

Article 29. Signs

- 29-1 PURPOSE**
- 29-2 GENERAL PROVISIONS**
- 29-3 PROHIBITED SIGNS**
- 29-4 SIGNS PERMITTED WITHOUT A PERMIT**
- 29-5 PERMITTED SIGNS**
- 29-6 PERMANENT FREESTANDING SIGN REGULATIONS**
- 29-7 BUILDING SIGNS (PERMANENT)**
- 29-8 ELECTRONIC MESSAGE CENTERS (EMC) AND READER BOARDS**
- 29-9 MASTER SIGN PLAN**
- 29-10 PORTABLE SIGNS**
- 29-11 TEMPORARY SIGNS**

29-1 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.
- 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.

29-2 GENERAL PROVISIONS

- A.** Sign regulations apply to each zoning district within Calvert County, excluding any municipality that has its own zoning authority. Permanent signs in the Town Centers and the RC, EC, MC, and I-MU Districts are subject to architectural review according to applicable design guidelines.
- B.** Where federal or state laws or regulations or standards control certain signs or messages by virtue of location, funding for improvements, or regulation of a commercial or industrial enterprise, those laws, regulations, and standards control. Where minimum signage is required by federal or state law, that signage does not count toward the signage allowed by this Ordinance.

- C. Unless permitted by these regulations, no sign may be erected, affixed, or displayed without a sign permit.
- D. No sign may obstruct or interfere with ingress or egress from any door, window, or fire escape. No sign may 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 may have animation, moving parts, flashing lights, or changing colors unless specifically permitted for electronic message centers in this Article.
- F. No sign may be located where it will interfere with the sight distance on the right-of-way of any road, public or private, and cannot impair or impact minimum sight distance required by 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 is allowed to remain if it is unsafe or endangers the safety of a building, premises, person, or structure to which a sign is affixed. The Zoning Officer may order such signs, or structures to which a sign is affixed, to be made safe, repaired, or removed as necessary to address the condition subject of the order. The absence of an order by the Zoning Officer does not relieve any person of any obligation hereunder.
- H. Any sign proposed to be located or replaced in a designated Calvert County Historic District shall be approved by the Historic District Commission in accordance with the provisions of County Code Chapter 57, Sections 57-12 and 57-13.
- I. All external illumination shall be in accordance with Article 26.
- J. Messages and structures shall be constructed in accordance with all applicable codes and maintained in good repair and condition at all times. Maintenance includes 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 public or private right-of-way, waterway, or an adjoining property are exempt from the regulations of this Article.
- L. Inward-facing signs within a stadium, open-air theater, park, arena, or other similar use facility, which can only be viewed by persons within such stadium, open-air theater, parks, arena or other similar facility are exempt from the regulations of this Article.
- M. Signs will be removed when the circumstances leading to its erection/installation no longer apply.
- N. This Ordinance does not apply to any traffic control devices (TCD) 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.
- O. For standards for sign measurements and calculations, including sign height and sign area, see Section 2-3.J of this Ordinance.

29-3 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 cannot be parked to be used 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 signs for vehicles required by state or federal law.

- B. Billboards, with the exception of billboards established prior to February 27, 1992 (see Section 32-5.E of this Ordinance).
- 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 is 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.

29-4 SIGNS PERMITTED WITHOUT A PERMIT

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

- A. Any other signs installed by County governmental agencies on its own property.
- B. Flags.
- C. Signs or notices issued by or required by any court, officer, or other person or organization in performance of a public duty or required by law to be posted.
- D. Certain temporary signs, as established in this Article.
- E. Window signs are allowed if they comply with all other sign regulations of this Ordinance.
- F. 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.
- G. 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.

29-5 PERMITTED SIGNS

- A. Table 29-1: Summary of Permitted Sign Types 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 Article.
- C. Illumination of permanent freestanding or building signs:

1. Illuminated signs are permitted in all zoning districts, except in Calvert County Historic Districts and as otherwise provided herein, where internally illuminated signs are prohibited. Signs shall comply with Article 26, 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. Signs may be constructed of any durable materials with the exception that:

1. Permanent signs in the Solomons Town Center north of Lore Road shall be constructed of any durable, nonreflective, matte-finish materials.

2. 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 29-1: Summary of Permitted Sign Types

ADR = Architectural Design Review P-A = Permitted with ADR // P= Permitted without ADR // X = Not Permitted // S= Permitted with Special Exception // S-A = Permitted with Special Exception with ADR										
	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
Permanent Freestanding Signs										
Directional Sign	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Drive-Through Sign	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Other Freestanding Signs	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A
Subdivision Signs	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A
Permanent Building Sign										
Awning or Canopy	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A
Projecting Sign	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A
Wall Sign	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A
EMC & Reader Boards ²										

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	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
Electronic Message Centers (EMC)	X ⁵	X ⁵	X ⁵	X ⁵	X ⁵	P-A ³	X ⁵	X ⁵	X ⁵	P-A ³
Reader Boards	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A	P-A
Portable Signs										
A-Frame or T-Frame	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Temporary Signs⁴										
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

FOOTNOTES

¹ Non-residential 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. 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.

² This section of Table 29-1 identifies where electronic message centers and reader boards are permitted as a portion of a permitted freestanding or building sign. Such signs are not permitted in addition to any other permitted signs.

³ Building signs and freestanding signs with EMCs are allowed on sites having frontage along Route 2/4, Dares Beach Road West, or Route 231 west of Route 2/4 in Prince Frederick Town Center and properties zoned EC (Employment Center). For sites that do not have frontage along Route 2/4, Dares Beach Road West, or Route 231 west of Route 2/4, EMCs are also permitted for places of worship with reader boards in existence as of the adoption of this Ordinance in any district. The sign face of the reader board may be replaced in-kind with an EMC.

⁴ For additional limitations on types of temporary signs, see Section 29-11.

⁵ EMCs are only permitted for places of worship with reader boards in existence as of the adoption of this Ordinance. The sign face of the reader board may be replaced in-kind with an EMC.

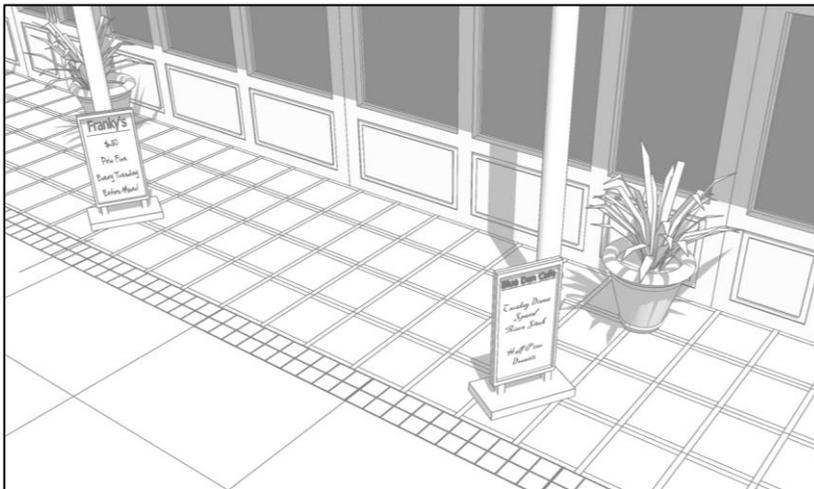
ILLUSTRATIONS OF SELECT PERMITTED SIGN TYPES

A-Frame Sign and T-Frame Sign

A-Frame Sign



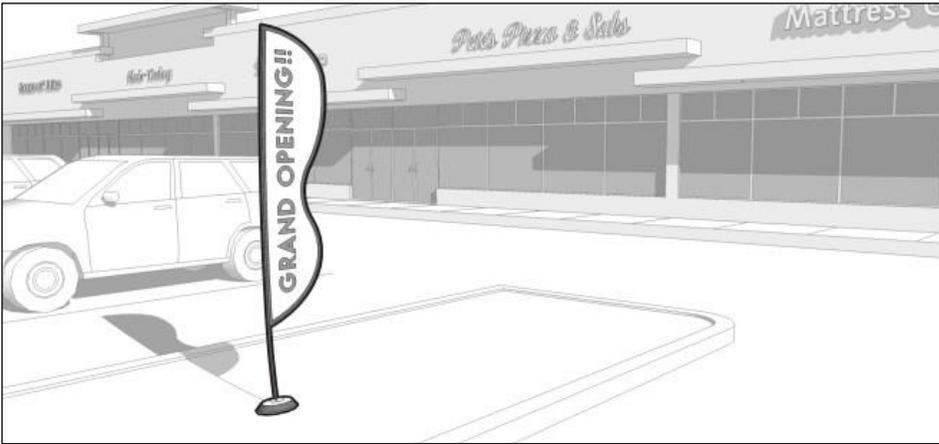
T-Frame Sign



Awning Sign



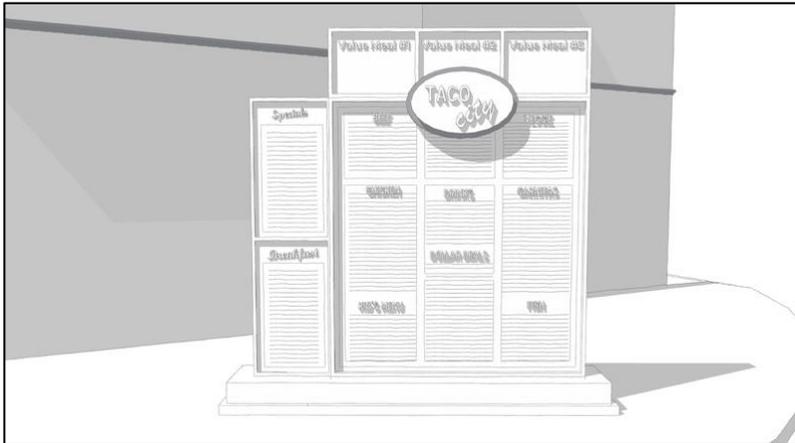
Blade Sign



Canopy Sign



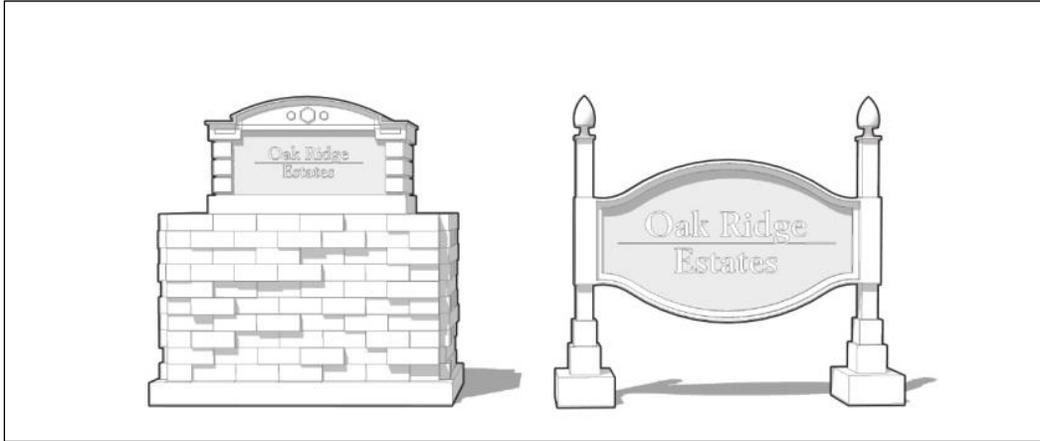
Drive-Through Sign



Electronic Message Center (EMC)



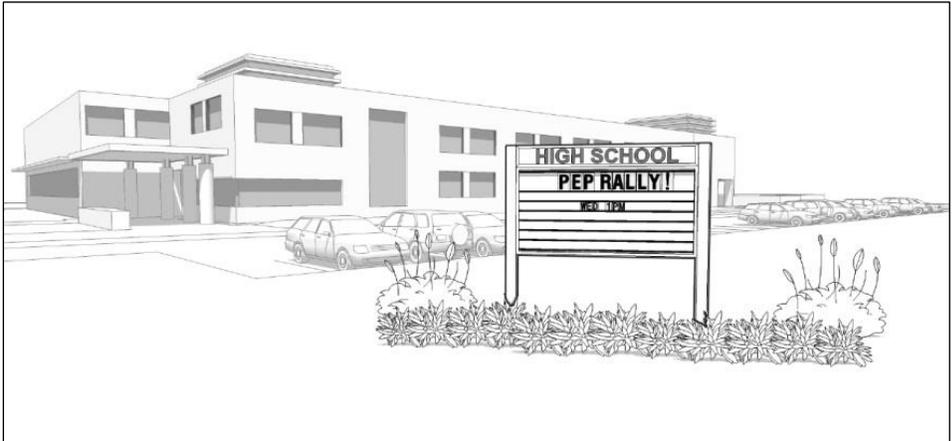
Freestanding Signs



Projecting Sign



Reader Board



Wall Signs



Window Sign



29-6 PERMANENT FREESTANDING SIGN REGULATIONS

- A. The sign shall be affixed to a permanent foundation or structure.
- B. An approved 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 is five square feet.
 - c. The maximum sign height is three feet.
 2. **Drive-Through Signs (Permanent)**
 - a. One drive-through sign is permitted for each drive-through lane with a maximum sign area of 36 square feet each.
 - b. The above maximum sign area does not apply to any drive-through signs 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-through signage from view of all public rights-of-way.
 - c. Drive-through signs may be internally illuminated and comply with the requirements of Article 26 except as restricted by Section 29-5.C above.
 3. **Other Freestanding Signs (Permanent)**

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

 - a. For the purposes of this Article, non-residential properties include lots and parcels of record with agricultural, business and personal service, commercial, recreational, industrial, public, or institutional uses.
 - b. One freestanding sign not to exceed four square feet in size and six feet in height may be approved on residential properties that contain an approved 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 non-residential, the sign area and sign height for freestanding signs permitted on any non-residential property cannot exceed that set forth at Table 29-2 and:

i. Except as otherwise provided herein, only one freestanding sign is permitted per lot or parcel of record existing as of January 31, 2018.

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 existing as of January 31, 2018, with greater than 500 feet of road frontage, additional freestanding signs may be approved for every additional 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 signs shall be shown on a site plan or plot plan.

(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 existing as of January 31, 2018 with a narrow road frontage of less than 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 existing as of January 31, 2018 without being subject to the multiple sign rules of Section 29-6.C.3.c.i above provided that:

(A) A special exception is granted by the Board of Appeals.

(B) The height and area of the freestanding sign is 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 existing as of January 31, 2018 where it is to be located, or will be incorporated into the sign structure allowed on the lot or parcel of record existing as of January 31, 2018 where it is to be located.

(D) If signage from the adjacent properties are to be located on one freestanding sign, then the sign area cannot exceed the combined maximum freestanding sign area of what would be allowed for the individual signs.

(E) The sign owner is 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, 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 is considered a violation of this Ordinance.

v. For non-residential properties having no permanent buildings, a maximum of 50 square feet of signage is permitted with a maximum height as established in Table 29-2.

vi. The setback requirement for freestanding signs is a minimum of ten feet from the right-of-way except in the following instances:

(A) Any freestanding sign located along an arterial road and within 40 feet of the side lot line or parcel line shall adhere to the front setback requirement for the district in which it is located.

(B) If located along a collector or local road and within 30 feet of the side lot line or parcel line, the sign shall conform to the front setback requirement for the district in which it is located

4. Subdivision Signs (Permanent)

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

- a.** Such signs shall be set back 15 feet from the right-of-way of any adjoining arterial or collector roads, five feet from the right-of-way of a subdivision road, and five feet from all other property lines.
- b.** The size of each sign face is limited to 36 square feet in area.
- c.** The size of the structure containing a sign face cannot exceed 200 square feet in area, excluding the sign face.
- d.** The height of the structure containing a sign face cannot exceed eight feet, and shall comply with the measurement calculations for sign height in Section 2-3.J of this Ordinance.
- e.** Maintenance of the sign is the responsibility of the developer or homeowners association of the subdivision, which obligation may be assigned.

Table 29-2: Freestanding Signs - Maximum Sign Area and Maximum Sign Height										
	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
Freestanding Sign General										
Max. Sign Area	50	20	20	20	20	See Footnote 1	20	50	20	50
Max. Sign Height	10	8	8	8	8	See Footnote 2	8	10	10 - except see footnote 2	18
Commercial Business on Residential Property										
Max. Sign Area	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Max. Sign Height	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Directional Signs										
Max. Sign Area	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Max. Sign Height	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Drive-Through Signs										
Max. Sign Area	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36
Max. Sign Height	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Subdivision Signs										
Max. Sign Area	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36
Max. Sign Height	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8

FOOTNOTES

¹ The maximum sign area in Prince Frederick Town Center is: 1) 90 square feet along MD 2/4; 2) 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 3) 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 and Fairground District.

² The maximum sign height for selected special areas in the Prince Frederick and Solomons Town Centers is: 1) 22 feet in Prince Frederick along MD 2/4, Entry District; 2) 14 feet in Prince Frederick along MD 2/4 and all other districts; and 3) 8 feet in the Solomons C1 Sub-area.

29-7 BUILDING SIGNS (PERMANENT)

A. General Provisions

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

1. Table 29-3: Permanent Building Sign - Sign Area Allowed 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 29-3 cannot be aggregated and placed on a single building wall (e.g., if each wall is 30 feet long, a maximum of 70 square feet of building sign area may be placed on each wall).
3. The building sign area allowed in Table 29-3 includes the total amount of all awning, canopy, projecting, or wall signs on each wall. Standards for each individual building sign type follow Table 29-3.
4. For buildings with multiple uses, the building sign shall be calculated using the building frontage, signs for individual store fronts shall be calculated using the individual store frontage only.
5. Buildings with separate uses on two or more stories are allowed 50% more building area signage than specified in Table 29-3.

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

B. Building Sign Types (Permanent)

1. Awning or Canopy Signs (Permanent)

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 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 feet above the sidewalk and 15 feet above any driveway or vehicular use area.
- c. Projecting signs cannot extend above the roofline of the building.
- d. All projecting signs shall be separated from other projecting signs by a minimum of five feet.

3. Wall Signs (Permanent)

- a. A wall sign may be painted directly on a building wall, mounted on the facade wall, or mounted on a raceway.

- b. A wall sign cannot protrude more than 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 cannot extend above the roofline of the building or past the sides of a facade 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.

29-8 ELECTRONIC MESSAGE CENTERS (EMC) AND READER BOARDS

- A. Where permitted, as indicated in Table 29-1 of this Ordinance, up to 50% of any permitted freestanding sign, canopy sign, wall sign or window sign may be composed of a reader board or an electronic message center (EMC).
- B. Except as otherwise provided herein, only one EMC is permitted on any single lot or parcel of record existing as of January 31, 2018. Parcels that have frontage on two or more roadways may have one EMC sign along each roadway.
- C. EMC are prohibited in Historic Districts.
- D. EMC signs, when allowed by Table 29-1, are subject to the following conditions:
 - 1. One EMC per side of the sign structure, but no more than two sides.
 - 2. The images and messages displayed shall be static, and the transition from one static display to another shall be instantaneous without any special effects.
 - 3. EMCs shall be designed and equipped to freeze the device in one position if a malfunction occurs. The displays shall also be equipped with a means to immediately discontinue the display if it malfunctions, and the sign owner shall immediately stop the dynamic display when notified by the Zoning Officer that it is not complying with the standards of this Ordinance.
 - 4. The EMC shall come equipped with an automatic dimming photocell, which automatically adjusts the display's brightness based on ambient light conditions.
 - 5. The brightness level cannot 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, as updated from time to time).
 - 6. EMCs cannot be located within 200 feet of the property line of a residential structure. This setback does not apply to residential structures on mixed use properties.
 - 7. 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 shall be shown in the permit application.

29-9 MASTER SIGN PLAN

The master sign plan allowance provides for additional permanent signage for large-scale non-residential, mixed-use, or residential developments and 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 25,000 square feet or more of gross floor area, or multiple buildings, on a single parcel, with cumulative total of 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 Department of Planning & Zoning for any non-residential development which meets the square foot threshold, 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 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.
 - 4.** Information regarding the illumination of any signs.
- E.** In order for the Planning Commission to approve a master sign plan, the Commission shall 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 that 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.
 - 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 Planning Commission may grant approval subject to conditions as it deems necessary to carry out the intent of this Article.
- 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.

29-10 PORTABLE SIGNS

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

- A.** Each sign board face cannot exceed 12 square feet with a maximum width of three feet and a maximum height of four feet.
- B.** The sign may only be displayed outside during hours of operation.
- C.** An applicant may apply and receive approval for not more than one portable sign for one premises.
- D.** If placed on a sidewalk, the sign shall be placed in such a manner as to maintain a minimum of four 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 shall be freestanding and cannot 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 shall 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 shall 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 shall 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.

29-11 TEMPORARY SIGNS

A. General Provisions

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

1. Temporary signs shall not be mounted, attached, affixed, installed, or otherwise secured in a manner that will make the sign a permanent sign.
2. No temporary sign shall be mounted, attached, affixed, installed, or otherwise secured so as to protrude above the roofline of a building.
3. Temporary signs cannot be illuminated.
4. With the exception of portable (A-Frame and T-Frame) signs, all temporary signs, regardless of the message, are prohibited in the public or private road right-of-way.
5. All temporary signs shall be secured in such a manner as to prevent swinging or other significantly noticeable movement resulting from the wind.
6. 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 Department of Planning & Zoning.
7. 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, sign posts, or landscaping.

B. Temporary Signs on Properties for Sale or Lease

1. Table 29-4: Temporary Signs on Properties for Sale or Lease establishes the maximum area and height of temporary signs allowed on properties that are for sale or lease.

Table 29-4: Temporary Signs on Properties for Sale or Lease		
Parcel Size	Maximum Sign Area	Maximum Height
Less than 2 acres	10sf	4'
2 acres to 10 acres	16sf	6'
Over 10 acres	32sf	6'

2. Only one sign is 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 29-11.D.4 below.

C. Temporary Signs on Residential Property

1. Residential lots or parcels of record existing as of January 31, 2018 may have a maximum of 20 square feet of temporary signage.

2. Such signs are 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 are regulated as a temporary yard sign. There are no maximum height standards but a banner sign cannot be mounted in a manner that extends above the roofline if attached to a building.
4. The maximum height of a temporary yard sign is six feet.
5. Such signs with a sign area of 16 square feet or more are only permitted for up to 180 days in a single calendar year and require a sign permit.

D. Temporary Signs on Non-residential Property

For the purposes of this section, non-residential properties include lots and parcels of record with agricultural, business and personal service, commercial, recreational, industrial, public, or institutional uses. Non-residential lots or parcels of record existing as of January 31, 2018 may have a maximum of two temporary signs from the following temporary sign types:

1. Air-Activated or Balloon Signs

- a. Only one balloon or air-activated sign is allowed on any parcel, at any given time.
- b. The maximum height is 15 feet.
- c. The sign shall be securely anchored to the ground.
- d. 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.
- e. The sign cannot obstruct sidewalks.

2. Banner Signs

- a. 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.
- b. The maximum sign area of any single banner sign shall be 20 square feet.
- c. A banner sign cannot be mounted in a manner that extends above the roofline if attached to a building.

3. Blade Signs

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

4. Yard Signs

- a. There may be a maximum of two faces to the sign, mounted back-to-back.
- b. The maximum height of a temporary yard sign is six feet.
- c. The maximum sign area of a yard sign is 20 square feet.