

ARTICLE 13

SIGNS

13.01 Purpose and Intent

It is the purpose of this Article to regulate and control the location, erection, number and maintenance of signs and matters relating thereto within the City of DeKalb in order to promote public safety, health and general welfare of the community. These regulations are specifically designed to protect the public's health, safety and welfare, and add and maintain property value by:

1. Providing for uniform regulation and orderly development of signs;
2. Prohibiting hazardous and dangerous signs;
3. Authorizing the use of street graphics (signs) which are compatible with their surroundings appropriate to the activity to which they pertain, expressive of the identity of the proprietors; legible in the circumstances in which they are seen and expressive of the image the City desires to project;
4. Encouraging sound sign display practices and mitigating the objectionable effects of competition in respect to the size and placement of signs;
5. Preserving the value of private property by assuring compatibility of signs with nearby land uses;
6. Promoting the convenience, enjoyment and free flow of traffic within the City by protecting the public's ability to identify uses and premises without confusion.

The provisions of this Article shall govern the erection, alteration and maintenance of all signs and outdoor display structures, together with their appurtenant and auxiliary devices with respect to location, size, content, construction, structure and safety.

13.02 Administration

13.02.01 Definitions

Unless otherwise expressly stated, the following words or terms shall, for the purposes of this Article, have the meanings indicated in this Section.

Abandoned Sign: A sign which is obsolete or no longer correctly directs or exhorts any person; advertises a bona fide business; lessor, tenant, owner, project or activity conducted or product available on the premises where such sign is displayed.

Attention-Getting Device: Any pennant, flag, valance, banner, propeller, spinner, streamer, search light or similar device or ornamentation designed for purpose of attracting attention, promotion or advertising.

Banner: A flexible material (e.g. cloth, paper, vinyl, etc.) which may or may not include grommets for mounting on which a sign is painted or printed. (ORD08-52)

Big Box Store: A large scale (minimum of roughly 50,000 square feet) self-service retail store selling food, drugs, household merchandise, clothing, and a variety of other retail goods. The store may, in some cases, include limited medical services, such as a dentist or optometrist office.

Building: A structure housing or sheltering any use or occupancy. For the purpose of this Article, an aggregation of two or more structures and/or businesses connected by a wall, fire wall, facade, or other structured element, except for a sidewalk, shall constitute a single building.

Billboard: An off-premises sign owned by a person, corporation or other entity that engages in the business of selling the advertising space on that sign.

Changeable Copy Sign (Manual.) A sign on which copy is changed manually in the field.

Changeable Copy Sign (Electronic:) A sign such as electronically or electrically controlled public service time, temperature and date sign, message center or reader board, where different copy changes are shown on the same lamp bank.

Commercial Activity Sign: See definition of "Sign".

Community Event Sign: A temporary sign, other than a commercial activity sign, posted to advertise an event sponsored by a Class I or Class III Use Group.

Construction Sign: A temporary sign used during the construction of new buildings or reconstruction of or additions to existing buildings, such as those identifying the project and denoting the owner, architect, engineer, contractor and/or financing institutions of the project.

Copy: The wording or graphics on a sign surface.

Erect: To build, construct, re-construct, attach, hang, re-hang, alter, place, affix, enlarge, install, move or relocate and includes the painting and repainting of existing sign structures.

Façade: The front or main part of a building facing a street; for purposes of this Section, the facade is defined as measured from the ground elevation to the head beam.

Fixed Awning, Fixed Canopy and Marquee: Any hood, canopy or awning made of cloth, metal or of permanent construction materials projecting from the wall of a building supported solely by the building to which it is attached.

Flashing Sign: Any directly or indirectly illuminated sign, either stationary or animated, which exhibits changing natural or artificial light or color effects by any means whatsoever. This definition does not include time and temperature signs.

Gasoline Station Price Sign: A changeable copy sign advertising a gasoline price.

Grommet: A reinforced eyelet, as in cloth or leather, through which a fastener may be passed which may or may not include a small metal or plastic ring used to reinforce such an eyelet. (ORD 08-52)

Ground Sign: Any sign supported by uprights or braces placed in or upon the ground, and not attached to any building. This definition includes signs which are also referred to as "monument signs".

Illuminated Sign: Any sign which has characters, letters, figures, designs or outline illuminated by electric lights, luminous tubes or any other means of illumination.

Lot: A single piece or parcel of property, or multiple tracts of properties, established by a legal instrument and serving a principal use or uses. For the purposes of this Article, multiple parcels or tracts serving a single building (as defined above) shall be considered one lot.

Moving or Rotating Sign: Any sign or other advertising structure which physically moves or rotates in any manner whatsoever.

Off-Premises Signs: A sign that draws attention to or communicates information about a business, service, commodity, accommodation, attraction or other enterprise or activity that exists or is

conducted, sold, offered, maintained or provided at a location other than the premises on which the sign is located.

The term "off-premises" (when referencing the placement of a Temporary Sign) means public or private property other than the property where a Class I, Class II or Class III business is physically located.

Portable Sign: Any sign not permanently affixed to a building structure or the ground; a sign designed to be moved from place to place. Portable signs primarily include, but are not limited to, signs attached to wood or metal frames designed to be self-supporting and moveable; paper, cardboard, or canvas signs wrapped around supporting poles and signs commonly trailer mounted and designed to be moved from place to place.

Projecting Sign: Any sign which projects from the building wall at any angle other than a plane primarily parallel to the building wall; excluding signs attached to the vertical face of marquees or canopies. Most projecting signs are oriented in a plane perpendicular to the building wall.

Roof Sign: Any sign erected, constructed or maintained on the roof of any building. A roof sign includes any wall sign which extends above the roof line.

Sidewalk Sign: A temporary sign placed on the sidewalk in front of a business for the purpose of advertising a daily special such as menu items, promotions, or sales.

Sight Distance Triangle: See Article 7, Section 7.10, Sight Distance Triangle.

Sign: Any display, device, notice, figure, painting, drawing, message, placard, poster, bulletin board, symbol, letter, word, numeral, emblem, trademark, flag, banner, pennant or other thing which is designated, intended or used to advertise, inform, direct attention to and of which any part of the existing or intended display, advertising or informative contents.

The term "sign" shall include, among other structures, and whether illuminated or non-illuminated, every ground sign, wall sign, projecting sign or under canopy sign. However, the term "sign" shall not include any display of official, court, or public office notices, nor shall it include the flag, emblem or insignia of a nation, governmental unit, school or religious group.

Structural Trim: Any molding, batten, capping, nailing strip, lattice and platform which is attached to a sign structure.

Temporary Sign: Temporary signs shall include any sign, banner, pennant, valance, or advertising display constructed of wood, metal, cloth, canvas, light fabric, cardboard, wallboard, or other light material, with or without frames, where either by reason of construction or purpose the sign is intended to be displayed for a short period of time only. (ORD 08-52)

Temporary Sign Use Group Classification:

Class I - Government Agency: A governmental taxing body including but not limited to, the City of DeKalb, DeKalb Park District, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb School District, Township County, State or Federal offices.

Class II - Commercial/Industrial: An occupation, employment or service that involves retail or wholesale marketing of goods or services at a scale greater than a home industry.

Class III - (See a, b, c below)

a) *Religious/Benevolent/Philanthropic:* A person, firm, organization or corporation engaged in the giving of food, goods, financial assistance or grants while offering

services or other socially useful programs on a benevolent basis.

- b) *Community Service Provider:* A community based service, activity or program undertaken to advance the welfare of the community.
- c) *Theaters/Arts:* A type of activity conducted exclusively for the community or its members/guests, with a service or facility for the purpose of providing amusement, patronage, recreation or entertainment (definition does not include movie theaters).

Time and/or Temperature Sign: Any sign indicating time and temperature with intermittent change.

Under Canopy Sign: Any sign suspended beneath a canopy or marquee.

Wall Sign: Any sign mounted, attached to or painted on the exterior wall of a building or structure, in a plane parallel to that of the supporting wall.

Window Sign: Any sign advertising sales or specials attached to, or located within, the glass surface of any window (glazing) and visible from public right-of-way in such a manner as to be viewed or intended for view primarily from the exterior of a building or structure.

13.02.02 Calculation of Area

The following regulations shall govern the determination of sign area:

1. The surface area of a sign shall be computed by including the entire area within a single, continuous, rectilinear perimeter of not more than eight (8) straight lines, or a circle or an ellipse, enclosing the extreme limits of the writing, representation, emblem or other display, together with any material, framing or color forming an integral part of the background of the display or used to differentiate the sign from the backdrop or structure against which it is placed, but not including any supporting framework or bracing that is clearly incidental to the display itself.
2. With respect to two-sided, multi-sided, or three-dimensional signs, the sign surface area shall be computed by including the total of all sides designed to attract attention or communicate information that can be seen at any one time by a person from one vantage point. Without otherwise limiting the generality of the foregoing:
 - a. The sign surface area of a double-faced, back-to-back sign shall be calculated by using the area of only one side of such sign, so long as the distance between the backs of such signs does not exceed three feet.
 - b. The sign surface area of a double-faced sign constructed in the form of a "V" shall be calculated by using the area of only one side of such sign (the larger side if there is a size difference), so long as the angle of the "V" does not exceed 30 degrees and at no point does the distance between the backs of such sides exceed five feet.

13.02.03 Maintenance

1. Signs, together with all supports, braces, guys and anchors, shall be kept in safe condition and, when not galvanized or constructed of approved corrosion resistive, noncombustible materials, shall be painted when necessary to prevent corrosion or to correct peeling.
2. When any sign becomes insecure, in danger of falling or otherwise unsafe, or if any sign shall become unlawfully installed, erected or maintained in violation of any of the Ordinances of the City, the owner thereof, or the person or firm maintaining the same, shall, upon written notice of the Director of Community Development, forthwith in the case of immediate danger and in any case, within not more than ten (10) days, make such sign conform to the Ordinances of the City or shall remove it. If within ten (10) days the order is not complied with, the Director of Community Development may remove such sign at the expense of the owner or lessee thereof.

13.02.04 Miscellaneous

1. Sign Illumination: Internal and external illumination of signs shall concentrate the illumination upon the area of the sign so as to prevent glare upon the street or adjacent property.
 - a. Only white light is permitted.
 - b. No red, yellow, green or other colored light shall be used at any location in such a manner as to confuse or interfere with vehicular traffic.
 - c. Beacon lights and illumination by flame are prohibited.
 - d. The light which is cast upon any illuminated sign shall be shaded, shielded or directed so as to avoid the creation or continuation of any nuisance or traffic hazard.

- e. No exposed reflective type bulb or incandescent lamp which exceeds fifteen (15) watts shall be used with any sign in such a manner as to expose the face of the bulb, light or lamp to any public street or to adjacent property.
 - f. No sign shall be either directly or indirectly illuminated in such a manner as to adversely affect the use and enjoyment of nearby buildings containing dwelling units.
2. Miscellaneous Advertising Objects Prohibited: No person shall place on, or suspend from, any building or structure, any goods, wares, merchandise or other advertising object or structure other than a sign as defined, regulated and prescribed by this Article.
 3. Obstruction to Doors, Windows or Fire Escapes: No sign shall be erected, relocated or maintained so as to prevent free ingress to, or egress from any door, window or fire escape. No sign shall be attached to a stand pipe or fire escape.
 4. Signs Not to Constitute Traffic Hazard: No sign shall be erected at the intersection of any streets in such a manner as to obstruct free and clear vision; or at any location where, by reason of the position, shape or color, it may interfere with, obstruct the view of, or be confused with any authorized traffic sign, signal or device; or which makes use of the words "stop", "go", "look", "danger", "one-way", "yield" or any other word, phrase, symbol or character in such a manner as to interfere with, mislead or confuse traffic. Additionally, sign placement shall be in accordance with the requirements contained in Article 7, Section 7.10, "Site Distance Triangle."

13.02.05 Permits

1. Unless accepted by this Article, no sign shall be erected, constructed, posted, painted, altered or relocated until a Sign Permit has been issued by the Director of Community Development or his/her designee. All illuminated signs shall require a separate electrical permit and inspection in accordance with Chapter 25, "Electrical Regulations", of the DeKalb Municipal Code.
2. Structural materials, wind load and safety requirements shall be in accordance with Chapter 24, "Building Code", of the DeKalb Municipal Code.
3. Application for a sign permit shall be made upon forms provided by the Director of Community Development and shall contain or have attached thereto the following information:
 - a. Name, address and telephone number of the applicant.
 - b. Location of building, structure or lot to which, or upon which, the sign or other advertising structure is to be attached or erected.
 - c. Position the sign or advertising structure in relation to adjacent property and/or buildings or structures.
 - d. Two blueprints or ink drawings to scale of the plans and specifications and method of construction, attachment to the building or other structure or placement in the ground.
 - e. Name of person or company intending to erect the sign.
 - f. Such other information as the Director of Community Development shall require showing full compliance with this Article and any of the Ordinances of the City.
4. Permit Issued if Application in Order: It shall be the duty of the Director of Community Development, upon the filing of an application for a sign permit, to examine such plans, specifications and other data, and the premises upon which it is proposed to erect the sign. If the proposed sign complies with the requirements of this Article and if the appropriate permit fee has been paid, a sign permit shall be issued.
5. Revocation of Permit: Any permit issued shall become invalid if the authorized work is suspended or abandoned for a period of six (6) months after the time of commencing the

work, or of obtaining the permit. Upon the termination or revocation of the permit, or upon discovery of a sign being improperly installed, the permittee shall remove the sign and supports without cost or expense of any kind to the City, provided that in the event of the failure, neglect or refusal on the part of the permittee to do so, the City may proceed to remove the same and charge the expenses to the permittee.

13.02.06 Variations Prohibited

No variance from and/or waiver of any provision(s) of this Article shall be permitted, except as a condition of a Special Use Permit or a Planned Development Ordinance approved by the City Council. No provision of this Article is subject to a variation request pursuant to Article 18 of this Ordinance.

13.02.07 Enforcement

Enforcement of the provisions of this Article 13 shall be as provided in Article 16.04 of the Unified Development Ordinance, with the following additional provisions:

1. Illegal signs placed in the public right-of-way or any roadway easement are herein declared to be an immediate threat to the safety of the motoring public and are subject to confiscation by the roadway jurisdiction having authority, without prior notice.
2. Paragraph 1 shall not apply to permitted signs in the "CBD" Central Business District.

13.02.08 Nonconforming Signs

Signs that were legally conforming at the time of adoption of this Amendatory Ordinance of 2003, or which were legally nonconforming at the time of adoption of this Ordinance, which are now or remain legal nonconforming signs, are subject to the provisions of Article 19 of the Unified Development Ordinance, except for the following provisions:

1. Sign panels within existing sign structures may be changed, repaired, replaced or maintained; provided that a permit is obtained in accordance with Article 13.02.05, the size of the panel is not increased, and the structure is not altered.
2. No nonconforming sign may be changed to another nonconforming sign, nor structurally altered to prolong the life of the sign.
3. No nonconforming sign may be moved, removed and replaced, or altered, other than provided in paragraph 1, above, unless brought into full conformity with this Amendatory Ordinance of 2003.

13.03 Prohibited Signs

Any sign not specifically permitted by this Article is hereby prohibited, including but not necessarily limited to the following:

1. Moving or rotating signs.
2. Any sign erected on, or extending into, a public easement or right-of-way, except as permitted in the Central Business District (see Subsection 13.07.07 of this Article). (ORD 08-52)

3. Any sign attached to any public utility pole, tree, fire hydrant, curb, sidewalk or other surface located on, or extending into, public property not specifically excluded from the regulations of this Article.
4. Any billboard or other off-premises sign, except as authorized elsewhere in this Article, advertising an article or product not manufactured, assembled, processed, repaired or sold or a service not rendered upon the premises upon which the sign is located.
5. Signs placed or affixed to vehicles and/or trailers which are parked so as to be visible from a public right-of-way where the apparent purpose is to advertise a product or direct people to a business activity located on the same or nearby property. However, this is not in any way intended to prohibit signs placed on, or affixed to, vehicles and trailers, such as permanent lettering on motor vehicles where the sign is incidental to the primary use of the vehicle or trailer.
6. Roof signs.
7. Portable signs, banner signs and temporary signs except as otherwise permitted by this Article. (ORD 08-52)
8. Projecting signs, except as otherwise permitted in the "CBD" Central Business District (see Subsection 13.07.07 of this Article).
9. Flashing signs including electronic Changeable Copy Signs; however, gasoline station price signs or digital time and temperature signs involving only that information and no further or additional information of an advertising nature shall be allowed.
10. Project identification or real estate signs promoting the sale of lots prior to the approval of a preliminary plat.
11. Signs which contain human or humanized characters, caricatures, or cartoons, except for the following:
 - a. Said characters are only permitted on wall signs, awnings or projecting signs, where said signs are otherwise allowed;
 - b. Said characters may not exceed 12 square feet in area, regardless of the size of the sign, and must otherwise comply with all other pertinent sign regulations.
12. Signs which contain statements, works or pictures of an obscene, indecent, prurient or immoral character.
13. Abandoned signs which advertise a business no longer conducted or a product no longer offered for sale on the premises where such sign is located; providing a sign indicating a move of such business is permitted for a period of time not exceeding 90 days from the date of discontinuance of the business at the location.
14. Multiple signs designed to circumvent the spirit and intent of this Article.
15. Attention getting devices, including by not limited to searchlights, propellers, pennants, streamers, ribbons, strings of light bulbs, spinners, balloons, and similar devices, except "Special Events Signs" as provided for in Article 13.05, subparagraph 6.
16. Sound devices attached to any sign, or any sign that emits any sound for any purpose.

17. Permitted signs (excluding temporary signs or subdivision identification signs) on fences or walls that are not part of a building structure.
18. Any sign not specifically authorized elsewhere herein.

13.04 Permitted Signs – No Permit Required

Except as regulated in this Section, the provisions of this Article shall not apply to:

1. Bulletin Board: Bulletin boards not over twelve (12) square feet in area when attached to buildings housing public, charitable or religious institutions when the same are located on the premises of said institutions.
2. Informational Signs: Signs directing and guiding automotive or pedestrian traffic or parking on private property, but bearing no advertising matter, including such signs identifying restrooms, public telephones, walkways and similar features or facilities, and not exceeding twelve (12) square feet in area.
3. No Trespassing Signs: Signs regulating the use of a property, such as no hunting, no fishing, etc., of no more than two (2) square feet in area.
4. Parking Lot Entrance and Exit Signs: Signs marking and designating entrances and exits to/from parking lots, provided they conform to the regulations of Article 12, "Off-Street Parking and Loading Requirements". However, where said signs are illuminated, they shall conform to Section 13.02.05 of this Article.
5. Public Utility Company Signs: Signs indicating danger or which serve as an aid to public safety or which show the location of underground utilities.
6. Real Estate Signs: Temporary signs not exceeding one hundred (100) square feet in area in commercial or industrial districts, and not exceeding twelve (12) square feet in area in any other zoning district, which advertise the sale, rental or lease of the premises upon which said signs are located only. These signs shall be removed within five (5) days following the sale or lease of the property being advertised for sale or lease. There shall be a limit of one (1) sign of this type per street frontage.
7. Residential Garage or Patio Sale Sign: Temporary signs including, but not limited to, garage sale, patio sale, yard sale, porch sale, basement sale or any similarity thereto, that do not exceed twelve (12) square feet and located upon premises where the sale is taking place. These signs shall be removed within twenty-four (24) hours following the completion of the sale.
8. Tablets in Building Walls: Signs or tablets denoting names of buildings, names of officers and officials and date of erection when cut into any masonry surface or when constructed of bronze or other incombustible materials.
9. Traffic, Government Signs and Emergency Signs: Traffic or other municipal or government signs, legal notices, railroad crossing signs, danger and other temporary emergency or non-advertising signs as may be approved or required by Federal law, State Statute, or the authority having jurisdiction.
10. Neon signs, as well as all other approved signs, are permitted on the interior of a building and in display windows provided they do not cover more than 25% of a display window surface area.

11. Sidewalk Sign: A Temporary Sign in the Central Business District not exceeding four (4) feet in height and eight (8) square feet in area per side. No more than one (1) sign per business is allowed and said sign shall be located within the boundaries of the business frontage not interfering with pedestrian foot traffic. Sidewalk signs shall not be permanently installed or affixed to any object, surface or other means of support and shall be removed at the close of the business day.

13.05 Permitted Signs – All Zoning Districts

The following signs are permitted in all zoning districts, subject to obtaining a sign permit as required by Article 13.02.05.

- 13.05.01 Church, School or Public Building Identification/Information Sign: One (1) sign shall be allowed on the same premises provided that said sign does not exceed fifty (50) square feet in area nor is greater than fifteen (15) feet in height.

- 13.05.02 Contractor Signs: Signs identifying mechanics, painters, architects, engineers and similar artisans and workmen which are located on the site of construction shall be permitted provided that they do not exceed twelve (12) square feet in area and do not include any promotional information for the development and that upon completion of the project, are removed within one (1) week.

- 13.05.03 Subdivision or Development Identification Signs: For a subdivision for which a Preliminary Plat or Preliminary Development Plan has been approved by the City Council of the City of DeKalb, up to two (2) permanent subdivision or development sign (one on each corner of the entry street) not exceeding fifty (50) square feet in size each, inclusive of any logo, shall be allowed for any planned development, subdivision, multiple-family (apartment) or condominium development with ten (10) or more lots or dwelling units, or for any commercial or industrial subdivision, commercial/industrial planned development or office/research/light industrial parks with five (5) or more lots. Where the subdivision or development has access on two (2) or more streets, or has more than one (1) entrance on one (1) street, identification signs shall be allowed at each entrance.

Subdivision or development identification signage shall be mounted on a decorative masonry wall and said wall shall comply with Article 7, "Supplementary District Regulations.

- 13.05.04 Political Signs: The following regulations shall apply for all political signs (04-95):

- a. The maximum size of any one sign is sixteen (16) square feet in area. More than one sign is allowed per street frontage on any lot, however, a maximum of sixteen (16) square feet in sign area is permitted for each one hundred feet (100') feet of frontage, or fraction thereof, for any single lot, property, or business.
- b. No sign shall be located in the Sight Vision Triangle as set forth in Article 7, or in the public right of way. Signs in the public right of way may be subject to confiscation pursuant to Article 13.02.07.

- 13.05.05 Project Construction Signs:

- a. A development under construction shall be permitted one (1) temporary promotional sign not exceeding one-hundred (100) square feet in area nor

exceeding eight (8) feet in height. When a development has frontage on two (2) or more existing and adjacent streets, a project construction sign shall be permitted along each frontage.

- b. A development under construction shall be permitted any number of directional signs not exceeding ten (10) square feet in area nor exceeding three and one-half (3-1/2) feet in height. Such signs may be placed off-site, provided they are not attached to any public utility pole, tree, fire hydrant, curb, sidewalk or other surface located on, or extending into, public property or right of way. In addition, the following regulations apply:
 - 1. A temporary sign permit is required with a minimum fee of \$100, or as may be amended by the City Council from time to time, which shall not require a public hearing for an amendment to this Ordinance;
 - 2. Signs shall not be placed before noon on any Friday, and must be removed by noon on the following Monday;
 - 3. No sign for a development shall be located within two hundred feet (200') from any other sign for the same development.
- c. All project construction signs shall be removed within five (5) years from the date of issuance of the sign permit, or when seventy-five percent (75%) of the lots or gross floor area have been sold or leased, whichever is first.

13.05.06. Temporary Signs: Temporary signs and attention-getting devices that are otherwise prohibited by this Article may be permitted for purposes of promoting special commercial activities, grand openings, sales, special events, etc., subject to the following provisions (exception see Subsection 13.07.07, Central Business District).

- a. A fully completed temporary sign permit application and site plan shall be submitted to and approved by the Director of Public Works or his designee a minimum of seven days prior to the date of displaying a temporary sign.
- b. A temporary sign permit must be obtained from the Director of Public Works or his/her designee.
- c. Temporary sign permits shall be limited to a fourteen (14) consecutive day maximum exposure period in accordance with the following specifications:

Class	Maximum Sign Size	Number of Annual Permits
I	40 Square Feet	Six
II	40 Square Feet	Six
III	40 Square Feet	Six
Big Box Stores	1 square foot per 1 lineal foot of frontage maximum of 100 Sq. Ft.	Six

The Director of Public Works or his designee may extend the temporary sign permit time period provided the applicant does not have a history of violating the requirements of this temporary sign ordinance.

- d. Class I governmental use groups whose property does not fall under the City of DeKalb's jurisdiction are exempt from the on-premises provisions of this temporary sign ordinance provided the temporary signage is solely within or upon the jurisdictions property.

13.05.07 Temporary Community Event Signs:

- a. A written request must be submitted to the Department of Public Works or his/her designee seven (7) days prior to the date of the event.
- b. A temporary sign permit must be obtained from the Department of Public Works.
- c. A temporary community event sign permit may be issued by the Department of Public Works provided that the permit shall not exceed an exposure period of more than fourteen (14) consecutive days. The issuance of a temporary community event permit shall not exceed six times per calendar year per sponsor. The Public Works Director or his designee may extend the temporary community event permit time period provided the applicant does not have a history of violating the requirements of this temporary sign ordinance.

13.05.08. Off-Premises Regulations for Temporary Signs:

- a. Displaying Class II temporary signs advertising or promoting commercial marketing initiatives upon residential zoned properties is strictly prohibited.
- b. Displaying temporary signs off-premises is prohibited for Class II use groups.
- c. Displaying temporary signage off-premises for Class I and Class III use groups is permitted in accordance with the following regulations:

Class I use groups electing to display temporary signs upon government property or off-premises upon private commercially-owned property within the jurisdiction of the City of DeKalb shall comply with the temporary sign ordinance regulations as prescribed herein. Class I Use groups whose properties are within the City of DeKalb's jurisdiction may display temporary signs upon the site where the governmental unit's business offices are located or where the activity being promoted takes place.

Class II use groups may display approved temporary signs only on the property where the business is located. A Class II use group sponsoring a Class II commercial event within or upon a property owned and/or operated by a Class I or Class III use group shall comply with Class II Use group requirements for temporary signs.

Class III use groups may display temporary signs off premises in accordance with the limitations and locations as authorized in the approved permit.

- A. Class I or Class III community event sponsor shall submit written permission from the property owner of the proposed off-premises site where said temporary sign is to be located authorizing the placement of a temporary sign to advertise a community event.

- B. A Class I or Class III community event sponsor shall ensure removal of any and all temporary sign(s) are removed within seven (7) calendar days of the conclusion of their community event.
- C. When approved by the Department of Public Works, an off-premises property owner may not post more than two temporary community event signs concurrently; each temporary sign shall not exceed more than forty (40) square feet; the host site shall have the required frontage necessary to accommodate the signage proposed.
- D. Where off-premises sites have two frontages, the off-premises temporary community event sign regulations shall apply for each frontage.
- E. An off-premises temporary sign shall be placed no more than fourteen (14) days in advance of the start date of the community event.
- F. Temporary signs posted off-premises may be temporarily affixed to existing fencing at the frontage of the site provided the signage does not cover more than 50% of each frontage fence, does not exceed the height of the fence and does not interfere with the vision triangle or create a hazard thereby jeopardizing the public's safety.

13.05.09 Temporary Sign Permit Fees - In accordance with the limitations as prescribed Section 13.05, Subsection 6, Paragraph c., the permit application fees for Temporary Sign Permits are as follows:

- Class I – On Premises, No Fee, each event
- Class I – Off premises, \$10.00 each event
- Class II - \$10.00 each event
- Class III - \$10.00 each event
- Big Box Store - \$10.00 each event

13.05.10 Removal of Unapproved, Existing Temporary Signs

On or within ninety (90) calendar days of the effective date of this Ordinance, August 9, 2010, any and all existing Temporary Signs being displayed without a valid permit issued by the Department of Public Works, may be ordered to be removed by the Public Works Director or his designee until such time as a permit has been issued. Failure to comply with this section shall result in a penalty as prescribed in Section 13.08, Violation – Penalty.

13.06 Permitted Signs –Residential Districts

1. In addition to the signs allowed in 13.05, the following signs are permitted in the Residential and Planned Residential Districts:
 - a. Dormitory, Fraternity and Sorority Signs: One (1) non-illuminated wall sign not exceeding six (6) square feet in area or one (1) non-illuminated ground sign not exceeding six (6) square feet in area nor six (6) feet in height shall be permitted for each dormitory, fraternity or sorority. Said signs shall be constructed of masonry or on incombustible material.
 - b. Home Occupation Signs: One (1) permanent sign may be permitted provided that said sign is non-illuminated, is attached to the dwelling unit housing the home occupation and is not greater than one (1) square foot in area.
 - c. Property Rental Agent Signs: One (1) non-illuminated wall sign not exceeding six (6) square feet in area shall be permitted for a property rental agency office. Said signs shall be constructed of masonry or on incombustible material.
2. Location and Height Regulations
 - a. All signs shall be placed not closer than ten (10) feet from any side or rear lot lines nor closer than eighteen (18) inches from any front property line.
 - b. All signs shall not exceed fifteen (15) feet in height or the height requirement otherwise specified for a certain sign, whichever is less.

13.07 Permitted Signs – Commercial and Industrial Districts

The regulations governing signs in the Commercial, Planned Development - Commercial, Industrial, Planned Development - Industrial and Office/Research/Light Industrial Districts shall be as follows, unless a sign plan is approved as part of a Planned Development – Commercial or Planned Development – Industrial zoning district:

13.07.01 Ground Signs

1. Each lot is permitted no more than one (1) ground sign located along the street frontage that serves as the primary access for the lot. Where there is two (2) or more street frontages, one (1) additional ground sign may be located along the street frontage that serves as the secondary access for the lot, if that street frontage is a continuous length in excess of two hundred (200) lineal feet.
2. No ground sign shall exceed fifty (50) square feet in neither area for a single user, nor more than seventy-five (75) square feet for two tenants or users, except as otherwise provided below, in Subsection 5.13.07, paragraph 4c, Article 5, "Planned Development Regulations".

Any combination of tenants, users or businesses that share a common entrance, common restrooms, or a common cash register or payment facility shall count as a single user or tenant, regardless of relationships through franchises, business or corporate names, or similar distinguishing factors. Examples include a snack bar inside a department store or a convenience store located within a gas station, both of which shall be considered a single user in all circumstances.

Ground signs serving buildings with three or more tenants, commercial subdivisions with three or more lots, where only one lot has street frontage, or similar situations, shall be allowed a ground sign of not greater than one hundred fifty (150) square feet, provided that:

- a. No individual tenant, user or building occupant shall have a panel or portion of the sign exceeding fifty (50) square feet in area;
 - b. The sign shall be designed to provide adequate advertising opportunity to all lots;
 - c. In the case of a single owner, the owner may assign smaller or greater percentage of allowable sign area to each tenant, subject to subparagraph a, above. In the case of multiple owners, the percentage of allowable sign area granted to the various owners and/or tenants shall be by written agreement, executed by the owners and recorded as a covenant running with the land. A copy of the executed and recorded agreement shall be provided with any sign permit application for such sign.
3. The bottom edge of the display portion of a ground sign shall either be erected at a height of less than four (4) feet, or greater than eight (8) feet above the ground elevation.
4. No ground sign shall exceed ten (10) feet in height measured from the ground elevation at the base of the sign, except in the following circumstances:
- a. A ground sign serving multi-tenant situations per Paragraph 2, above, may be allowed up to thirty (30) feet in height, provided it does not exceed the height of the primary structure by five (5) feet, and the required front yard setback for the sign shall be increased by one (1) additional foot for each one (1) foot by which the height of such sign exceeds ten (10) feet;
 - b. In the following areas, ground signs for single users will be allowed up to one-hundred (100) square feet in area, or up to one-hundred-fifty square feet (150) to multiple users, and may be up to thirty-five (35) feet in height. The maximum height may be increased to a height of not more than sixty (60) feet, without being limited to the height of the primary structure on the property, after receiving a special use permit from the City Council:

All property located south of Fairview Drive, north of Gurler Road, east of the line lying parallel to and 1150 feet west of the center line of South Annie Glidden Road, and west of a line parallel to and 1320 feet east of the center line of Peace Road.

5. Other Regulations.
- a. No portion of a ground sign shall be closer than eighteen (18) inches from any property line(s).
 - b. No ground sign shall be erected within eight (8) feet of any line conductors, service drops or power lines.
 - c. Ground signs shall be set back a distance of one (1) lineal foot from any property line if the topmost edge of the sign exceeds ten (10) feet in height from the ground; the said ground sign shall be setback an additional one (1) lineal foot from the property line for every additional one (1) foot the height of the topmost edge of the sign exceeds ten (10) feet.
 - d. Ground signs supported by a pole or poles or base shall have the support pole(s) or base screened from view from all visible directions. Support pole or poles shall be

enclosed in skirting or a solid base, with a minimum width not less than half of the width of the proposed sign and with a maximum width not greater than the 10% more than the width of the proposed sign. The skirting or base shall be constructed of materials consistent with the appearance of the principal structure(s) located on the same lot as the sign, or constructed of materials consistent with the intent of this provision.

- e. The ground immediately adjacent to said skirting or base shall be landscaped sufficiently so as to screen from unobstructed view the lower half of the skirting or base, measured as 50% of the height between the ground and the bottom edge of the display portion of the proposed sign. The landscaping shall include species of vegetation appropriate to and consistent with the climate and appearance of the City of DeKalb.
- f. It shall be the sole responsibility of the property owner(s) to maintain the neat appearance and functionality of any ground signs, including the skirting, base, and/or landscaping associated with said ground sign.

13.07.02 Business Signs - Wall Signs

- 1. Wall signs shall be substantially flush with the building wall, shall not extend beyond the wall of the building more than eighteen inches (18") and shall not project beyond any property line.
- 2. The size of the wall signs facing alleys or other public areas (but not streets or roads) shall be computed the same as a regular wall sign identifying the business or occupant located within the building.
- 3. The total allowable area of wall signs shall not exceed one (1) square foot per lineal foot of building frontage upon which the sign is affixed. The maximum area of any one wall sign shall not exceed three-hundred (300) square feet. Area allowed on one side of a building shall neither be transferred to another side of the building, or to any other building.
- 4. In buildings containing multiple tenants, the owner of such building may assign smaller or greater percentage of allowable sign area to each tenant; however, the total sign area shall not exceed the maximum allowable under paragraph 3 of this Section.
- 5. Wall signs shall not extend above the roof line.
- 6. Other Regulations
 - a. Wall signs may be placed on the vertical face of a mansard roof, whether real or artificial.
 - b. Each business in the "NC" Neighborhood Commercial District shall be limited to one wall sign facing a roadway. No wall sign shall exceed fifty (50) square feet in area.
 - c. Wall signs facing the property line of an adjacent property in a residential district shall not be permitted if the adjoining property line is closer than fifty (50) feet to the wall in question.
 - d. Wall signs cannot be made of vinyl or other flexible material and must be affixed to a solid non-flexible base or substrate. (ORD 08-52)
 - e. Banner signs are not considered a wall sign and are only temporarily permissible. (ORD 08-52)

13.07.03 Under Canopy Signs

1. One (1) sign located under a canopy, fixed awning or marquee shall be permitted for each business in a building. There shall be a minimum clearance of eight (8) feet between the ground and any such sign.
2. The area of an under canopy sign shall not exceed one (1) square foot.

13.07.04 Changeable Copy Signs

1. Each lot, building or property, whichever is most restrictive, may have one manual changeable copy sign, which may be either a wall sign or part of a ground sign.
2. If the changeable copy sign is part of the ground sign, the changeable copy sign shall not exceed eighteen (18) square feet in area.
3. Changeable Copy Signs shall conform to the regulations for ground signs or wall signs, except as otherwise provided for in this subsection.
4. No advertising shall be placed upon a changeable copy sign other than the owner or references to the business conducted within the premises to which the sign is attached, community events and the time and/or temperature.

13.07.05 Gasoline Station or Drive-Through Canopy Signs

1. Gasoline Station and Drive-Through Canopy Signs

A gasoline station or drive-through facility with a permitted canopy may have no more than one (1) sign, attached on each of any two (2) sides of the vertical face of the canopy. The area of each sign shall not exceed ten (10) square feet. When attached to the vertical face of the canopy, each sign shall be a flat sign and shall not project above or below the vertical face of the canopy by more than one (1) foot and shall not infringe upon the vertical clearance requirements of Article 7, Section 7.04 of this Ordinance. If illuminated, such signs shall only be illuminated by non-intermittent light sources.

2. Gas Station Price Signs

- a. Gasoline price signs accessory to gasoline stations will be permitted to have one digital or manual changeable copy sign to show current gasoline prices at all times;
- b. The total Electronic Changeable Copy sign(s) area shall not exceed a total of twelve (12) square feet per sign face. Lighting intensity shall be restricted to 500 nits;
- c. Gasoline pricing information shall be a fixed, non-intermittent, static message with no wipes, fades, flashes or similar effects.

13.07.06 Window Signs

1. Window signs are allowed in addition to other permitted signs and are not included as part of the area calculation of wall signs.
2. The maximum area of shop window signs shall not exceed forty (40) percent of the area of the window in which it is placed or is visible.

13.07.07 Area of Special Control - "CBD" Central Business Zoning District

1. Projecting Signs: In the "CBD" Central Business Zoning District, projecting signs are permitted, subject to the provisions below.
 - a. Projecting signs shall neither extend more than four (4) feet from the vertical plane of the façade, or closer than two (2) feet to the back of the curb of the street on which the said façade fronts;
 - b. Projecting signs shall not exceed twelve (12) square feet in area;
 - c. The lowest portion of a projecting sign shall not be closer than eight (8) feet to the sidewalk and the highest portion of the sign, including the supporting structure, shall not be taller than the building wall;
 - d. The sign shall advertise only the name and/or nature of the business and not any particular product sold;
 - e. Remote lighting by a neutral color is permitted. Such remote illumination must be placed so that it does not interfere with similar lighting of the next adjacent establishment or vehicular movement. Remote lighting shall not project from the facade of the building more than eleven (11) inches. Interior lighting is not allowed;
 - f. The area of all projecting signs counts toward the total area of signage allowed per paragraph 2, below.
2. In the Central Business District, the size of all signs shall not exceed an area of two (2) square feet per one (1) lineal foot of building frontage. This includes all ground, projecting, canopy, awning, marquee, and wall signs.
3. Awnings, Canopies and Marquee Signs
 - a. The construction materials and manner of construction of all awnings, canopies and marquees shall be subject to Chapter 6 of the City of DeKalb Municipal Code.
 - b. No awning, canopy or marquee shall be constructed or erected so that the lowest portion thereof is less than eight (8) feet above the sidewalk or parkway.
 - c. No awning, canopy or marquee shall be constructed or erected to extend neither greater than five (5) feet from the vertical plane of the building façade, nor closer than two (2) feet to the back of the curb of the street on which the building fronts.
 - d. All awnings, canopies and marquees shall be supported solely by the building to which they are attached and no columns or posts shall be permitted as supports.
 - e. No advertising shall be placed on any awning or canopy except that the name of the owner and business, industry or pursuit conducted within the premises may be painted

on or otherwise permanently placed in letters not exceeding twenty (20) inches in height on the front and side portions thereof.

- f. Any letters, numbers or characters painted or otherwise permanently placed on a canopy, awning or marquee shall count toward the maximum area of wall signage permitted per Paragraph 2, above. The area of signage on an awning, canopy or marquee shall be measured and considered as contributing to a property's maximum permitted wall signage area in accordance with the provisions of Article 13.05.02 Determination of Sign Area.
4. Special event signs may be placed on the sidewalk portion of the public right-of-way if no practicable alternative exists to place the sign on private property. Such signs may be approved by the City Council, after receiving a report and recommendation from the Director of Community Development, or his/her designee, in accordance with the provisions found in Article 13.05, subparagraph 6, except as follows:
- a. Such signs shall be limited to a thirty (30) day maximum exposure period for not more than two (2) times during a calendar year. The City Council may extend this maximum exposure period when necessary.
 - b. Such signs shall neither exceed forty-eight (48) inches in height nor thirty (30) inches in width.
 - c. The placement of such signs shall be limited to a location deemed appropriate by the City Council.
 - d. Any sign to be located in the Lincoln Highway (Illinois Route 38) or Fourth Street (Illinois Route 23) right-of-way shall first be approved by the State of Illinois Department of Transportation prior to City Council approval. (Ord. 93-42)

13.08 Violation – Penalty

Any person, firm, corporation or other entity who violates any of the provisions of this Article shall be fined not less than \$250.00 nor more than \$500.00 for each offense. Each day a violation continues shall be deemed a separate and distinct offense.