

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

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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

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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

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

be unconstitutional, illegal, null or void, it is the intent of the Board of County Commissioners to sever only the invalid portion or provision, and that the remainder of the Ordinance shall be enforceable and valid.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland that the foregoing recitals are adopted as if fully rewritten herein.

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.

DONE, this 30th day of January, 2018 by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland.

Aye: 4
Nay: 1 - Nutter
Absent/Abstain: 0

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Maureen L. Frederick, Clerk

Evan K. Slaughenhaupt, President

Approved for form and legal sufficiency by:

Tom Hejl Jr., Vice-President

Mike Hart

John B. Norris, III, County Attorney
Recorded 10:53 A M. Same day
KPS No. 53
Folio 218
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION.

Pat Nutter
Steven R. Weems

Garry P. Smith

**6-8 SIGNS****6-8.01 Purpose**

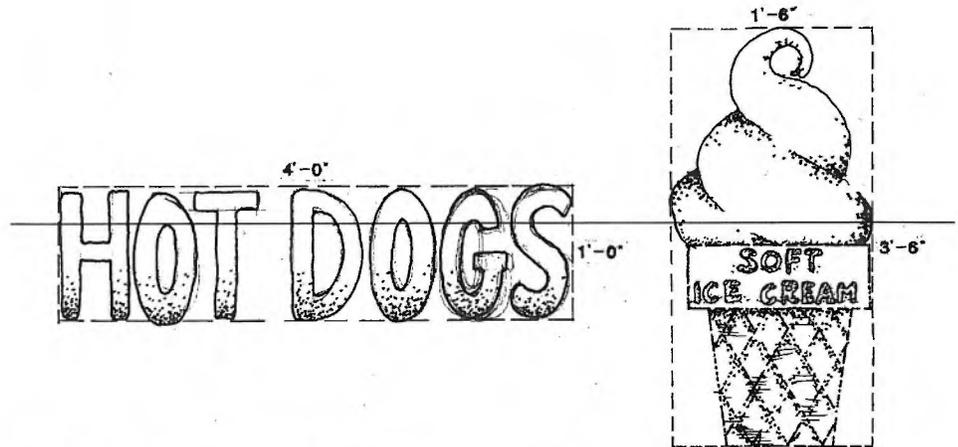
~~The purpose of this article is to regulate signs and to promote County businesses without significantly impacting overall County aesthetics, property values, public safety, or impinging on free speech.~~

~~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:~~

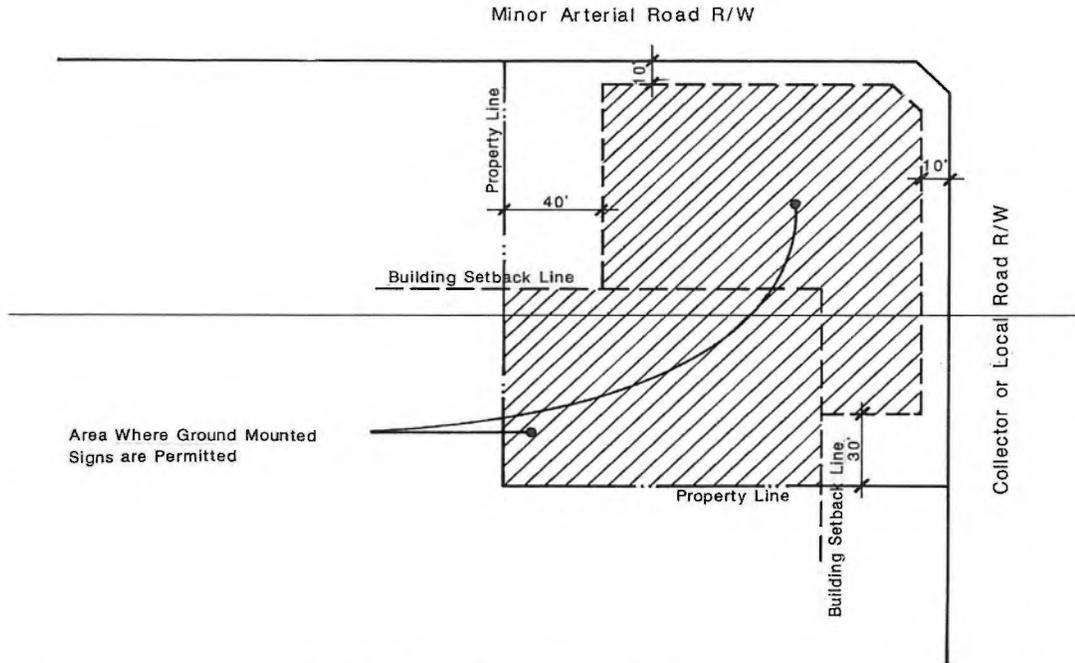
- ~~A. Signs shall not be internally illuminated. Materials for sign faces and frames shall be limited to wood or a material that has the appearance of wood.~~
- ~~B. No sign shall have moving parts or project any intermittent or flashing illumination without approval of the Zoning Officer. Such approval 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.~~~~



- (06/03/08) K. ~~Sign height shall be measured from the average elevation of the finished grade at the front of the sign and/or structure facing the street to the highest point of the sign and/or structure. The use of berms, grading, or other means in order to achieve a greater sign height shall not be permitted unless site conditions are such that the proposed sign location is below the grade of the adjacent roadway. In such cases, a berm, grading or other means may be used to raise the elevation of the land on which the sign is to be placed to the elevation of the adjacent roadway.~~
- (06/03/08) L. ~~Signs attached to vehicles are allowed under the following conditions:
 
  - 1. The vehicle is parked at the business location and the vehicle is operable, tagged and parked in an approved parking space, or
  - 2. If the vehicle is not parked at the business, it cannot be parked on property zoned FFD, RCD, or RD, unless the vehicle is parked at the driver's residence and it is the resident's primary means of transportation to and from his or her place of work.~~

6-8.03 Freestanding Signs

- A. ~~No freestanding sign shall exceed 18 feet in height unless approved by the Board of Appeals as a special exception.~~
- B. ~~Only one freestanding sign is permitted per parcel of record as of the date of adoption of this Ordinance. Additional signs may be approved by the Planning Commission in cases where a site is over five acres, provided that signs are architecturally integrated with each other and with the buildings on the site.~~
- C. ~~Freestanding signs shall be compatible with the building(s) to which it relates in terms of style, colors, proportion and scale.~~
- D. ~~All individual signs on a freestanding base shall be uniform in design. Uniformity is defined as:
 
  - 1. Having the same (or similar) dimensions or proportions;
  - 2. Having the same (or similar) background colors;
  - 3. Being of the same material;~~
- E. ~~Reader boards on individual signs on a freestanding base shall be limited to two lines and shall have the same background color and width dimensions as the primary sign.~~
- F. ~~Freestanding signs shall not be centered on single poles. Signs may be mounted on the side of a single pole, between two poles, or within a sign frame constructed of solid wood or a material that has the appearance of wood, or brick.~~



Section 6-8.03 Freestanding Signs

- G. Setback Requirements for Freestanding Signs. The setback requirement for freestanding signs shall be a minimum of ten feet from the right-of-way except in the following instances:
1. Any sign which is attached to the ground located on an arterial road and within 40 feet of the side lot line shall adhere to the front setback requirement for the district in which it is located (so that, e.g., views from neighboring properties are not obstructed).
  2. If located on a collector or local road and within 30 feet of the side lot line, the sign shall conform to the front setback requirement for the district in which it is located.

6-8.04 Building Sign Design

- A. All Building Signs shall meet the following design criteria:
1. Every building sign shall be designed as an integral architectural element of the building; and
  2. Signs on buildings shall not obstruct architectural features of the building; and
  3. Signs shall not be mounted on roofs or extend above the roof line.
  4. 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 similar) background colors;
    - c. being of the same material.

6-8.05 Signs Permitted Without A Zoning Permit

The following signs are permitted without a zoning permit in any district:

- A. ~~Official traffic signs or sign structures, when erected by a governmental agency.~~
- B. ~~Signs indicating the name and/or premises or the accessory use of a home for a home occupation of professional purpose, provided such signs meet the following conditions:~~
  - 1. ~~Such signs shall not exceed four square feet in size;~~
  - 2. ~~The maximum height of home occupation signs shall be six feet;~~
  - 3. ~~Materials shall be limited to wood or a material that has the appearance of wood;~~
  - 4. ~~No window signs shall be permitted.~~
  - 5. ~~No internally illuminated signs are permitted.~~
- C. ~~Temporary real estate signs, located on and advertising subject property for sale, lease or rental, provided such signs do not exceed ten square feet in size. However, if the subject property is larger than ten acres, the sign may be as large as 16 square feet in size. Temporary real estate signs shall be removed after the property is sold and settlement has taken place.~~
- D. ~~Signs located on a farm advertising farm products grown primarily on the premises or an agritourism, ecotourism, or heritage tourism use, shall be permitted with the following conditions:~~
  - 1. ~~Such signs shall not exceed 30 square feet in area~~
  - 2. ~~For farms that do not have frontage along an arterial road, one additional sign, that gives direction to the farm, lists products available for sale during the active selling season and does not exceed 20 square feet, shall be permitted per farm off premises.~~
  - 3. ~~Written permission shall be obtained from the property owner if not on the seller's property.~~
  - 4. ~~These signs shall be located off the road right-of-way and shall not interfere with traffic visibility.~~
  - 5. ~~These signs are to be temporary and shall be removed after the selling/business season is over.~~
- E. ~~Temporary political signs are permitted, subject to State regulations.~~
- F. ~~A temporary construction sign is permitted, advertising the general contractor, subcontractor, architect, and/or other professional persons, firms, or organizations engaged in or associated with the lawful construction, alteration, remodeling, or demolition of any building or use provided that such sign:~~
  - 1. ~~is limited to one listing for each person, firm, or organization involved.~~
  - 2. ~~is removed within 30 days after the completion by the general contractor.~~
  - 3. ~~Is less than 20 square feet in size.~~

- G. All portable signs shall be limited as follows:
1. Hot air balloons and search lights are allowed for promotions only, not to exceed 72 hours in a year.
  2. Pennants and banners are permitted for display periods not to exceed 14 days prior to an event, and not to exceed 30 days per year.
  3. One sandwich type (A-frame) sign is permitted per business on premises, subject to the following:
    - a. Each sign board face shall not exceed nine square feet.
    - b. The total height is not to exceed 48 inches.
    - c. The sign shall be located so as not to restrict sight distance below that called for in ASHTO standards. NOTE: The County will provide drawings depicting ASHTO standards. Applicants will be responsible for meeting those standards.
    - d. The sign shall either be constructed and maintained according to the adopted specifications or receive special approval from the Architectural Review Committee for the Town.
    - e. The size of the sign will not count against the total signage allowed under Section 6-8.06 of the Zoning Ordinance.
    - f. For roads with posted speed limits greater than 30 miles an hour, the sign shall be at least 50 feet from the right-of-way. NOTE: These signs are not effective on high speed roads, and they present a greater danger.
- (09/21/10)
- H. Directional or informational signs of a public or quasi-public nature, such as those containing the meeting date of a community or civic club, or the advertising of an event of public interest, shall be permitted subject to the following conditions:
1. Temporary informational or directional signs which are erected for the purpose of advertising a special event shall be limited to no more than 32 square feet in size.
  2. Such signs shall not be erected more than 30 days prior to the event and shall be removed within seven days after the event has occurred.
- (05/12/09)
- I. One temporary sign, located to advertise the opening of a new subdivision, development or shopping center, provided that the sign:
1. does not exceed 100 square feet, and
  2. is not illuminated, and
  3. is located not less than 25 feet from any road right-of-way or less than 100 feet from the line of any adjacent lot on which a dwelling is located, and
  4. one additional temporary sign shall be permitted within 1,000 feet of frontage or portion thereof along each road upon which the subdivision, development, or shopping center is located, and
  5. is removed 9 months after it is erected.

(08/07/07) ~~6-8.06 Signs Requiring Zoning Permits~~

- A. ~~Signs referred to in this Section shall also be subject to the provisions of Section 6-8.03, Freestanding Signs, and Section 6-8.04, Building Sign Design, depending on their type of construction.~~
- B. ~~The following signs are permitted in accordance with zoning district regulations and require a zoning permit. Any sign erected without a zoning permit shall constitute a Zoning Violation, which shall be enforced in accordance with Section 1-7.~~
  - 1. ~~Business and Institutional Signs — Business and Institutional signs pertaining to the "use on the premises" are permitted as an accessory use in all districts, provided that the total square foot area of all signs shall be based on Table 6-4, Maximum Sign Areas.~~

TABLE 6-4 MAXIMUM SIGN AREAS	
Length of Front Building Wall (ft.)	Maximum Square Footage of Sign (sq. ft.)
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	See Note 3 Below
NOTE 1: Fractions will be rounded off to the closest integral number.	
NOTE 2: A cumulative measurement shall be taken for businesses or institutional uses sharing party walls.	
NOTE 3: For building walls which are longer than 100 feet, add one square foot of signage for every linear foot over 100 feet.	
NOTE 4: For each side of a building that has public entrances, the signage shall be calculated for the length of that building wall and the signs shall be located only on that side of the building.	
NOTE 5: Buildings with separate businesses or institutional uses on two or more stories are permitted 50 percent more signage.	
NOTE 6: For businesses or institutional uses having no permanent buildings, a maximum of 50 square feet of signage is permitted.	
NOTE 7: On a corner lot, the building wall facing each road shall be used to compute the square footage for signage on that road.	
NOTE 8: This table does not apply to signs for which square footage limitations are specified (i.e., Home Occupation signs).	

- 2. ~~Directional Signs Erected by the County — The purpose of directional signs erected by the County is to provide an attractive format for advertising businesses not located on major roads. Sign structures may be erected at intersections by the County on County rights-of-way and shall be designed to provide for advertising the name, location, type of business and/or principal products, under the following provisions:~~

- a. ~~A uniform County format is to be designed by and approved by the County.~~
- b. ~~The structures are to be located at road intersections with arterials and/or major collector roads, as designated by the County Commissioners.~~
- c. ~~The permit fees for individual business signs will be used to defray cost of the sign structure.~~
3. ~~Permanent directional or informational signs of a public or quasi-public nature, such as those containing the meeting date of a community or civic club, or the advertising of an event of public interest, shall be permitted subject to the condition that such a sign shall not exceed 16 square feet in size.~~
- (06/03/08) 4. ~~Subdivision Entrance Signs shall be subject to the following requirements:~~
- a. ~~Such signs shall be set back 15 feet from the right-of-way of any adjoining arterial or collector roads; zero feet from the right-of-way of a subdivision road; and five feet from all other property lines.~~
- b. ~~The subdivision entrance sign shall be located at the primary entrance of the subdivision being identified, and shall be limited to no more than two permanent signs.~~
- c. ~~Such signs shall be designed and placed so as not to obstruct sight distance along the adjoining roads.~~
- d. ~~The size of each sign face shall not exceed 35 square feet in area.~~
- e. ~~The size of the structure containing a sign face shall not exceed 200 square feet in area, excluding the sign face.~~
- f. ~~The height of the structure containing a sign face shall be no more than seven feet and shall comply with the requirements of Section 6-8.02.K of this Zoning Ordinance.~~
- g. ~~The signs shall include the name of the subdivision (as recorded in the Land Records) only, and shall not include any advertising of any kind.~~
- h. ~~Maintenance of the sign shall be the responsibility of the developer of the subdivision and/or the developer's assigns.~~
- (06/03/08) 5. ~~Directional Signs, Other—These directional signs are intended for the sole purpose of indicating distance and/or direction to service-type businesses located in Calvert County. They shall be permitted in all districts subject to the following provisions:~~
- a. ~~Signs shall be subject to a minimum setback of ten feet from the road right-of-way.~~
- b. ~~Signs shall be limited to those service-type businesses serving the traveling public, such as filling stations, restaurants, motels, marinas, etc., but not businesses primarily occupied with local needs such as furniture, jewelry, shoes, etc.~~
- c. ~~Signs shall be limited to two in number for any one business, and shall not be located more than ten miles from the subject use.~~
- d. ~~Each sign shall be limited to 16 square feet in area.~~
6. ~~Billboards—No new billboards shall be permitted after adoption of this amendment (February 27, 1992). Existing billboards may not be expanded as of the date of this amendment.~~

7. ~~Bus Shelters—With the exception of signs on bus shelters in existence as of the effective date of this amendment (May 6, 1997), no signs shall be displayed on bus shelters. Existing signs on bus shelters may be replaced but not expanded. Any bus shelter with signs which ceases being used as a bus stop either for schools or public transportation shall be removed pursuant to the following procedure:~~
- a. ~~By September 15 of each year, the Zoning Officer shall identify any shelters which are not located at sites which are either school bus stops for the current school year or bus stops for public transportation.~~
  - b. ~~The Zoning Officer shall notify the owner of the shelter as well as the owner of the property upon which the unused shelter is located that the shelter shall be removed in its entirety within 60 days of the notice date.~~
  - c. ~~The decision of the Zoning Officer may be appealed to the Board of Appeals under Section 11-1.04 of the Zoning Ordinance. Such an appeal shall be taken within thirty (30) days of the date of the above notice.~~
  - d. ~~Any bus shelter which is removed because of non-use may be relocated to a location used as a bus stop either for schools or public transportation within the 60-day period contained in the notice described above. The right to relocate shall be forfeited if not exercised within the 60-day period.~~
8. ~~Town Center Entrance Signs~~
- a. ~~The County Commissioners shall adopt guidelines governing the design and financing of Town Center entrance signs considering the recommendations of the Department of Planning & Zoning and the Planning Commission.~~
  - b. ~~All Town Center entrance signs shall be erected and maintained by the County or its designee.~~

#### 6-8.07 Violations

~~Any violation of this Section shall be enforced in accordance with the procedures contained in Section 1-7 of this Ordinance. The Zoning Officer shall have the authority to remove any sign that is determined to be a zoning violation, after proper notification is given, as required by Section 1-7.01.C. Any cost associated with any such removal shall be paid by the property owner.~~

### 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

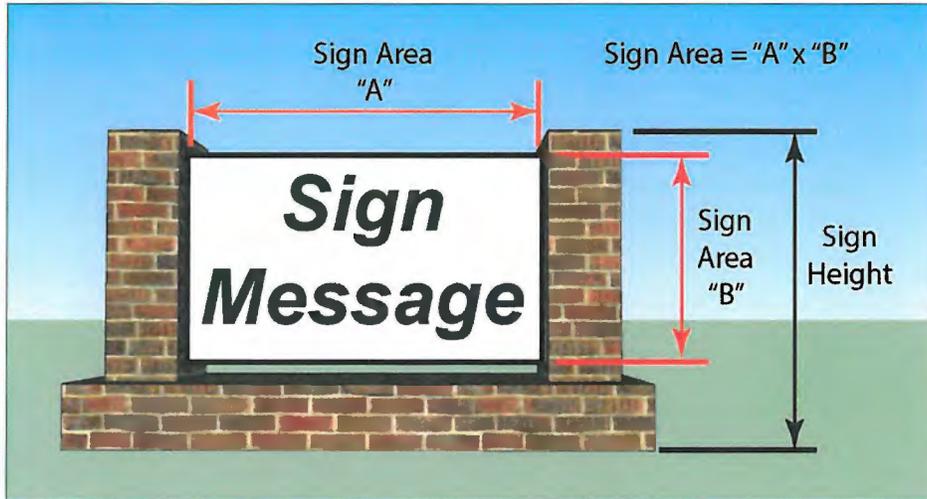


Figure 1: Example of the calculation of the sign area and height of a freestanding sign.

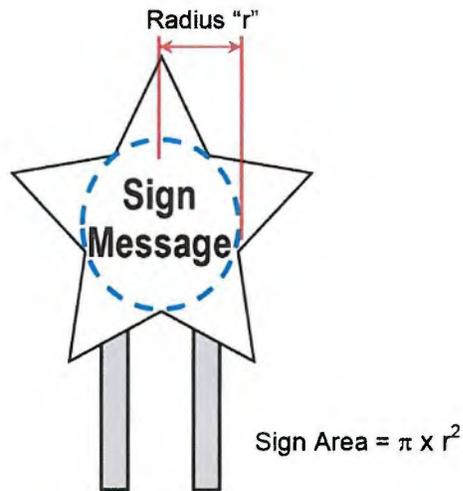


Figure 2: Example of sign area computation by the smallest circle encompassing the extreme limits of the sign message. For the purposes of calculations,  $\pi$  equals 3.14.

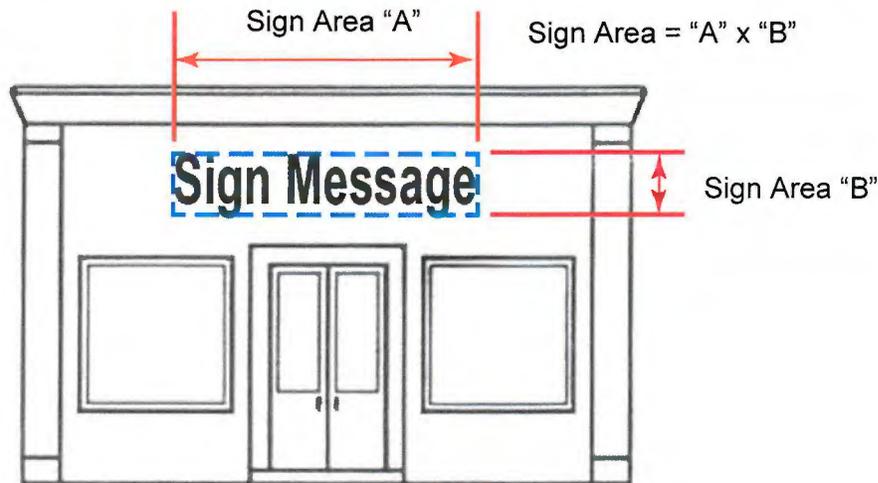


Figure 3: Example of sign area calculation for wall signs.

- 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]
<b>Permanent Freestanding Signs</b>										
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
<b>Permanent Building Signs</b>										
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
<b>Electronic Message Centers and Reader Boards [3]</b>										
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
<b>Portable Signs</b>										
A-Frame or T-Frame Signs	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
<b>Temporary Signs</b>										
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.										

TABLE 6-1: SUMMARY TABLE OF PERMITTED SIGN TYPES

<b>Sign Type</b> <b>Symbols</b> 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	<b>Town Center, District or Area [1]</b>									
	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]									

[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.

**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.

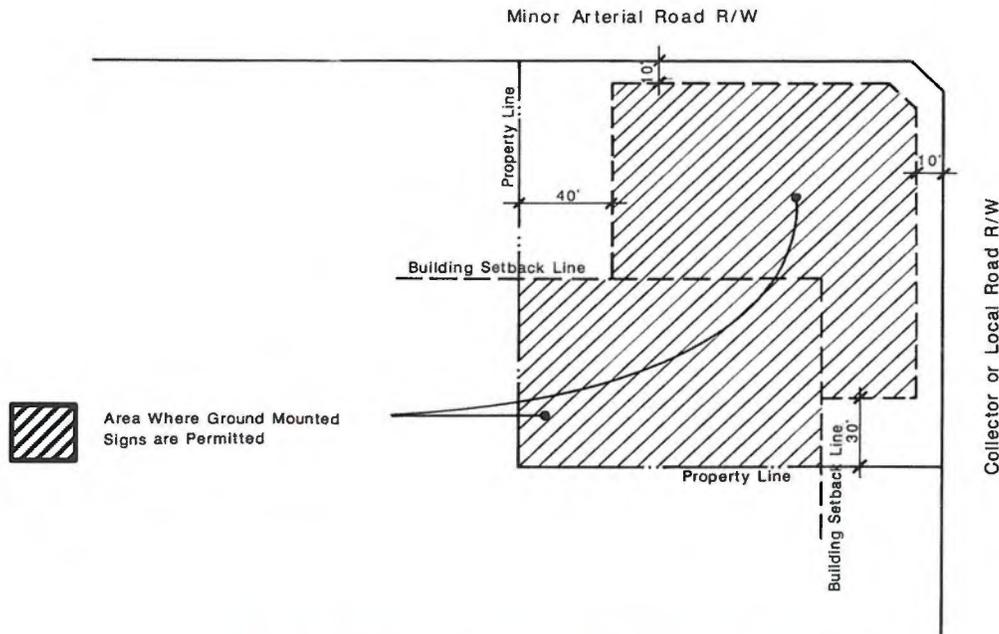


Figure 5: Allowable locations for freestanding signs.

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.

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>

**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)	<del>A sign that is either attached to, affixed to, or painted on an awning or canopy.</del> 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)	<del>A sign constructed of lightweight fabric material and designed to be attached at both ends.</del> 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	<del>See: Off-Premise Directional Sign or On-Premise Directional Sign.</del> 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)	<del>Any fabric material attached to or designed to be flown from a flagpole or similar device.</del> 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.
<del>Free-Standing</del> Freestanding Sign	<del>Any non-movable sign not affixed to a building.</del> 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	<del>Signs displaying directional messages not located on the premises.</del>
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	<del>Signs displaying directional messages within the boundaries of a development.</del>
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	<del>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</del> 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)	<del>A visual display board of text on a sign.</del> 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)	<del>A portable See A-frame sign readable on both sides</del> 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	<del>The intersection of an interior subdivision road with the local, collector, or arterial road from which it gains access.</del> See entrance definition in the Calvert County Road Ordinance.
Subdivision Entrance Sign (06/03/08)	<del>A sign and/or structure containing a sign located at, and identifying the entrance to, an approved subdivision.</del> 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.

Dunkirk Master Plan  
CHAPTER II – THE PLAN

C. APPEARANCE GUIDELINES

1. Considerations

- a. The appearance of the Dunkirk Town Center, as the "gateway to Calvert County", will be instrumental in the public's impression of the entire county.
- c. Unity should be achieved through quality of design, Town Center planned landscaping, planned roads, and uniform signage and street lights, and the use of the same kinds of materials for all walkways and parking lots.

2. County Actions

d. Signs

Adopt sign standards addressing size, materials, type, location, and lighting to ensure that signs enhance, not detract, from the Town Center's appearance.

~~Signs add to the visual clutter and distract from landscaping, buildings, and natural beauty. In order to reduce the visual clutter along the highway and improve traffic safety, the number of free-standing signs shall **should** be limited. No signs shall be attached to roofs. No signs shall project over the pitch line of the roof. No sign shall project from the building. No sign shall be painted/stained directly onto the walls or roofs of buildings. No signs shall have any moving parts. No signs shall have neon lights. No signs shall blink, have moving lights, black out, etc., except for signs indicating time and temperature. Signs shall have the appearance of wood, stone, brick, copper, or brass.~~

~~All free standing public informational signage, including the Business Directional Signs, shall be of the same design throughout the Town Center. They also shall have the appearance of wood, stone, brick, brass, or copper. All signs shall be affixed to the ground or to a building. Even in public signage, every effort shall be made to eliminate visual clutter. **Local government signage should also be included in the effort to reduce visual clutter.**~~

D. SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS

1. Road Access

Road access shall be as shown on the Dunkirk Transportation Map.

2. Route 4 Corridor Landscaping

Wherever possible, a 60 foot landscaped buffer should be required along Route 4 for new construction. All landscaping along Route 4 shall be consistent with the Dunkirk Landscaping Plan (see pages 28 and 29).

(2/27/92)  
(6/17/97)

3. Signs The provisions of Section 6-8 of the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance apply in the Dunkirk Town Center.

~~Freestanding signs are allowed in conformance with this section.~~

~~i. For the purposes of this subsection terms are defined.~~

~~(a) A monument style sign shall mean a freestanding sign, with not more than two faces, which has a base as broad as the sign and a solid appearance from top of sign to ground.~~

~~(b) A commercial development shall have a minimum of 5 parcels, a minimum of 20 acres, and public right-of-way existing within the development.~~

~~(c) An integrated center shall mean a development, not necessarily of single ownership, which has multiple businesses and common facilities, such as vehicle entrance(s), parking, lighting, and landscaping, and may have pad sites in front of or to the side of large businesses. An integrated center may be within a commercial development.~~

~~(d) A non-integrated center shall mean a development not meeting the description of an integrated center. A non-integrated center may be within a commercial development.~~

~~ii. One freestanding sign per commercial development is allowed provided that:~~

~~(a) Sign shall be of monument style.~~

~~(b) Sign shall only identify the name of the commercial development. It shall not identify the individual businesses within the commercial development;~~

~~(c) Maximum height shall be 10 feet;~~

~~(d) Maximum width of sign shall be 10 feet;~~

~~(e) Maximum square footage of the sign shall be 40 square feet;~~

~~(f) Sign shall be 100 feet from any other freestanding sign on the same side of the street.~~

~~(g) Sign shall be located either at the vehicular entrance or at the intersection of two public roads.~~

- iii. One freestanding sign for either an integrated center or a non-integrated center is allowed provided that:
- (a) A sign shall be either a monument style (example 1), double posted (example 2), flag mounted (example 3); post and panel (example 4), or single post (example 5);
  - (b) Maximum height shall be 10 feet;
  - (c) Maximum width of sign shall be 10 feet;
  - (d) Maximum square footage of sign shall be 40 square feet;
  - (e) Sign shall be at least 200 feet from other integrated center or non-integrated center signs on the same side of the street and shall be at least 100 feet from commercial development identification signs;
  - (f) The distance from Route 4 shall be no closer than 100 feet unless the integrated or non-integrated center has a direct entrance from Route 4 in which case the sign shall be a minimum of 20 feet and a maximum of 60 feet from the road. The distance from all other roads shall be no closer than 20 feet and no farther than 60 feet; and
  - (g) Sign shall be adjacent to a vehicular entrance.
- iv. Monument style street identification signs are allowed in a commercial development or in an integrated center, provided that:
- (a) The signs are similar in shape to example 6. materials shall be primarily brick;
  - (b) The signs are located on opposite sides of an intersection and only at the intersections of Route 4 and Town Center Boulevard north and south;
  - (c) Sign shall only identify the street name and the name of the commercial development or the integrated center but not the individual businesses within the commercial development or the integrated center;
  - (d) Maximum square footage of sign shall be 40 square feet;
  - (e) The maximum height shall be 6 feet;
  - (f) The maximum width shall be 8 feet; and
  - (g) The signs shall be at least 100 feet from any other freestanding sign on the same side of the street.
- b. ~~General freestanding sign provisions~~
- Sign shall not be located in such a way so as to interfere with traffic visibility, shall not be on the right-of-way of any road, and shall not be located on any slope or drainage easement of the road.
- ii. Sign lettering should be in relief or have the appearance of relief.

(10/28/03)  
(05/01/06)

- i. Signs shall have trim on the border of the sign.
  - ii. Lighting for signs shall be shielded so that no direct rays of light shall impinge on any portion of an adjacent highway or building.
  - iii. Flag mounted, post and panel, and single post signs shall not exceed a 2:1 or 1:3 height to width ratio for the sign face.
  - vi. Calculation of sign area in square feet shall normally be the area of the face of the sign. 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.
- c. All signs must conform to Section 6-8 of the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance. In addition, the following types of signs are prohibited by the Dunkirk Zoning Ordinance:
- i. Signs attached to roofs.
  - ii. Signs that project over the pitch line of the roof.
  - iii. Signs painted/stained on the walls or roofs of buildings.
  - iv. Signs with moving parts.
  - v. Signs with neon lights or any type of internal illumination.
  - vi. Signs that blink, have moving lights, black out, etc., except for signs indicating the time and the temperature.
  - vii. Signs that do not have the appearance of wood, stone, brick, copper or brass.
  - viii. Signs that are portable (e.g., hot air balloons, pennants and banners, or A-frame signs).
  - ix. Off premise directional signs.
- d. All government signs must:
- i. be of the same design throughout the Town Center;
  - ii. have the appearance of wood, stone, brick, brass, or copper; and
  - iii. be no taller than 10 feet.

Signs exempt from regulation under this Ordinance:

(10/28/03)  
(05/01/06)

- The following signs shall be exempt from the sign square footage calculations. In addition, window signs shall be exempt from all other requirements except Section 6-8.02.A, B, C&E of the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance. Any sign not listed below shall conform with all requirements of this Ordinance and those listed in Section 6-8 of the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance.
- a. Regulatory signs on private property that are less than four (4) square feet, such as: traffic signs, on-site directional signs (entrance, exit, etc.), parking signs, warning or regulatory signs (danger, no trespassing, no dumping, etc.).
  - b. Window signs.
  - c. State- or federally-required signs such as price signs for gas stations, inspection station signs, etc.

(2/27/92)  
(8/12/97)

~~Replacement of non-conforming signs:  
Existing businesses may replace, repair or modify existing signs of the same size. New businesses may replace, repair or modify existing signs but shall comply with the standards of this sign ordinance.~~

(12/02/03)  
(05/01/06)

4. Transfer Zone

Dunkirk is designated as a Transfer Zone. The maximum conventional density is one dwelling unit per acre. The density may be increased to no more than four (4) dwelling units per acre with the purchase of Calvert County Transferable Development Rights (TDRs)<sup>1</sup>. The purchase of five TDRs is required for each dwelling unit over one (1) dwelling unit per acre.

In lieu of purchasing TDRs, applicants with bona fide affordable housing projects may apply to the Board of County Commissioners for a waiver of the requirement to purchase TDRs. The Board may approve the application in whole or in part provided that no more than 30% of the existing housing stock within the Town Center meets the State definition of affordable housing.

E. APPEARANCE CODE

1. Introduction

The Appearance Code is based on the premise that building and landscaping design bears a direct relationship to the economic and social well being of residents; that building and landscape design affect property values and provide economic opportunities and that in view of its impact on the general welfare, the right to determine the appearance of a community should not be limited to the few who are directly involved in building construction and alteration, but should be vested in the general citizenry through a publicly mandated, legally adopted Appearance Code Ordinance.

The purpose of the Appearance Code is to enforce the most necessary elements of the Appearance Guidelines in the Dunkirk Plan. While it is desirable that all aspects of the Guidelines are followed, certain portions must be enforced if the town is to develop into an attractive and economically viable Town Center.

Many architectural styles can be accommodated in the Town Center. However, certain features, such as flat roofs and metal siding, will detract from the Dunkirk Town Center image.

2. Application

Compliance with the Appearance Code is mandatory for all new construction and renovation in the Town Center. Additions to existing buildings not now complying with the Code shall also meet the code if:

- a. the addition will increase the total square footage by more than 100% or
- b. the addition is more than 2,000 square feet.

3. Appearance Code Criteria

The following appearance requirements are imposed:

- a. Building Materials (principal and accessory structures) - Either brick, stone, wood or wood appearance siding is required on all sides.
- b. Rooflines and Pitch - Main roof pitches must be in the range of 6/12 to 12/12. Dormer roofs do not have to comply with this requirement. Mansard roofs shall not be permitted. The Planning Commission may grant modifications based on the size of the building provided that the appearance of a pitch roof is maintained.
- c. Utility areas - all utility areas, including but not limited to refrigeration units, piping, wiring, utility boxes, heating units, trash disposal and loading areas, shall be screened from view.

<sup>1</sup> The use of Transferable Development Rights (TDRs) shall not be required for age-restricted housing developments that comply with Section 5-5 of the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance and which are properly submitted prior to July 1, 2006.

7-1 Street Trees

Street trees having a minimum of 1½" - 2" caliper are required along both sides of all roadways. Spacing shall be provided as follows:

- Mixed Use District - 30 feet on center
- Neighborhood District - 40 feet on center
- Residential District - 50 feet on center

Recommended street trees include medium sized trees for mixed-use district:

- Washington Hawthorn - *Crataegus phaenopyrum*
- European Hornbeam - *Carpinus betula*
- Sargent Cherry - *Prunus sargentii*
- Regent Japanese Pagoda - *Sophora japonica*

and larger sized trees for neighborhood and residential districts:

- Japanese Zelkova - *Zelkova serrata*
- Willow Oak - *Quercus phellos*
- Amur Corktree - *Phellodendron amurense*
- Southern Red Oak - *Quercus falcata*
- London Planetree - *Platanus acerifolia*

Other trees may be used with the approval of the Planning Commission.

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

ARTICLE 8: Sign Regulations

~~8-1 General Requirements~~

All commercial and institutional signs must be approved by the Planning Commission upon recommendation by the Huntingtown Architectural Review Committee. All signs should be made of or have the appearance of wood, metal or stone. Other materials may be used only if their design is compatible with the architecture of the building and character of the village. Plastic signs are generally not appropriate.

Each non-residential building may have a maximum of one freestanding or projecting sign and one wall or window sign for each street the building has frontage along. Multiple tenant buildings may have additional wall or window signs but may not exceed the maximum sign size for an individual building face. No signs shall be located which will interfere with traffic visibility. 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.

### 8-1 Mixed Use District

There are four type of signs permitted in the Mixed Use District: freestanding signs, projecting signs, wall signs, and window signs. The following types of signs are specifically prohibited.

- signs attached to roofs or that project over the pitch line of the roof
- neon or other internally lighted signs and all signs that blink, have moving lights or parts, blackout except signs indicating time and temperature.  
**Exception:** internally lighted channel letters may be permitted provided the design of the sign is consistent with the design of the building and neighborhood uses.

#### 8-1.1 Freestanding Signs

A freestanding sign is supported by an upright (or uprights) permanently anchored in the ground. It shall be compatible with the building to which it relates in terms of style, color, proportion and scale. It shall not project beyond the property line or into the public right of way.

**Size-** The size of the signface shall be limited to a maximum of 12 to 14 square feet. The height of the signface shall not exceed 7 feet, although the upright supporting the sign may be as high as 9 feet.

**Lighting-** The light source for freestanding signs shall be concealed from view. Glare from light sources can be reduced through the use of shielded light fixtures or landscape plantings.

**Sign Supports-** Standardized sign supports could provide a visually unifying element which would help identify the village. A design similar to the recommended light post (Fig. 4, M.P.), is strongly encouraged and preapproved for use in the Mixed-Use District. Other designs may be approved provided they are designed as an architecturally integrated element of the sign.

#### 8-1.2 Projecting Signs

A projecting sign is attached to and projects more than 18 inches from a wall of a building. Because projecting signs tend to interfere with the appearance of the facade, the use of this type of sign is recommended where it is not possible to use a freestanding sign. For example, a property which has little or no front yard is an appropriate situation for using a projecting sign.

~~Location. The sign shall be located so it does not block or obscure important architectural elements of the facade. Either of the front corners of a structure would be the best location. Smaller signs projecting from porches are also appropriate.~~



Figure 1  
Projecting Sign



Figure 2  
Projecting Sign

**Size-** The area of the signface shall not exceed 8 square feet and shall project no more than 3 feet from the side of the building. The bottom of the sign shall be at least 8 feet above the ground.

**Lighting-** Lighting shall be shielded so that no direct light shines onto sidewalks, streets, or adjacent properties. If possible, the light source should be concealed from view.

**Sign Support-** The support shall be as simple and unobtrusive as possible. If the sign supports are wooden, they shall be painted to match the building.

### 8-1.3 Wall Sign

A wall sign is parallel to any exterior wall of a building. Every building sign shall be designed as an integral architectural element of the building. 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. All signs for buildings within a shopping center, office complex, commercial park or business center shall be uniform in design. Uniformity is defined as

having the same (or similar) dimensions or proportions

- having the same (or complementary) background colors (where applicable)
- being of the same material.
- the number of graphic elements (i.e., words and/or symbols) on a sign shall be held to a minimum needed to convey the sign's major message. A rule of thumb is to limit the number of syllables and symbols to 10.

**Location**-On most of the residential structures converted to commercial use, the only appropriate location for a wall sign is at the entrance of the building between the window and door. As noted above, when the building is designed as a commercial structure with a sign area built into the facade, the wall sign shall be located in that space. In the case of new buildings, the sign shall be placed according to the design of the building.

**Size**- The gross area of wall signage shall not exceed 10% of a wall area (including windows and doors), or 1.0 square feet per linear foot of building face, whichever is less. Care should be taken to ensure that the sign size is proportional to the wall space on which it is mounted, i.e., not visually "pinched" between the doors. A wall sign on any type of building shall not obscure the architectural features of the building.

**Lighting**- The source of lighting for the wall sign shall be shielded or concealed from direct view if possible.

#### 8-1.4 **Window Sign**

A window sign is painted on or attached to the inside surface of a window. Windows provide an excellent area for signs which do not affect the overall appearance of the structure. Window signs are particularly appropriate for buildings with large display windows.

#### 8-2 **Neighborhood and Residential Districts**

The only signs allowed on residential lots are nameplates with addresses, for rent, and temporary signs. Non-residential permitted uses in these districts shall comply with all of the requirements of the Mixed Use District. Non-residential 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.

Temporary signs such as "For Sale" and political signs are permitted for no more

~~within 120 days and shall meet the other requirements of this section.~~

~~8-3 **Public Information Signs**~~

~~All free standing public information signs including business directional signs shall be of a uniform design throughout the town center. These signs shall be limited to avoid visual clutter. They shall meet the requirements listed in the Mixed-Use District.~~

**ARTICLE 9: Lighting Standards**

**9-0 General**

Outdoor lighting shall be provided along all public streets in the Mixed Use District, and along pedestrian walkways within the Mixed Use and Neighborhood Districts. Exterior building lighting is allowed within guidelines. (Sec. 9-3)

**9-1 Public Streets**

The design of outdoor lighting fixtures is subject to architectural review. Below is the pre-approved lighting standard for use along pedestrian walkways within the Mixed Use District. Applicants may propose alternative designs.

**9-2 Pedestrian Walkways**

Outdoor lighting is required in all parking lots, along pedestrian walkways and between parking lots and residences. No pole type security lighting will be permitted in residential developments except at the entrance to a development if it intersects an existing public arterial or collector road.

**9-3 Exterior Building Lighting**

Night use of lighting on the exterior of a building or for display is encouraged for both safety (of person and property), and as a spot advertisement for specific goods within the window. These lights must be simple creating a pleasant illumination of the evening street scene. Flood lighting concealed above a storefront roofing may be used to light the facades of buildings. Fully recessed downlights or wall washers in projecting metal boxes which run the full length of the sign area are permitted, as they are shielded fluorescent lamps with diffuses. Gooseneck incandescent, porcelain

Lusby Town Center Zoning Ordinance

**6-4 SIGNAGE** The provisions of Section 6-8 of the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance apply in the Lusby Town Center.

(05/01/06) **6-4.01 General Requirements- All Signs**

- A. Where permitted, illuminated signs shall be shielded so that no direct rays of light shall cause glare or reflections on any portion of an adjacent roadway 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 in the right-of-way of any road or 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. All portable signs shall be limited as follows:
  - i. Hot air balloons and search lights are allowed for promotions only, not to exceed 72-hours in a year.
  - ii. Pennants and banners are permitted for display periods not to exceed 14-days prior to an event, and not to exceed 30-days per year.
  - iii. One sandwich type (A-frame) sign is permitted per business on premises, subject to the following:
    - a. Each sign board face shall not exceed 9-square feet
    - b. The total height is not to exceed 48 inches
    - c. The sign shall be located so as not to restrict sight distance below that called for in AASHTO standards (drawings depicting such standards available from the County). Applicants will be responsible for meeting those standards.
    - d. The sign must either be constructed / maintained according to the adopted specifications or receive special approval from the Architectural Review Committee.
    - e. The owner shall obtain a permit for the sign; however, the size of the sign will not count against the total signage allowed under Section 6-8.07 of the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance.
    - f. No portable signs are permitted along the parkway.
    - g. Such signs shall not be illuminated.
- 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.

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 Lusby Town Center Zoning Ordinance

- 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.
- J. Signs shall be removed when the business, 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 except that any sign, which is attached to the ground, shall adhere to the front yard requirement for the district in which it is located.

#### 6-4.02 Sign Design Standards – All Signs

- A. Signs shall be compatible with the design and building materials of adjacent structures.
- B. Signs shall be wood, wood appearance or metal; however, internally illuminated plastic box signs are not permitted. Individual solid metal letters with internal lighting that backlight a building wall are permitted.
- C. Neon signs located behind the glass line are permitted subject to review of the Architectural Review Committee.
- D. The number of graphic elements (i.e. words and/or symbols) on a sign shall be held to minimum needed to convey the sign's major message. A rule of thumb is to limit the number of syllables and symbols to 10.

#### 6-4.03 Special Design Standards for Building Signs

- A. Every building sign shall be designed as an integral architectural element of the building. The façade design of commercial structures shall include a signage zone or information zone, which aligns with adjacent structures. All signage shall be within this zone or behind storefront glass, except for occasional projecting signage. Signage is not allowed above this zone.
- B. Signs on buildings shall not obstruct architectural features of the building. Signs shall not be mounted on roofs, extend above the roofline or above the second story of the building.
- C. Building signs shall be compatible with the building and adjacent structures. Small wall-mounted projecting signs are encouraged if compatible with the building and adjacent structures. Projecting signs shall not exceed ten square feet in area or extend lower than seven feet above grade.
- D. Storefront windows shall be used for the display of goods and not as a signboard. Some signage may be appropriate behind storefront glass; however, this signage shall be kept to no more than 25% of glass area and not obscure the view of merchandise.

Lusby Town Center Zoning Ordinance

6-4.04 Special Design Standards for Freestanding Signs

- A. One freestanding sign is permitted per site. The Planning Commission may, upon recommendation by the Lusby Architectural Review Committee, permit additional freestanding signs in cases where the site is very large provided that signs are architecturally compatible with each other and integrated with the site. Freestanding signs shall not be located within parking lots.
- B. The height of freestanding signs, inclusive of the base of the sign, shall not exceed six feet as measured from the top of the sign to the ground. The area of freestanding signs shall not exceed 20 square feet.
- C. The base of a freestanding sign shall be solid and designed as an architecturally integrated element of the sign.
- D. Only one small sign (4-square feet) advertising uses such as home occupations, for sale signs, contractor signs, etc., shall be permitted on a residential property.

6-4.05 Maximum Sign Areas

The dimensions of any given sign or collection of signs shall be approved on the basis of proportion, scale and compatibility with the surrounding area, but may in no case exceed the limitations listed in Table I below. Freestanding signs are included in the computation of maximum square footage for any given site.

TABLE I - TABLE OF MAXIMUM SIGN AREAS	
Length of Front Building Wall (ft.)	Maximum Square Footage Of Sign (sq. ft.)
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	SEE NOTE 3 BELOW

Notes:

1. Fractions will be rounded off to the closest integral number.
2. A cumulative measurement shall be taken for businesses sharing party walls.
3. For building walls which are longer than 100 feet, add one square foot of signage for every linear foot over 100 feet.
4. For each side of a commercial building, the signage shall be calculated for the length of that building wall and the signs shall be located only on the side of the building.
5. 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:
6. If the sign consist only of letters or figures, the area shall be calculated as if a rectangle were drawn around the exterior of the letters or figures.

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 Lusby Town Center Zoning Ordinance

~~6-4.06 Replacement of Existing Signs~~
~~Existing businesses may replace, repair or modify existing signs; however, any change other than normal maintenance shall be in the direction of conformity with current sign requirements insofar as practical. New businesses may replace, repair or modify existing signs but shall comply with current sign requirements.~~

## 6-5 PROCEDURES FOR ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

## 6-5.01 Authorization for Architectural Review

In accordance with the provisions of Article 66b, Annotated Code of Maryland, the Board of County Commissioners has the authority under Article 4.01 (B) "upon the zoning or rezoning of any land or lands pursuant to the provisions of this article, (to) impose such additional restriction, conditions, or limitation as may be deemed appropriate to preserve, improve or protect the general character and design of the lands and improvements being zoned or rezoned...And may, upon the zoning or rezoning of any land or lands, retain or reserve the power and authority to approve, or disapprove the design of buildings, construction, landscaping, or other improvements, alterations, and changes made or to be made on the subject land or lands to assure conformity with the intent and purpose of this article and the jurisdiction's zoning ordinance. The powers provided in subsection (b) of this section shall be applicable only if the local legislative body adopts an ordinance which shall include enforcement procedures and requirements for adequate notice of public hearings and conditions sought to be imposed."

Section 7.01 (A) of Article 66b enables the local legislative body to "provide by ordinance for the enforcement of this article (66b) and of any ordinance or regulation made thereunder."

## 6-5.02 Appointment of Architectural Review Committee

The Board of County Commissioners shall appoint a Lusby Town Center Architectural Review Committee whose functions shall be to:

- A. Make recommendations to the Planning Commission regarding approval of exterior design features of public and private buildings, including building scale and the relationship between proposed buildings and existing buildings and green spaces, structures, and signs on the basis of the Town Center Architectural Standards and criteria set forth in sections 6-2, 6-3 and 6-4 of this article;
- B. Promote awareness of good design within the community; and
- C. Participate in the periodic update of the Lusby Town Center Master.

- C. Windows shall be longer than they are wide. A recommended proportion of 1.6:1 to 2.5:1 (height:width).
- D. Materials shall be brick- unpainted (red tones only); whitewashed or painted brick; synthetic stucco (muted colors); natural stone; or wood or wood appearance siding with wide corner boards and window trim. As aluminum siding products vary widely samples shall be submitted for approval.

(12/4/01) 6-3.04 Exceptions:

- A. Cupolas or tower elements connected to residential structures (maximum of 150-square feet in plan) may extend to four stories in height.
- B. Tall structures and/or tower elements are permitted at the end of commercial blocks unless used for the purpose of camouflaging or concealing wireless communications facilities such as towers or antennas. Such structures shall be subject to the requirements of Section 3-4 of the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance.

6-4 SIGNAGE The provisions of Section 6-8 of the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance apply in the Owings Town Center.

~~6-4.01 General Requirements- All Signs~~

- A. Where permitted, illuminated signs shall be shielded so that no direct rays of light shall cause glare or reflections on any portion of an adjacent roadway 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 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. All portable signs shall be limited as follows:
  - i.) Hot air balloons and searchlights are allowed for promotions only, not to exceed 72-hours in a year.
  - ii.) Pennants and banners are permitted for display periods not to exceed 14-days prior to an event, and not to exceed 30-days per year.
  - iii.) One sandwich type (A-frame) sign is permitted per business on premises subject to the following:

- a. Each sign board face shall not exceed 9-square feet
  - b. The total height is not to exceed 48"
  - c. The sign shall be located so as not to restrict sight distance below that called for in ASHTO standards (drawings depicting such standards available from County). Applicants will be responsible for meeting those standards.
  - d. The sign must either be constructed and maintained according to the adopted specifications or receive special approval from the Architectural Review Committee.
  - e. The owner shall obtain a permit for the sign; however, the size of the sign will not count against the total signage allowed under Section 6-8.07 of the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance.
  - f. Along Chesapeake Beach Road, the sign shall be at least 50 feet from the right-of-way.
  - g. Such signs shall not be illuminated.
- 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.
- J. Signs shall be removed when the business, 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 maximum of ten feet, except that any sign which is attached to the ground shall adhere to the front yard requirement for the district in which it is located.

6-4.02 Sign Design Standards – All Signs

- A. Signs shall be compatible with the design and building materials of adjacent structure.
- B. Signs shall be wood, wood appearance or metal; however, internally illuminated plastic box signs are not permitted. Individual solid metal letters with internal lighting that backlight a building wall are permitted. Illuminated signs are not permitted in the Edge Districts with the exception of street addresses and painted signs of no more than 6-square feet for Bed and Breakfast inns.
- C. Neon signs located behind the glass line are permitted subject to review of the Architectural Review Committee

- D. The number of graphic elements (i.e., words and/or symbols) on a sign shall be held to minimum needed to convey the sign's major message. A rule of thumb is to limit the number of syllables and symbols to 10.
- E. All signage around the traffic circle shall be uniform in design. Uniformity is defined as:
  - having the same (or similar) dimensions or proportions
  - having the same (or complementary) background colors (where applicable)
  - being of the same material.

6-4.03 Special Design Standards for Building Signs

- A. Every building sign shall be designed as an integral architectural element of the building. The façade design of commercial structures shall include a signage zone or information zone, which aligns with adjacent structures. All signage shall be within this zone or behind storefront glass, except for occasional projecting signage. Signage is not allowed above this zone.
- B. Signs on buildings shall not obstruct architectural features of the building. Signs shall not be mounted on roofs, extend above the roofline or above the second story of the building.
- C. Building signs shall be compatible with the building and adjacent structures.
- E. Small wall-mounted projecting signs are encouraged if compatible with the building and adjacent structures. Projecting signs shall not exceed ten square feet in area or extend lower than seven feet above grade.
- F. Storefront windows shall be used for the display of goods and not as a signboard. Some signage may be appropriate behind storefront glass; however, this signage shall be kept to no more than 25% of glass area and not obscure the view of merchandise.

6-4.04 Special Design Standards for Freestanding Signs

- A. One freestanding sign is permitted per site. The Planning Commission may, upon recommendation by the Owings Architectural Review Committee, permit additional freestanding signs in cases where the site is very large provided that signs are architecturally compatible with each other and integrated with the site. Freestanding signs shall not be located within parking lots.
- B. The height of freestanding signs, inclusive of the base of the sign, shall not exceed six feet as measured from the top of the sign to the ground. The area of freestanding signs shall not exceed 20 square feet.
- C. The base of a freestanding sign shall be solid and designed as an architecturally integrated element of the sign.

- D. Only one small sign (4-square feet) advertising uses such as home occupations, for sale signs, contractor signs, etc., shall be permitted on a residential property.

6-4.05 Maximum Sign Areas

The dimensions of any given sign or collection of signs shall be approved on the basis of proportion, scale and compatibility with the surrounding area, but may in no case exceed the limitations listed in Table I below. Freestanding signs are included in the computation of maximum square footage for any given site.

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90-99	170
100	SEE NOTE 3 BELOW

- NOTES:
1. Fractions will be rounded off to the closest integral number.
  2. A cumulative measurement shall be taken for businesses sharing party walls.
  3. For building walls which are longer than 100 feet, add one square foot of signage for every linear foot over 100 feet.
  4. For each side of a commercial building, the signage shall be calculated for the length of that building wall and the signs shall be located only on that side of the building.
  5. 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:  
If the sign consist only of letters or figures, the area shall be calculated as if a rectangle were drawn around the exterior of the letters or figures.

~~6-5.06 Replacement of Existing Signs~~

~~Existing businesses may replace, repair or modify existing signs; however, any change other than normal maintenance shall be in the discretion of conformity with current sign requirements insofar as practical. New businesses may replace, repair or modify existing signs but shall comply with current sign requirements.~~

## 6-5 PROCEDURES FOR ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

## 6-5.01 Authorization for Architectural Review

In accordance with the provisions of Article 66b, Annotated Code of Maryland, the Board of County Commissioners has the authority under Article 4.01 (B) "upon the zoning or rezoning of any land or lands pursuant to the provisions of this article, (to) impose such additional restriction, conditions, or limitation as may be deemed appropriate to preserve, improve or protect the general character and design of the lands and improvements being zoned or rezoned... And may, upon the zoning or rezoning of any land or lands, retain or reserve the power and authority to approve, or disapprove the design of buildings, construction, landscaping, or other improvements, alterations, and changes made or to be made on the subject land or lands to assure conformity with the intent and purpose of this article and the jurisdiction's zoning ordinance. The powers provided in subsection (b) of this section shall be applicable only if the local legislative body adopts an ordinance which shall include enforcement procedures and requirements for adequate notice of public hearings and conditions sought to be imposed."

Section 7.01 (A) of Article 66b enables the local legislative body to "provide by ordinance for the enforcement of this article (66b) and of any ordinance or regulation made thereunder."

## 6-5.02 Appointment of Architectural Review Committee

The Board of County Commissioners shall appoint an Owings Town Center Architectural Review Committee whose functions shall be to:

- A. make recommendations to the Planning Commission regarding approval of exterior design features of public and private buildings, including building scale and the relationship between proposed buildings and existing buildings and green spaces, structures, and signs on the basis of the Town Center Architectural Standards and criteria set forth in sections 6-2, 6-3 and 6-4 of this article;
- B. promote awareness of good design within the community; and
- C. participate in the periodic update of the Owings Town Center Master.

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.

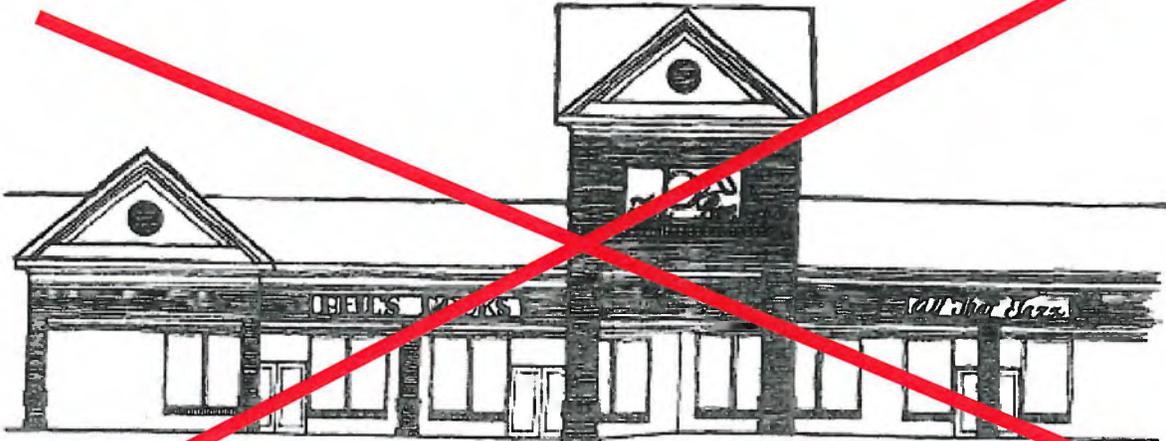
Exception: Any sign which is attached to the ground located on a minor arterial road and within 40 feet of the side lot line shall adhere to the front yard requirement for the district in which it is located. If located on a collector or local road and within 30 feet of the side lot line, the sign shall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

**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.

**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.

**MAXIMUM SIGN AREA**

The total square foot area of all signs shall be based on the following table.

**TABLE I. TABLE OF MAXIMUM SIGN AREAS**

Length of Front Building Wall (ft.)	Maximum Square Footage of Sign (sq. ft.)
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	SEE NOTES 3 BELOW

**NOTES**

1. Fractions will be rounded off to the closest integral number.
2. A cumulative measurement shall be taken for businesses sharing party walls.
3. For building walls which are longer than 100 feet, add one square foot of signage for every linear foot over 100 feet.
4. For each side of a commercial building, the signage shall be calculated for the length of that building wall and the signs shall be located only on that side of the building.
5. 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:  
 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.

2. Maximum Sign Area for Freestanding Signs

**TABLE II TABLE OF MAXIMUM SIGN AREA FOR FREESTANDING SIGNS**

a.	Along Rt 2/4	90 sq. ft
b.	Along Rt 231 and Dares Beach Road; all other existing and future roads within the Entry District, Village District, New Town District and Forest District	50 sq. ft
c.	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	20 sq. ft.

Exception:  
Signs within Old Town Residential District and Fairgrounds District are limited to 4 sq. ft.  
(See Chapter VI. for description of Districts)

3. Maximum Size of Building Signs

To determine the maximum size of signs on buildings, subtract the square footage used for all freestanding signs from the total permitted square footage shown in Table I.

P. Replacement of Existing Signs

When an existing building sign or freestanding sign is replaced with a new sign, the new sign shall comply with the standards of this sign ordinance. A new sign is defined as any sign which advertises a new business.

**6.4 SIGN REQUIREMENTS** The provisions of Section 6-8 of the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance apply in the St. Leonard Town Center.

**4.1 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS - ALL SIGNS**

1. 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.
2. No sign shall have moving parts or project any intermittent or flashing illumination except signs that indicate time and temperature.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. No sign shall be permitted which contains statements, words or picture of an obscene character.
6. No sign shall be placed on rocks, trees, or on poles maintained by public utilities.
7. All portable signs shall be limited as follows:
  - a. Hot air balloons and search lights are allowed for promotions only, not to exceed 72 hours in a year.
  - b. Pennants and banners are permitted for display periods not to exceed 14 days prior to an event, and not to exceed 30 days per year.
  - c. One sandwich type (A-frame) sign is permitted per business on premises, subject to the following:
    - d. Each sign board face shall not exceed 9 sq. ft.
    - e. The total height is not to exceed 48".
    - f. The sign shall be located so as to not restrict sight distance below that called for in ASHTO standards. Note: The County will provide drawings depicting ASHTO standards. Applicants will be responsible for meeting those standards.
    - g. The sign must either be constructed and maintained according to the adopted specifications or receive special approval from the Architectural Review Committee.

(10/28/03)  
(05/01/06)

- h. The owner shall obtain a permit for the sign; however, the size of the sign will not count against the total signage allowed under Section 6-8.07 of the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance.
  - i. For roads with posted speed limits greater than 30 miles an hour, the sign shall be at least 50' from the right-of-way. Note: These signs are not effective on high speed roads, and they present a greater danger.
  - j. Sign shall not be illuminated.
8. 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.
  9. 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.
  10. Signs shall be removed when the business, 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.
  11. 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.

#### 6.4.2 SIGN DESIGN STANDARDS - ALL SIGNS

1. Signs shall be compatible with the design and building materials of adjacent structures.
- (3/23/99) 2. Signs shall be wood, wood appearance, pre-cast concrete, or metal; however, internally illuminated plastic box signs are not permitted. Individual solid metal letters with internal lighting that backlight a building wall are permitted.
3. The sensitive design of neon signs located behind the glass line can add character to the streetscape.
4. 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 complementary) background colors (where applicable)
  - c) being of the same material.
5. 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.

#### 6.4.3 SPECIAL DESIGN STANDARDS FOR BUILDING SIGNS (in addition to standards listed in 6.4.1 and 6.4.2).

1. Every building sign shall be designed as an integral architectural element of the building. The facade design of commercial structures shall include a signage zone or information zone which aligns with adjacent structures. All signage shall be within this zone or behind storefront glass, except for occasional projecting signage. Signage is not allowed above this zone.
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. Building signs shall be compatible with the building and adjacent structures.
4. Small wall-mounted projecting signs are encouraged if compatible with the building and adjacent structures. Projecting signs shall not exceed ten square feet in area or extend lower than seven feet above grade.

- 5. Storefront windows shall be used for the display of goods and not as a sign board. Some signage may be appropriate behind storefront glass; however, this signage shall be kept to not more than 25% of glass area and not obscure the view of merchandise.

6.4.4 SPECIAL DESIGN STANDARDS FOR FREESTANDING SIGNS (in addition to standards listed in 6.4.1. and 6.6.2).

- 1. One freestanding sign is permitted per site. The Planning Commission may, upon recommendation by the St. Leonard Architectural Review Committee, permit additional freestanding signs in cases where the site is very large provided that signs are architecturally integrated with each other and the site. Freestanding signs shall not be located within parking lots.
- 2. The height of freestanding signs shall not exceed eight feet. The area of freestanding signs shall not exceed 20 square feet.
- 3. The base of a freestanding sign shall be solid and designed as an architecturally integrated element of the sign.
- 4. Only one small sign (4 s.f.) advertising uses such as home occupations, for sale signs, contractor signs, shall be permitted on a residential property.

6.4.5 MAXIMUM SIGN AREA

TABLE I. TABLE OF MAXIMUM SIGN AREAS

Length of Front Building Wall (ft.)	Maximum Square Footage of Sign (sq. ft.)
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	SEE NOTE 3 BELOW

- NOTES
- 1. Fractions will be rounded off to the closest integral number.
  - 2. A cumulative measurement shall be taken for businesses sharing party walls.
  - 3. For building walls which are longer than 100 feet, add one square foot of signage for every linear foot over 100 feet.
  - 4. For each side of a commercial building, the signage shall be calculated for the length of that building wall and the signs shall be located only on that side of the building.
  - 5. 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:

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.

~~6.4.6 REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING SIGNS~~

~~Existing businesses may replace, repair or modify existing signs; however, any change other than normal maintenance shall be in the direction of conformity with current sign requirements insofar as practicable. New businesses may replace, repair or modify existing signs but shall comply with current sign requirements.~~

6.5 PROCEDURES FOR ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

1. Authorization for Architectural Review

In accordance with the provisions in article 66b, Annotated Code of Maryland, the Board of County Commissioners has the authority under article 4.01 (B) "upon the zoning or rezoning of any land or lands pursuant to the provisions of this article, (to) impose such additional restrictions, conditions, or limitation as may be deemed appropriate to preserve, improve or protect the general character and design of the lands and improvements being zoned or rezoned...And may, upon the zoning or rezoning of any land or lands, retain or reserve the power and authority to approve or disapprove the design of buildings, construction, landscaping, or other improvements, alterations, and changes made or to be made on the subject land or lands to assure conformity with the intent and purpose of this article and of the jurisdiction's zoning ordinance. The powers provided in subsection (b) of this section shall be applicable only if the local legislative body adopts an ordinance which shall include enforcement procedures and requirements for adequate notice of public hearings and conditions sought to be imposed.

Section 7.01 (A) of article 66b enables the local legislative body to "provide by ordinance for the enforcement of this article (66b) and of any ordinance or regulation made thereunder."

2. Appointment of Architectural Review Committee

The Board of County Commissioners shall appoint an Architectural Review Committee whose functions shall be to:

- a. make recommendations to the Planning Commission regarding approval of exterior design features of public and private sector buildings, structures, and signs on the basis of the appearance standards and criteria;
- b. promote awareness of good design within the community;
- c. review master plans and make recommendations.

## 6-8.01 Purpose

**6-8 SIGNS** ~~The provisions of Section 6-8 of the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance apply in the Solomons Town Center.~~

~~Section 6-8 of the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance is replaced by the following requirements in the Solomons Town Center, except where noted.~~

~~6-8.01 Purpose~~

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

~~6-8.02 General Sign Provisions~~

- ~~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 signs shall have moving parts or project any intermittent or flashing illumination.~~
- ~~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 the 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 signs shall be placed on rocks, trees, or on poles maintained by public utilities.~~
- ~~G. All portable signs shall be limited as follows:
  - ~~1. "Sandwich Board" style signs shall be permitted subject to the following conditions:
    - ~~a. The sign does not exceed 12 square feet in size per side and the total height does not exceed 48 inches.~~
    - ~~b. The sign must either be constructed and maintained in accordance with the requirements of this Section or receive special approval from the Architectural Review Committee.~~
    - ~~c. The sign is located on the property upon which the business is located. No off-premise portable signs shall be permitted.~~
    - ~~d. The sign shall be located so as to not restrict sight distance below that which is required by the standards established by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). Note: The County will provide drawings depicting AASHTO standards. Applicants will be responsible for meeting those standards.~~
    - ~~e. The sign shall be located within the Building Restriction Lines (BRLs) and shall not be located so as to obstruct pedestrian pathways.~~~~
  - ~~2. Flags and banners shall be permitted, subject to the following conditions:
    - ~~a. Each flag or banner shall not exceed 12 square feet in size. Exception: Official U.S., state, or county flags are exempt from the sign requirements.~~
    - ~~b. All non-Official U.S., state, or county flags and banners are subject to the provisions of paragraph 'M' of this Section and the size limitations set forth in Section 6-8.06.B of this Ordinance.~~~~~~

## 6-8.02 General Sign Provisions

- 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 within 15 days of the receipt of such order.
- I. When a sign does not include advertising information for a period of 120 continuous days, such sign shall be deemed a violation and shall be removed.
- J. Non-conforming signs may continue to be used, regardless of change in content, unless the sign structure is replaced, expanded, or relocated. At that time, the sign shall be brought into conformance with the requirements of this Zoning Ordinance. Routine maintenance of non-conforming sign structures shall be permitted so long as such maintenance does not constitute replacement or expansion.
- 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 10 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.
- L. Signs attached to vehicles are allowed under the following conditions:
1. The vehicle is parked at the business location and the vehicle is operable, tagged and parked in an approved parking space, or
  2. the vehicle is parked at the driver's residence and it is the resident's primary means of transportation to and from his or her place of work.
- M. The following provisions regarding materials and lighting shall be applied to all signs:
- North of Lore Road:
1. Materials: Any non-reflective, matte-finish materials may be approved, provided they meet the design criteria listed in this Ordinance. Exception: Flags and banners shall be made of fabric only (no plastic).
  2. Lighting: The following types of lighting may be used to illuminate signs:
  3.
    - a. external lighting projecting onto the sign face
    - b. internal lighting projecting onto a wall or sign face to create a halo effect behind letters (i.e., "reverse channel" or "halo lighting").
    - c. internal lighting, provided that the sign face is opaque, and only the letters and logo are illuminated. In no case may the illuminated portion of the sign exceed 35 percent of the sign face.
  4. Exceptions: internal lighting projecting through the sign face may be approved for information boards located adjacent to drive-through lanes and sized and designed for the use of drive-through customers only (example: menu boards).
- South of Lore Road:
1. Material shall be limited to wood or wood appearance for the sign face. Materials other than wood may be approved for signposts and frames provided they meet the design criteria listed in this ordinance. Exception: Flags and banners shall be made of fabric only (no plastic).
  2. Lighting for signs shall be limited to external light sources projecting onto the sign face.

~~6-8.03 Freestanding Signs~~~~3. Exceptions:~~

- ~~- a. Banners and banner display poles sponsored by a governmental agency may be permitted, provided that they are recommended for approval by the Solomons Architectural Review Committee and are comprehensively planned and designed to ensure continuity throughout the Town Center.
  - b. Awning signs are permitted, provided the lettering is limited to one color. Logos may be incorporated into the sign.~~

~~6-8.03 Freestanding Signs~~

- ~~- A. Every freestanding sign shall be compatible with the building(s) to which it relates in terms of style, color, proportion and scale.
  - B. All individual signs on the same freestanding base shall be uniform in design. Uniformity shall be generally defined as:
    1. having the same (or similar dimensions and proportions and
    2. having the same background color and
    3. being of the same material.
  - C. Other approaches to uniform design may be approved subject to a recommendation by the Architectural Review Committee. Logos may be incorporated into the design. Reader board, when included, shall be part of the overall design of the sign.
  - D. Maximum Height for Freestanding Signs: In all Sub-areas except C1, the maximum height is 10 feet. In the C1 Sub-area, the maximum height is four feet. Minor increases in height may be granted in cases where a unique topographic condition would otherwise impair visibility of a sign (see paragraph 'E' of this Section) or in cases where an architectural element is deemed by the Architectural Review Committee to improve the overall appearance of a sign.
  - E. Sign height shall be measured from the average elevation of the finished grade at the front of the sign and/or structure facing the street to the highest point of the sign and/or structure. The use of berms, grading, or other means in order to achieve a greater sign height shall not be permitted unless site conditions are such that the proposed sign location is below the grade of the adjacent roadway. In such cases, a berm, grading or other means may be used to raise the elevation of the land on which the sign is to be placed to the elevation of the adjacent roadway.
  - F. The base of the sign shall be designed as an architecturally integrated element of the sign. Signs with a single centre pole ("lollipop signs") are not permitted. Signs may be mounted on the side of a single pole, between two poles, or within a sign frame constructed of solid wood or a material that has the appearance of wood, or brick.
  - G. 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.
  - H. One freestanding sign is permitted per site. The Planning Commission may, upon recommendation by the Solomons 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.
  - I. Freestanding signs shall not be located within parking lots.~~

6-8.04 Building Sign Design

6-8.04 Building Sign Design

- A. Every building sign shall be designed as an integral architectural element of the building and shall be compatible with the building and neighboring buildings in the terms of height, proportion, rhythm and scale. (See the Architectural Design Manual maintained by the Department of Planning and Zoning.)
- B. Signs on buildings shall not obstruct architectural features of the building. Signs shall not be mounted on roofs, extend above the roofline or above the second story of the building. South of Lore Road, no more than 25 percent of the window area on each side of a building shall be used for the display of signs on that side of the building.
- C. All individual signs for tenants within a single building, shopping center, office complex, commercial park or business center shall be uniform in design. Uniformity shall be generally defined as:
  - 1. having the same (or similar) dimensions and proportions and
  - 2. having the same background color and
  - 3. being of the same material.
- D. Other approaches to uniform design may be approved subject to a recommendation by the Architectural Review Committee. Logos may be incorporated into the design.

6-8.05 Signs Permitted Without a Zoning Permit

The provisions of Section 6-8.05 of the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance apply within the Solomons Town Center, with the exception of Section 6-8.05.G, which is replaced by Section 6-8.02.G herein.

6-8.06 Signs Requiring Zoning Permits

The provisions of Section 6-8.06 of the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance apply within the Solomons Town Center, with the exception that Sections 6-8.06.A and 6-8.06.B.1, and Table 6-4 are replaced by paragraphs 'A' and 'B', and Table 6-3 herein. Section 6-8.06.B.2 through 6-8.06.B.8 of the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance apply in the Solomons Town Center without exception.

A. All signs described in this Section require a building permit. Any sign erected without a building permit shall constitute a Zoning Violation, which shall be enforced in accordance with Section 1-7 of the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance.

B. Maximum Sign Areas

The dimensions of any given sign or collection of signs shall be approved on the basis of proportion, scale and compatibility with the surrounding area, but shall not exceed the size limitations listed in Table 6-4 of this Section. All signs are included in the computation of maximum square footage for any given site, except sandwich board signs, flags and banners, where permitted.

6-8.06 Signs Requiring Zoning Permits

**TABLE 6-4<sup>6</sup> TABLE OF MAXIMUM SIGN AREAS**

Length of Front Building Wall (ft)	Maximum Square Footage of Sign (sq. ft.)
10-19	30
20-29	40
30-39	70
40-49	90
50-50	110
60-69	125
70-79	140
80-89	155
90-99	170
>100	See Note 3 Below

Notes:

1. Fractions will be rounded off to the closest integral number.
2. A cumulative measurement shall be taken for businesses or institutional uses sharing party walls.
3. For building walls which are longer than 100 feet, add one square foot of signage for every linear foot over 100 feet.
4. Signage shall be calculated for the length of each building wall that has a public entrance and/or is visible from a public road or the water, and the signs shall be located only on that side of the building.
5. Buildings with separate businesses or institutional uses on two or more stories may be permitted up to 50 percent more signage.
6. For businesses or institutional uses having no permanent buildings, a maximum of 50 square feet of signage is permitted.
7. On a corner lot, the building wall facing each road shall be used to compute the square footage for signage on that road.
8. The total signage allowed per building may be increased by no more than 50 percent through the use of sandwich board signs, flags, and banners that comply with Section 6-8.02.G and 6-8.02.M of this Ordinance.
9. This table does not apply to signs for which square footage limitations are specified (i.e., Home Occupation signs).

- 6-8.06 B.
2. See Calvert County Zoning Ordinance.
  3. See Calvert County Zoning Ordinance.
  4. See Calvert County Zoning Ordinance.
  5. See Calvert County Zoning Ordinance.
  6. See Calvert County Zoning Ordinance.
  7. See Calvert County Zoning Ordinance.
  8. See Calvert County Zoning Ordinance.

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<sup>6</sup> Table 6-4 replaces in its entirety Table 6-4 of the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance.

~~6-8.07 Violations~~

~~The provisions of Section 6-8.07 of the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance apply within the Solomons Town Center without exception.~~

**6-9 SECTION NUMBER RESERVED**

**6-10 ADEQUATE PUBLIC FACILITIES REQUIREMENTS**

The provisions of Section 6-10 of the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance apply in the Solomons Town Center without exception.

**6-11 APPEALS** (Section Deleted from Calvert County Zoning Ordinance 5/12/09)

## 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

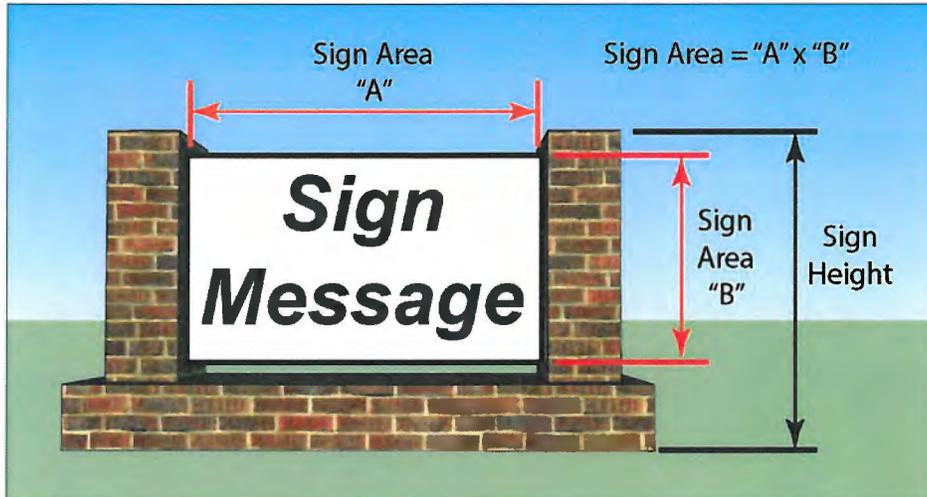


Figure 1: Example of the calculation of the sign area and height of a freestanding sign.

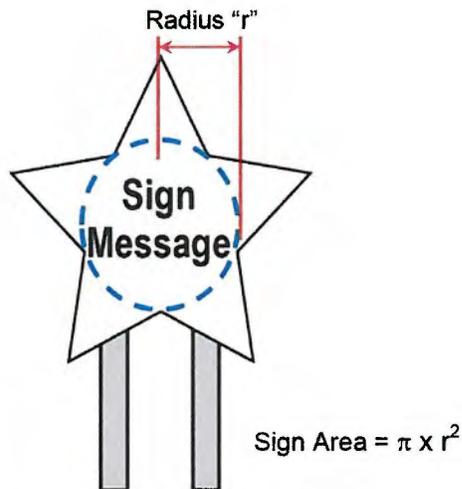


Figure 2: Example of sign area computation by the smallest circle encompassing the extreme limits of the sign message. For the purposes of calculations,  $\pi$  equals 3.14.

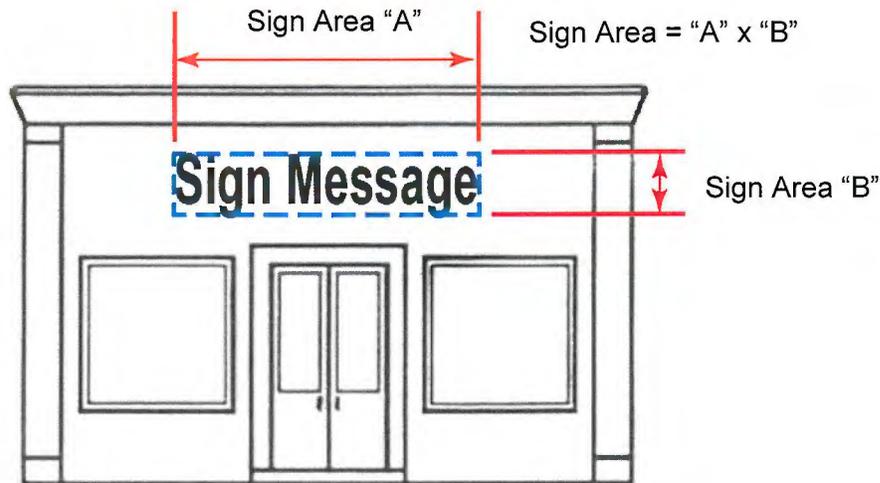


Figure 3: Example of sign area calculation for wall signs.

- 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]
<b>Permanent Freestanding Signs</b>										
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
<b>Permanent Building Signs</b>										
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
<b>Electronic Message Centers and Reader Boards [3]</b>										
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
<b>Portable Signs</b>										
A-Frame or T-Frame Signs	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
<b>Temporary Signs</b>										
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
<p>NOTES:</p> <p>[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.</p> <p>[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.</p> <p>[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.</p> <p>[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.</p>										

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.

**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.

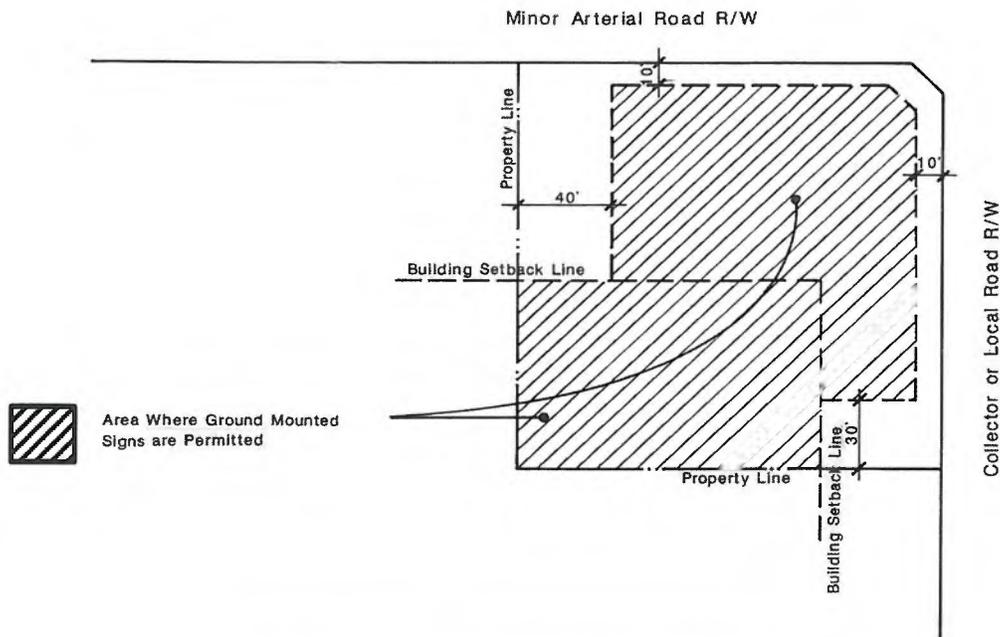


Figure 5: Allowable locations for freestanding signs.

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.

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>

**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.

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.

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**Exhibit B, Calvert County Zoning Ordinance, Article 12**

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.

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.

Dunkirk Master Plan  
CHAPTER II – THE PLAN

C. APPEARANCE GUIDELINES

1. Considerations

- a. The appearance of the Dunkirk Town Center, as the "gateway to Calvert County", will be instrumental in the public's impression of the entire county.
- c. Unity should be achieved through quality of design, Town Center planned landscaping, planned roads, and uniform signage and street lights, and the use of the same kinds of materials for all walkways and parking lots.

2. County Actions

d. Signs

Adopt sign standards addressing size, materials, type, location, and lighting to ensure that signs enhance, not detract, from the Town Center's appearance.

Signs add to the visual clutter and distract from landscaping, buildings, and natural beauty. In order to reduce the visual clutter along the highway and improve traffic safety, the number of freestanding signs should be limited. Local government signage should also be included in the effort to reduce visual clutter.

**DUNKIRK ZONING ORDINANCE**

## D. SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS

## 3. Signs

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

**HUNTINGTOWN ZONING ORDINANCE****ARTICLE 8: SIGN REGULATIONS**

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

**LUSBY TOWN CENTER ZONING ORDINANCE**

## 6-4 SIGNAGE

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

**OWINGS TOWN CENTER ZONING ORDINANCE**

## 6-4 SIGNAGE

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

**PRINCE FREDERICK ZONING ORDINANCE**

## V. Sign Design

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

**ST. LEONARD ZONING ORDINANCE**

## 6.4 Sign Requirements

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

**SOLOMONS TOWN CENTER ZONING ORDINANCE**

## 6-8 Signs

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