line than 10 feet or any lot line than six feet.
- L. Private Warning Signs. Such signs shall be no more than two square feet in area each, shall be limited to the number necessary to accomplish the intended purpose, and

shall be illuminated only as required to accomplish such purpose.

- M. Real Estate Signs. Such signs shall be limited to one single- or double-faced, non-illuminated sign of the following maximum gross surface areas:
1. Single family residential, individual lots: no more than four square feet per sign face.
 2. Single family residential, multi-lot developments: no more than four square feet per sign face per zoning lot located in the development, up to a maximum of 64 square feet.
 3. Other districts: no more than 36 square feet.

Every such sign shall be removed within ten days after the execution of a sales contract or rental lease of the property or the expiration of any conditions precedent therein that might avoid the sale or lease, whichever occurs later, or, for multi-unit developments or structures, within 14 days following the date upon which such development or structure is 90 percent sold or leased. The name, address, and telephone number of the person responsible for such removal shall be clearly marked on the sign. No ground sign shall be closer to any sidewalk or street line than 10 feet.

- N. Restaurant Menu Display. Such signs shall be permitted only in the C-1 Central Commercial District. Only one such sign shall be permitted per zoning lot. No such sign shall exceed three square feet in total sign area.
- O. Temporary Use Signs. Such signs may include:
1. Signs announcing events, such as "Grand Openings", "Going Out of Business", "Under New Management", special sale, or promotion.
 2. Signs announcing the sale of seasonal, products, such as Christmas trees, Farmer's Market, etc.
 3. Grand Opening Signs. Not later than thirty days (30) after a Certificate of Occupancy has been issued to a commercial business.

Every such temporary use sign is subject to the following conditions, and as provided in Paragraph 9-103E5:

- (a) Ground signs not to exceed 36 square feet, nor more than four feet tall per sign face and shall not exceed 6 feet in overall height as measured from the immediate adjacent grade; plus
 - (b) Banners shall not be more than four feet tall nor exceed 36 square feet in total area; plus
 - (c) Wall and window signs shall comply with the area limitation for such structural sign; and
 - (d) Limited to a period of 30 days, unless provided otherwise by the Village Manager; and
 - (e) May be displayed up to three times within a calendar year on any given property; and
 - (f) Shall be located on the lot which such temporary use serves; and
 - (g) Shall be of sturdy construction and shall not be detrimental to the character of the area; and
 - (h) Shall be removed within 24 hours following termination of the temporary use.
- P. Window Signs, Temporary. The aggregate area of all such signs shall not exceed 25 percent of the area of the window in which they are exhibited nor block any window area required for light, ventilation, or emergency exit by any applicable code. No such sign shall be illuminated. No such sign shall be permitted in any residential district.

11-107 SIGNS SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED IN ALL DISTRICTS

The following signs, as well as all other signs not expressly permitted by this Article XI, are prohibited in all districts and shall not be erected, maintained, or permitted to continue in any district, except as provided in Section 12-106 of this Code:

- A. Advertising Signs.
- B. Attention-Getting Devices.
- C. Marquee Signs.

- D. Changeable Message Signs, except when accessory to a theater.
- E. Home Occupation Identification Signs.
- F. Off-Premises Identification Signs, except as expressly permitted pursuant to Section 11-109.
- G. Pylon Signs.
- H. Moving or Animated Signs, except public service signs as expressly authorized in this Section.
- I. Portable Signs, except when approved in connection with temporary uses pursuant to Subsection 11-106L.
- J. Projecting Signs.
- K. Roof Signs, except that mansard roof signs shall be permitted and regarded as wall signs providing they do not extend above the declivity of the roof and are placed parallel with the face of the building.
- L. Temporary Signs, except as expressly authorized in this Section and except in connection with temporary uses pursuant to Subsection 11-106L.
- M. Any sign that advertises, identifies, or pertains to a business no longer conducted, or a product no longer sold, on the premises where such sign is located. Such signs shall be removed within 30 days following cessation of the relevant activity.
- N. Any sign on a tree or utility pole, whether on public or private property.
- O. Any sign on public property, except governmental and civic event signs authorized in this Article.
- P. Any sign painted directly on a wall, roof, or fence.
- Q. Any sign using neon lighting or other similar inert gaseous light, except only neon lettering, or a neon logo, on a window or wall sign that does not include any neon outlining, striping, or other decorative element, and which neon lettering or logo does not exceed 4 square feet in area measured in accordance with Subsection 11-105L of this Code.

- R. Any portable sandwich board sign, except only a temporary sign accessory to a newly opened retail use in any commercial district, subject to the prior written approval of the Village Manager in accordance with the following regulations:
1. The approval by the Village Manager shall be given only upon a finding by the Village Manger that the sign is not unsafe, that the sign complies with all of the standards of this Subsection and all other applicable Village codes and ordinances, and that the sign is aesthetically and otherwise compatible with the character of the immediately abutting buildings, uses and signage.
 2. Only one such sign shall be permitted, which sign may be displayed for up to a total of 90 days at any time within 120 days after the initial opening for business.
 3. Prior to approval of such a sign, the applicant shall provide the Village with evidence of general liability insurance covering such sign and naming the Village as an additional insured in an amount not less than \$1,000,000.
 4. No such sign shall be illuminated, shall be electrified, or shall contain any moving parts.
 5. No such sign shall exceed 8 square feet per sign face or two sign faces. No single dimension of such sign shall exceed 4 feet.
 6. No lettering on any such sign shall exceed 3 inches in height.
 7. Such sign shall be located immediately in front of the building containing the use to which the sign is accessory and shall be positioned as close to the building as possible in a location approved by the Village Manager.
 8. Such sign shall include only the name of the business and a statement of goods or services offered for sale and shall not include any telephone number, address, statement of promotion or sale, or similar message.

9. Such sign shall be displayed only during business hours of the use to which it is accessory and shall be removed during all non-business hours.
- S. Any sign using reflective paint or tape, other than a governmental sign or a warning sign.
- T. Any sign used for a private purpose that imitates or closely resembles a governmental sign such as a traffic-control device.

11-108 DISTRICT REGULATIONS: RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS, OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

Signs shall be permitted in all residential districts and the Open Space District as follows:

A. Functional Types Permitted:

1. All signs permitted in any district without certificate or fee, as provided in Section 11-106.
2. Construction signs, but for no longer than two days following the conclusion of the construction in question.

B. Structural Types Permitted:

1. Temporary signs, but only as permitted in any district without certificate or fee, as provided in Section 11-106, or for construction signs.
2. Wall signs.

C. Number of Signs Permitted Per Lot:

1. All signs permitted in any district without certificate or fee, as provided in Section 11-106; plus
2. One construction sign of any permitted structural type; plus
3. One wall sign.

- D. Maximum Gross Surface Area of Signs Permitted:
1. Signs without permits: as provided in Section 11-106 for signs permitted pursuant to that Section; plus
 2. Construction signs: not to exceed four square feet per lot, up to a maximum of 64 square feet, of total sign area; plus
 3. Wall signs: not to exceed 10 square feet nor have a length greater than three feet; plus
 4. All other permitted signs: not to exceed 15 square feet per lot.
- E. Maximum Height of Signs Permitted:
1. Signs without permits: as provided in Section 11-106 for signs permitted pursuant to that Section.
 2. Wall signs: 15 feet, but in no event higher than the bottom of any second floor window.
- F. Minimum Setback Required:
1. Signs without permits: as provided in Section 11-106 for signs permitted pursuant to that Section.
 2. Other signs: 10 feet from any front or corner side lot line and six feet from all other lot lines or the required yard or setback, whichever is less.
- G. Illumination:
1. Signs without permits: signs permitted pursuant to Section 11-106 shall be illuminated only as permitted in that Section.
 2. Other signs: signs permitted pursuant to Section 11-108 may be illuminated only by indirect or internal white light not exceeding 50 foot candles when measured with a standard light meter held perpendicular to the sign face at a distance equal to the narrowest dimension of such sign face. No construction sign shall be illuminated.
- H. Signs Accessory to Nonconforming Uses. Signs accessory to nonconforming uses in residential districts and the Open

Space District shall be subject to the provisions of this Section 11-108.

- I. Special Standards for Design Review District. In addition to the regulations of this Section 11-108, signs located in the Design Review District shall be subject to the standards and regulations applicable to that district.

11-109 DISTRICT REGULATIONS: ALL OTHER DISTRICTS

In all districts other than the residential districts and the Open Space District, signs shall be permitted as follows:

A. Functional Types Permitted:

1. All signs permitted in any district without certificate or fee, as provided in Section 11-106.
2. Bulletin board signs.
3. Business signs.
4. Changeable message signs, but only when accessory to a theater.
5. Construction signs, but for no longer than 14 days following completion of the construction in question.
6. Identification signs.
7. Joint identification signs.
8. Off-premises identification signs, but only to identify public uses in the IB Institutional Buildings District and not in the O-1 District.
9. Public service signs, but only when authorized by a special use permit issued pursuant to Section 14-401 of this Code and only subject to the following conditions:
 - (A) only clear or white light shall be used; and
 - (B) the displayed message may be changed by intermittent lighting changes but such changes shall not exceed 12 per minute.

B. Structural Types Permitted:

1. Awning, canopy, and marquee signs.
2. Ground signs.
3. Temporary signs, but only as permitted in any district without certificate or fee, as provided in Section 11-106, or for construction signs.
4. Wall signs.
5. Window signs.

C. Number of Signs Permitted Per Lot:

1. All signs permitted in any district without certificate or fee, as provided in Section 11-106; plus
2. One permanent window sign per user for each face of building upon which the business fronts on any public right-of-way or public parking lot or structure; plus
3. One wall sign per first floor user for each face of building abutting any public right-of-way or public parking lot or structure; plus
 - a. One wall mounted sign adjacent to or above each entrance for second floor businesses, providing such entrance is for the exclusive use of such second floor user; such sign not to exceed one square foot in area per lineal foot of front door width; plus
4. One wall-mounted identification sign per user, subject to the area limitation of Paragraph 11-109D8 of this Section; plus
5. One construction sign of any permitted structural type; plus
6. One ground sign; plus
7. One public service sign; plus
8. Two temporary window signs, subject to the area limitations of Paragraph 11-109D3 of this Section and

subject to the requirements of Sub- sections 11-106N and O.

9. One awning or canopy sign affixed to each individual awning or canopy.
10. No more than one sign of any type using neon or other similar inert gaseous lighting.
11. Exception for center entrance. Two window signs or two wall signs (one on each side of a center entrance) for each face of building upon which a business fronts on any public right-of-way or public parking lot or structure.

D. Maximum Gross Surface Area of Signs Permitted:

1. Signs without permits: as provided in Section 11-106 for signs permitted pursuant to that Section; plus
2. Awning or canopy signs: not to exceed 6" in height nor to exceed an aggregate length of 60 percent of the length of the awning or canopy; plus
3. Window signs: not to exceed 25 percent of the area of the windows in which they are exhibited, including the area of any border or decorative treatment and provided, however, that, for purposes of this regulation only, the area of any window border or other decorative window treatment shall be included in the measurement of the area of the window sign when calculating the sign area; plus
4. Construction signs: not to exceed 32 square feet per sign face nor more than two faces per sign; plus
5. Ground signs: not to exceed 50 square feet per sign face nor more than two faces per sign; plus
6. Public service signs: not to exceed 15 square feet per sign face nor more than two sign faces per lot; plus
7. Wall signs: not to exceed an aggregate length greater than 75 percent of the length of the building face to which they are attached nor more than five feet tall; plus

8. Wall-mounted identification signs: not to exceed one square foot.

E. Maximum Height of Signs Permitted:

1. Signs without permits: as provided in Section 11-106 for signs permitted pursuant to that Section.
2. Awning, canopy, marquee, and wall signs: 20 feet or no higher than the bottom of any second floor window, whichever is less.
3. Ground signs: six feet.
4. Window signs: no higher than in a window on the lowest level, excluding any basement, in which the principal use is located.

F. Minimum Setback Required:

1. Signs without permits: as provided in Section 11-106 for signs permitted pursuant to that Section.
2. Ground signs: 10 feet from any front or corner side lot line and six feet from all other lot lines or the required yard or setback, whichever is less.

G. Illumination:

1. Signs without permits: signs permitted pursuant to Section 11-106 shall be illuminated only as permitted in that Section.
2. Other signs: signs permitted pursuant to Section 11-109 may be illuminated only by indirect or internal white light not exceeding 50 foot candles when measured with a standard light meter held perpendicular to the sign face at a distance equal to the narrowest dimension of such sign face.

H. Signs Accessory to Nonconforming Uses. Signs accessory to nonconforming uses in all districts other than the residential districts and the Open Space District shall be subject to the provisions of Section 11-109.

I. Special Standards for Design Review District. In addition to the regulations of Section 11-109, signs located in the Design Review District shall be subject to the standards and regulations applicable to that district.

J. Total Combined Square Foot Area of Signs.

1. Maximum Allowed. Except as otherwise provided in this Subsection J, the total square footage of all awning, canopy, marquee, wall, and ground signs shall not exceed (a) one and one-half square feet per foot of lot frontage or (b) 200 square feet, whichever is less.
2. Special Exception In the C-3 District. In the C-3 General Service Commercial District, the square footage devoted to any ground sign identifying more than one business on the lot shall not be counted against the 200 square feet maximum set in Subparagraph 1 above.
3. Limitation On Tenant Signs. No sign identifying an individual tenant of a multi-tenant building shall cover more than five percent of the wall to which it is affixed.

11-110: COMPREHENSIVE SIGN PLANS

- A. Comprehensive Building Sign Plan. A Comprehensive Building Sign Plan ("CB Sign Plan") is a set of one or more drawings, specifications, and design criteria for all signs on a single commercial or industrial building in a commercial or industrial zoning district. An approved CB Sign Plan establishes the number, locations, sizes, general design theme and guidelines, and other criteria for all current and future exterior signs on the building.
- B. Authority to Approve. The Village Manager may approve a CB Sign Plan after the review and recommendation of the La Grange Design Review Commission as provided in Subsection J of this Section 11-110. The Village Manager may confer with the applicant before determining whether to approve a CB Sign Plan. The Village Manager must act on a CB Sign Plan application within 15 days after receipt of the recommendation of the Design Review Commission unless the applicant agrees in writing to a longer time period. The decision of the Village Manager will be final.
- C. Purpose and Intent. The purpose of a CB Sign Plan is to create a unified plan for all exterior signs for a particular building. The authority in Subsection I of this Section 11-110 to modify certain provisions of this Article

XI creates the flexibility for signs appropriate for a particular building that may not otherwise be allowed. A CB Sign Plan is intended to achieve the following objectives:

1. Promotion of appropriate architectural and aesthetic use of exterior signs, including design techniques for the subject building that may not be appropriate on a different building.
 2. Creative use of signs while maintaining a unified look among all signs on the building, both existing and proposed.
 3. Creation of a more attractive building façade than may exist in the absence of a unified sign plan.
 4. Avoidance of signs that are disharmonious with the building or plainly out of scale or character with adjacent buildings.
 5. Simplification of the approval process as signs on the subject building are changed from time to time.
- D. Standards Applicable to CB Sign Plan. A CB Sign Plan must be consistent with the purpose, intent, and objectives set forth in Subsection C of this Section 11-110 and consistent with the standards set forth in Subsection H of this Section 11-110.
- E. Applications. The owner, landlord, or manager of a commercial building may apply for approval of a CB Sign Plan. The Village may require confirmation that the applicant has the authority to file the application and to bind the building to the terms of an approved CB Sign Plan.
- F. Application Requirements. An application for approval of a CB Sign Plan must include the following components:
1. The address of the building and full legal name of the owner of the building.
 2. Current photographs of each building façade on which signs are proposed to be located.
 3. A current photograph of the front façade of each building abutting the subject building.
 4. A list of all current and proposed commercial uses in the building. (Applicants should review Sections 5-102 and 5-105 of this Code for the lists of permitted

and special uses authorized in the commercial districts.)

5. A list of all current and proposed non-commercial uses in the building.
 6. A list of all current and proposed residential uses in the building, regardless of whether the residential use is authorized in a commercial district.
 7. A list of the current signs on the building, including sign type, dimensions, and lighting type.
 8. The proposed disposition of each current sign on the building, whether retention, redesign, removal, replacement, or other action.
 9. The total number of existing and proposed signs, including signs to be installed immediately and potential future signs.
 10. A professionally prepared, scaled drawing of each building façade showing where signs are installed, will be installed, and may be installed in the future.
 11. A sign schedule showing the sign types, sizes or range of sizes, lighting types, color palettes and themes, and other pertinent information.
 12. A calculation of the total maximum gross surface area of all proposed signs, both current and future.
- G. Acceptance or Rejection of Application. The Director of Community Development may accept an application only if it provides all of the components set forth in Subsection F of this Section 11-110. The Director must reject an application that does not provide all of the components within 10 business days after the date the application was submitted, unless the applicant agrees in writing to a longer time period. If the Director rejects an application, then the Director must identify to the applicant the primary reasons for the rejection.
- H. General Design Guidelines. An application for approval of a CB Sign Plan should reflect consideration of the following guidelines or reasons why they are not applicable or appropriate. These guidelines are suggestive only, as one part of the overall evaluation of an application.
1. Signs that reflect the particular architectural character of the building, with proposed sizes,

shapes, colors, and numbers of signs that complement that character.

2. Signs of an overall area that creates an appropriate relationship between total sign area and exposed building area.
 3. Sign locations on the building that are consistent with the pedestrian orientation of the building's location to the fullest extent possible.
 4. A proposed range of harmonious sign colors.
 5. Consistency in placement of signs on the building or a suitable explanation for an apparent inconsistency.
 6. Uniform or complementary typefaces, sign elements, and materials.
 7. An overall appearance of all signs that is not garish or out of proportion to the size and character of the building and immediately abutting buildings.
 8. Lighting of signs that is complementary to the building, using techniques that are effective but restrained.
 9. All signs elements must be professionally designed and executed.
- I. Prohibited Signs and Sign Elements. No CB Sign Plan may be approved that includes:
1. Signs that obscure significant architectural details of the building.
 2. Any attention-getting devices, exterior electronic message signs, moving or animated signs, internally illuminated box signs, or temporary signs.
 3. Any sign with exposed electrical conduits or wiring raceways.
 4. Any sign using plastic, paper, or similar materials.
 5. Signs specifically prohibited in all districts, except as allowed by modification under Subsection K of this Section 11-110.

J. Procedure for Review of Application.

1. If the applicant for approval of a CB Sign Plan also has applied for a special use permit, site plan review, or design review, then the CB Sign Plan application will be processed as part of that other application.
2. In every other instance, a CB Sign Plan application will be referred to the Design Review Commission for review at a public meeting and recommendation as provided in Subsections 13-104F, G, and H of this Code. The public meeting must be commenced within 30 days after acceptance by the Director of Community Development of a CB Sign Plan application, except that the time may be extended in the event it is not reasonably possible for the Design Review Commission to meet and commence the public meeting within 30 days. The Design Review Commission must provide its recommendation promptly in writing to the Village Manager for decision under Subsection B of this Section 11-110.

K. Modifications of Sign Regulations.

1. Authority to Modify. Subject to the standard set forth in Paragraph 2 and the limitations set forth in Paragraph 3 of this Subsection G, the Design Review Commission may recommend modification of, and the Village Manager as part of an approval of a CB Sign Plan may modify, any provision of this Article XI. The determination whether to modify a provision of this Article XI is entirely discretionary, based on an analysis of all circumstances related to an application. No applicant has any right to any modification.
2. Standard Applicable to Modifications. No modification may be approved unless the Village Manager finds that the modification would enhance a CB Sign Plan, considering the purpose, intent, and objectives set forth in Subsection C of this Section 11-110.
3. Limitations on Modifications. The followings provisions and matters may not be modified by a CB Sign Plan:
 - (a) Illumination of signs adjacent to residential areas (§11-105A3).

- (b) Sign maintenance (§11-105K).
 - (c) Obscene matter (§11-105O).
 - (d) General safety (§11-105P).
- L. Applicability of Approved CB Sign Plan. After a CB Sign Plan has been approved, that approved Plan will constitute the sign regulations applicable to the subject building along with the provisions of this Article XI that have not been modified by the Plan. No sign not authorized by the approved Plan will be permitted on the building.
- M. Amendment of Approved CB Sign Plan. An approved CB Sign Plan may be amended by the Village using the same application and review process that was used for review and approval of the Plan.