

# Regulation of Temporary Signs in Bowling Green/ Warren County

(Section 4.6.8.F of the Zoning Ordinance)

## Application and Permits for On-Premise Signs

- C *All permanent and temporary on-premise signs shall require a permit.* Permits shall be obtained from the Building Inspector of the appropriate jurisdiction. Prior to the issuance of a permit by the Building Inspector, the permit applications shall be approved by the Executive Director, or designee, in order to determine compliance with the Zoning Ordinance of Warren County and the Subdivision Regulations of Warren County as well as any recorded subdivision plat or development plan.
  
- C *The following on-premise signs shall not require a permit:* On-premise signs which are in the public interest and contain no commercial reference, such as safety signs, pedestrian and motor vehicle control signs; signs of historical significance; clocks; temporary construction, real estate, flags (including government, political subdivision, or other official designated flags of an institution or business), personal expression, and political campaign signs. *These signs shall, however, otherwise comply with Section 4 below with regard to visibility and right-of ways.* Personal expression signs shall be limited to a maximum of 16 s.f. in size. Campaign signs shall not exceed 16 square feet (32 square feet in unincorporated areas of Warren County) and may be displayed immediately following the filing for an election, and no more than 30 days after the election date. All Real Estate signs shall be limited to on-site signs where property is for sale. This type of sign shall not exceed 32 square feet in sign area and no larger than 7 feet in height. Temporary off-premise Real Estate signs used as directional signs may allowed for a period not exceed 30 days prior to sale or auction date. Temporary construction signs shall be limited to a maximum of 16 s.f. in size. Flags of any other official designated institutions or business shall utilize freestanding flag poles, no taller than 40 feet in height, flag size shall not to exceed 120 square feet in area for each flag. Integral signs shall be exempt from the provisions of this Section.

## On-Premise Sign General Provisions

- C *Freestanding Signs-* The area of a sign shall include all lettering, wording, designs and symbols, together with a background, whether open or enclosed, on which they are displayed. 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.
  
- C *Wall Signs-* Where a sign consists of individual letters, words or symbols attached to a surface, building, canopy, awning or wall and such elements are located in the same plane, the sign area shall be the area of the smallest rectangle which completely encompasses all such letters, words or symbols and any accompanying background of a color different than the natural color of the wall.
  
- C *No sign* shall be erected to *obstruct free and clear vision* of an intersection and/or traffic signals. *No sign* may be placed in or *extended over a public right-of-way or utility easement* without the express written consent of the controlling jurisdiction or utility.
  
- C *All freestanding signs shall be set back a minimum of 20 feet from the edge of pavement.* If the principal structure is located less than 20 feet from the edge of pavement, the sign shall be affixed to the flat surface of the building.
  
- C *Temporary signs* such as : Banners, pennants, posters, flags (excluding government, political subdivision, or other official designated flags of an institution or business), fixed balloons, or similar devices shall be permitted if the devices are solely affixed to a window or the principal facade of the building and does not extend above the roof line.

## Prohibited Permanent On-Premise Signs

- C On-premise signs erected, maintained, or continued which cause any *interference to sight distance*;
- C **Portable signs** (signs with no permanent attachment to a building or the ground, including but not limited to, A-frame signs, pole attachments, searchlights, and stands) on wheels or freestanding, shall not be allowed permanently on any site;
- C **Banners, posters, pennants, flags (excluding, government, political subdivision, or other official designated flags of an institution or business), large fixed balloons, or similar devices affixed to any independent support, fence, awning, pump canopy, curbstone, lamp post, utility pole, hydrant, bridge, culvert, public drinking fountain, public trash container, rest station building, tree, or in or on any portion of any public sidewalk, street, or sign shall be prohibited as permanent on-premise signs**;
- C **Signs are prohibited that are made of paper or cardboard** erected outside a completely enclosed building, except for any sign permitted by this Section that is constructed in a manner in which it does not rapidly deteriorate from rain or other elements, is maintained in good condition and is promptly repaired or removed if it deteriorates;
- C Signs (other than approved community banners and those erected by a governmental agency or required to be erected by a governmental agency or its contractual agent) **erected on the right-of-way of any public street, road, or way, or signs overhanging or infringing upon the right-of-way of any public street, road, or way, are prohibited except as specifically provided in this Section**;
- C **Signs on or attached to utility poles or trees, shrubs, or plants are prohibited except that approved community banners may be attached to utility poles**;
- C **Signs incorporated into trucks, motor vehicles, trailers** and similar equipment bearing advertising visible from off-site and parked at the business location for the intended purpose of advertising a business, service or product, are considered vehicle signs and are prohibited. Delivery and service vehicles or trailers used on a daily basis in conjunction with an on-site business are exempt when they are parked in a location that is not visible from off-site, or otherwise creates the least possible visual impact without significant effect on the security of the vehicle or trailer.

### **Temporary On-Premise Signs allowed by Special Permit**

- C **Temporary Signs that are used for any special occasion or business Grand Opening** such as: Banners, posters, pennants, flags (excluding government, political subdivision, or other official designated flags of an institution or business), wind signs ( gas, cold air or hot air balloons; streamers; and rotating devices, fastened in such a manner to move upon being subjected to pressure by wind or breeze) fixed balloons, or similar devices which are not solely affixed to a window or the principal facade, and portable signs on wheels or freestanding **shall be permitted in all commercial zoning districts for a 30 day period not to exceed 4 times per calendar year.**