

**APPLICATION FOR SIGN PERMIT**

Permit No. \_\_\_\_\_

Permit Fee: \$25.00

**VILLAGE OF LODI**

P.O. Box 95

Lodi, Ohio 44254

(330) 948-2040 Fax: (330) 948-3017

Address of Sign Placement: \_\_\_\_\_

Sign Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contractor Permit #: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Person Applying: \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Property Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Application for:  New Sign  Additional Sign  Re-hang Original  
 Change/Copy  Sign Design  Color

Will the Sign be lighted \_\_\_\_\_? If yes give name, address and phone number of electrical contractor: \_\_\_\_\_

Give brief description of the sign and its purpose: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE FOLLOWING MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH APPLICATION:**

- A. A drawing of the sign, showing in detail, the dimensions, height above grade, wording, and the placement on the building.
- B. Pole and Ground signs will require, in addition to above, a Plot map of the property showing its placement being a minimum of ten feet from the street right-of-way.
- C. The \$25.00 per sign fee.

NOTE - Signs erected before approval is granted will be assessed \$50.00 fine.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Applicant)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Property Owner)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

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(To be completed by the Village of Lodi)

Zoning District \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Sign \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_

The application for the sign described herein, which includes the required drawing and plot maps is hereby: \_\_\_\_\_ Accepted \_\_\_\_\_ Rejected

This application was rejected for the following: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lodi Zoning Inspector

Office Use Only: Permit 101.000.41629

\_\_\_\_\_  
(DATE)

CHAPTER 1276  
Signs

1276.01 Purpose	1276.06 Permitted Signs
1276.02 Definitions	1276.07 Sign Permits
1276.03 General Provisions	1276.08 Application Procedure
1276.04 Signs Not Requiring Permits	1276.09 Inspection and Maintenance
1276.05 Prohibited Signs	1276.10 Fees
	1276.11 Nonconforming Signs
	1276.12 No Discrimination Against Non-Commercial Signs Or Speech
	1276.13 Severability

CROSS REFERENCES

Division of municipal corporations into zones - see Ohio R.C. 713.06  
Restrictions on buildings, structures, lots and setbacks - see Ohio R.C. 713.07 et seq.  
Restrictions on height of buildings and structures - see Ohio R.C. 713.08  
Restrictions on bulk and location of buildings and structures, percentage of lot occupancy and setback building lines - see Ohio R.C. 713.09  
Basis of districting or zoning; classification of buildings and structures - see Ohio R.C. 713.10

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**1276.01 PURPOSE**

The regulations of this chapter are intended to protect and further the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Village of Lodi; to maintain and improve the appearance of the community; to conserve community character; to prevent traffic hazards; to provide safe conditions for pedestrians; and to promote economic development by regulating the construction, alteration, repair, maintenance, size, location and number of signs. It is further determined that to allow signs of excessive number and size in the Village would unduly distract pedestrians and motorists, create traffic hazards and reduce the effectiveness of signs needed to direct the public. The regulations of this chapter are intended to provide reasonable identification for businesses and other uses within the community; but are not intended to serve as a means of advertising.

**1276.02 DEFINITIONS**

For purposes of this chapter, certain terms are defined for use herein. Unless specifically defined below, words or phrases used in this Chapter shall be interpreted so as to give them the meaning they have in common usage and to give these regulations the most reasonable application.

The word “building” shall include the word “structure” the word “used” shall include the words “arranged, designed, constructed, altered, converted or intended to be used.”

- a) Animated Sign. A sign employing actual motion, the illusion of motion or light and/or color changes achieved through mechanical, electrical or electronic means to include one of the following:
  1. Environmentally Activated: Animated signs or devices motivated by wind, thermal changes or other natural environmental input. Includes spinners, pinwheels, pennant strings and/or other devices or displays that respond to naturally occurring external motivation.
  2. Mechanically Activated: Animated signs characterized by repetitive motion and/or rotation activated by mechanical system powered by electric motors or other mechanically induced means.
  3. Electrically Activated: Animated signs producing the illusion of movement by means of electronic, electrical, or electromechanical input and/or illumination capable of simulating movement through employment of the characteristics of one or both of the classifications noted below:
    - a) Flashing: Animated signs or animated portions of signs whose illumination is characterized by a repetitive cycle in which the period of illumination is either the same as or less than the period of non-illumination. For the purpose of this ordinance, flashing will not be defined as occurring if the cyclical period between on-off phases of illumination exceeds (4) seconds.
    - b) Patterned Illusionary Movement: Animated signs or animated portions of signs whose illumination is characterized by simulated movement through alternate or sequential activation of various illuminated elements for the purpose of producing repetitive light patterns designed to appear in some form of constant motion.
- b) Awning. An architectural projection from and supported by the exterior wall of a building and composed of a covering of rigid or non-rigid materials and or fabric on a supporting framework that may be either permanent or retractable.
- c) Awning Sign. Displayed on or attached flat against the surface or surfaces of an awning. See also: Wall Sign. An awning that contains a “sign” section or copy area shall comply with the applicable sign area requirements for parallel signs. Only the sign or copy are displayed on an awning shall be used to determine the permitted sign area. The entire awning shall not be included in a Sign Area calculation.
- d) Banner. A flexible substrate on which a copy or graphics may be displayed.
- e) Banner Sign. A sign utilizing a banner as its display surface.
- f) Bench Sign. A sign applied or affixed to the seat or back of a bench.
- g) Billboard. See: Off-Premise Sign and Commercial Outdoor Advertising Sign.
- h) Candle Power or Candela. The basic unit of measurement of light. (SI - Metric Units)

- i) Canopy (Attached). A multi-sided overhead structure of architectural projection supported by attachment to a building on one or more sides and either cantilevered from such building or also supported by columns at additional points. The surface and/or soffit of an attached canopy may be illuminated by means of internal or external sources of light.
- j) Canopy (Freestanding). A multi-sided overhead structure supported by columns, but not enclosed by walls. The surface and soffit of a freestanding canopy may be by means of internal or external sources of light.
- k) Changeable Sign. A sign with the capability of content change by means of manual or remote input.
- l) Commercial Outdoor Advertising Sign. A permanent off-premise sign erected, maintained or used in the outdoor environment for the purpose of providing copy area for commercial or noncommercial messages.
- m) Copy. The graphic content or message of a sign.
- n) Copy Area of Sign. The actual area of the sign copy as applied to any background. Copy area on any individual background may be expressed as the sum of the geographically computed shape or shapes encompassing separate individual letters, words, or graphic elements on the background.
- o) Directional Sign. Any sign that is designed and erected for the purpose of providing direction and/or orientation for pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
- p) Display Time. The amount of time a message and/or graphic is displayed on an Electronic Message Sign.
- q) Electric Sign. Any sign activated or illuminated by means of electrical energy.
- r) Exterior Sign. Any sign placed outside a building.
- s) Flashing Sign. Animated signs or animated portions of signs whose illumination is characterized by a repetitive cycle in which the period of illumination is either the same as or less than the period of non-illumination.
- t) Font. A set of letters, numerals, symbols, or shapes conforming to a specific set of design criteria.
- u) Foot Candle. An English unit of measurement of the amount of light falling upon a surface (illuminance). One foot candle is equal to one lumen per square foot. Can be measured by means of an illuminance meter.
- v) Frame. A complete static display screen on an Electronic Message Sign.
- w) Freestanding Sign. A sign principally supported by one or more columns, poles, or braces placed in or upon the ground. May also be referenced as a Ground or Monument sign.
- x) Frontage (Building). The length of an exterior building wall or structure of a single premise along either a public way or other properties that it faces.
- y) Frontage (Property). The length of a property line of any single premise along either a public way or other properties on which it borders.
- z) Ground Sign. See: Freestanding Sign.
- aa) Illuminated Sign. A sign characterized by the artificial light, either projecting through its surface(s) or reflecting off its surface(s).
- bb) Marquee/Marquee Sign. See: Canopy
- cc) Non-Conforming Sign. A sign that was legally installed by permit in conformance with all municipal sign regulations and ordinances in effect at the time of its installation, but which may no longer comply with subsequently enacted laws and ordinances having jurisdiction relative to the sign.

- dd) Off-Premise Sign. See: Outdoor Advertising Sign.
- ee) On-Premise Sign. A sign erected, maintained or used in the outdoor environment for the purpose of the display of messages appurtenant to the use of, products sold on, or lease of, the property on which it is displayed.
- ff) Outdoor Advertising Sign. A permanent sign erected, maintained or used in the outdoor environment for the purpose of the display of commercial or non-commercial messages not appurtenant to the use of, products sold on, or the sale or lease of, the property on which it is displayed. May also be referenced as an Off-Premise Sign, Billboard, or Commercial Outdoor Advertising Sign.
- gg) Pole Cover or Pylon Cover. An enclosure designed to conceal poles and/or other structural supports of a sign.
- hh) Pole Sign. See: Freestanding Sign.
- ii) Portable Sign. Any cord-connected sign not permanently attached to the ground and can be removed without the use of tools.
- jj) Projecting Sign. A sign other than a Wall Sign that is attached to or projects more than Eighteen (18) inches from a building face or wall or from a structure whose primary purpose is other than the support of a sign.
- kk) Revolving Sign. A sign that has the capability to revolve Three Hundred and Sixty degrees (360°) about an axis.
- ll) Roof Line. The uppermost line of the roof of a building or, in the case of an extended faced or parapet, the uppermost point of said facade or parapet.
- mm) Scroll. A mode of message transition on an Electronic Message Sign in which the message appears to move vertically across the display surface.
- nn) Sign. Any device visible from a public place whose essential purpose and design is to convey either commercial or noncommercial message by means of graphic presentation of alphabetic or pictorial symbols or representations. Noncommercial flags or any other flags displayed from flagpoles or staffs will not be considered to be signs.
- oo) Sign Area. The area of the smallest geometric figure, or the sum of the combinations of regular geometric figures, which comprises the sign face. The area of any double-sided or V shaped sign shall be the area of the largest single face only. The area of a sphere shall be computed as the area of a circle. The area of a multi-sided sign shall be computed as Fifty percent (50%) of the sum of the area of all faces of the sign.
- pp) Sign Copy. The physical sign message including any words, letters, numbers, pictures, and symbols.
- qq) Sign Face. The surface upon, against or through which the sign copy is displayed or illustrated, not including structural supports, architectural features of the building or sign structure, nonstructural thematic or decorative trim, or any areas that are separated from the background surface upon which the sign copy is displayed by a distinct delineation, such as a reveal or border.
- rr) Temporary Sign Area. A sign intended to display either commercial or noncommercial messages of a transitory or temporary nature. Portable signs or any sign not permanently embedded in the ground, or not permanently affixed to a building or sign structure that is permanently embedded in the ground, are considered temporary signs.
- ss) Wall Sign. Any sign attached to or erected against the wall of a building or structure and having the exposed face of the sign in a plane parallel to the plane of such wall.
- tt) Window Sign. A sign affixed to the surface of a window with its message intended to be

visible to the exterior environment.

### **1276.03 GENERAL PROVISIONS**

The following regulations are applicable to all signs in all zoning districts.

a) Signs, Structure and Placement.

1. Signs shall be constructed to withstand all wind and vibration forces which can normally be expected to occur.
2. Signs shall not be placed in, upon or over any public right-of-way, alley, or other place, except as may be otherwise permitted by the Village Authority or Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT).
3. A light pole, utility pole, tree, fence or other supporting member shall not be used for the placement of any sign, except as may be specifically permitted by this chapter.
4. A sign shall not be erected in any location where it may, by reason of its position, shape, color, lighting or other characteristics, interfere with, obstruct the view of, or be confused with any authorized traffic sign, signal, or device or constitute a nuisance *per se*.
5. No sign shall be placed in a manner as to obstruct any fire escape, any required exit, door or window or any ventilation system or other operational necessities of a building.
6. A sign attached to a building shall not be placed in any location that would cause significant architectural features of a building to be covered, hidden or obscured.
7. A wall sign shall not extend past the edge of the wall to which it is affixed and no wall sign shall extend above the roof line of a building.
8. A sign and its supporting mechanism shall not extend beyond any lot lines of the property on which it is located.
9. One changeable message display may be permitted on either a permitted freestanding ground sign or wall sign on a parcel, within the maximum size limits permitted for the sign; provided the message is static and is not changed more than once in any Twelve (12) hour period.
10. Any vehicle which, in the opinion of the zoning administrator, has the intended function of serving as a sign shall conform to the provisions of Section 1276.05 (f)
11. All signs in all districts must be behind the road right-of-way.

12. Any signs placed on Village owned property need to be approved by council before placement.

13. All banners require a sign permit. Applications may be made to council to extend banner permits for up to ninety (90) days. Banners may be a maximum of twenty four (24) square feet and must be displayed on the property of the entity or person using the banner. Banners may be displayed for a maximum of thirty (30) days and must be removed no later than twenty four (24) hours following the event. An entity or person can have a maximum of three (3) banners per year for a total period of ninety (90) days or less. No banners can be placed in the Village's right of way or placed so as to create a traffic hazard at curves or intersections. Should any banner be placed in a manner that is unsafe or creating a hazard, the Zoning Inspector shall order, in writing, the banner to be moved to a safer location or removed entirely if not complied within the period of correction stated by the Zoning Inspector.

b) Measurement of sign area.

No sign shall exceed the maximum sign area allowed for the district in which it is located. The sign area is to be expressed in square feet, computed to the nearest tenth of a square foot, and shall be calculated as follows:

1. Area. The area of a sign shall be measured as the area within a single, continuous perimeter composed of any straight line geometric figure which encloses the extreme limits of writing, representation, emblem, logo or any other figure of similar character, together with any frame or other material or color forming an integral part of the display or used to differentiate the sign from the background against which it is placed, excluding only the structure necessary to support the sign.
2. Double-Faced Sign. The area of the ground or projecting sign that has two or more faces shall be measured by including the area of all sign faces, except if two faces are placed back-to-back and are no more than two feet apart at any point, the area of one face shall be counted toward the maximum size requirement. If the two back-to-back faces are of unequal size, the larger of the two sign faces shall be counted as one face.
3. Wall Sign. For a sign consisting of individual letters and/or a logo affixed directly onto a building, the area of the sign shall be computed by measuring the area of the envelope required to enclose the lettering logo.
4. Height. The height of a sign shall be measured as the vertical distance from the highest point of the sign to the finished grade of the ground immediately beneath the sign, excluding any artificially constructed earthen berms.
5. Multi-Tenant Buildings. For building with multiple tenants, the sign area for wall, projecting, canopy or awning signs shall be determined by taking that portion of the wall of the building applicable to each tenant and computing the sign requirements for that portion of the total wall.

c) Illumination and Movement.

1. Illuminated Signs are permitted in every zoning district except for Residential Districts. Signs visible from a street or highway shall not contain the words “stop”, “go” or “slow” or use arrows which resemble highway traffic or directional signs.
2. Animated Signs are permitted in every zoning district except for Residential Districts.
3. Neon signs shall only be permitted within the C-2 District, but not within Fifty (50) feet of a Residential District unless the sign is not visible from adjacent property within the Residential District.

d) Content. No provision or definition in this chapter shall be interpreted as requiring, prohibiting, or otherwise regulating, or making regulatory distinctions based on, the sign content, as defined herein, of any sign except where clearly indicated otherwise for purposes of public safety or administrative efficiency.

**1276.04 SIGNS NOT REQUIRING PERMITS**

The following signs shall not require a permit, as otherwise required by Section 1276.07, but shall be subject to all other applicable general requirements of this chapter.

Type of Sign	Requirements
Address Sign	Numeral height no greater than Six (6) inches for a residence and Eighteen (18) for businesses and other non-residential uses.
Barber Pole	The bottom of the barber pole must be at least Eight (8) feet from the ground or sidewalk and the top must be lower than the height of the building. The barber pole must not extend more than Twelve (12) inches from the exterior face of the wall to which it is attached.
Device Sign	Permanent signs on an object or device such as a gas pump, ice container, or vending machine must not exceed Three (3) square feet in area and only One (1) sign per object or device.
Directional Sign	The sign shall not exceed Two (2) square feet in area and Three (3) feet in height; it must be set back at least Five (5) feet from the street right-of-way line and the edge of any driveway
Flag	Flags or insignia of any nation, state, local government, community organization or



	education institution.
Interior Sign	Any sign which is located completely within an enclosed building and which is not visible from outside the building or which is primarily directed at persons within the premises where the sign is located.
Religious Symbols	Religious symbols incorporated into the architecture or placed on the property of a religious or worship structure owned and operated by a religious organization.
Sign on Vehicle	Signs on a bus, truck, trailer, or other vehicle while operated and used for transport in the normal course of business, provided that the primary purpose of the vehicle displaying the sign is not to advertise a business on the premises where the vehicle is parked.
Traffic Control Sign	Traffic or other municipal signs, legal notices, danger signs, and such temporary emergency or non-advertising signs, or private traffic control signs which conform to the requirements of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices and may be approved by the Village.
Window Sign	The total area of all signs attached to a window must not cover more than Twenty-Five Percent (25%) of the window area.
Wall Sign	Any sign attached to the exterior wall of a building or structure must not exceed Two (2) square feet in area.
Temporary Free Standing Sign	The size of each sign cannot exceed Four (4) square feet in area and a maximum height of Four (4) feet in a Residential District and single family and two family dwellings in a Multi-Use District. In any other zoning district, the sign cannot exceed Sixteen (16) square feet and a maximum height of Eight (8) feet. The sign must either be removed within Five (5) days after the purpose for the sign has been fulfilled or within Six (6) months after the sign has been posted, whichever date is earlier. The sign must not be affixed to other signs, utility poles, fire hydrants, or trees.
Permanent Free Standing Sign	The size of each sign cannot exceed Two (2) square feet in area.

## 1276.05 PROHIBITED SIGNS

Signs not specifically allowed under this chapter, unless exempt per Section 1276.04, are prohibited in the Village of Lodi. Further, the following sign types are expressly prohibited:

- a) Balloons, balloon signs, strings of light bulbs, pennants, streamers, banners or flags, except banners or flags specifically permitted by the Village Authority related to permitted events.
- b) Roof Signs
- c) Pole Signs
- d) Off premises signs, with the exception of the multi-business signs at the entrance to business districts or business directional signs when businesses are located off major thoroughfares and community special event signs as permitted by the Village Authority.
- e) Billboard Signs
- f) Portable trailer signs.
- g) The use of vehicles, trailers or similar movable structures as signs is prohibited when the vehicle, trailer or similar movable structure is parked on a public or private property within Fifty (50) feet of any property line abutting a public street, except for those:
  - 1. Lawfully parked overnight or during non-business hours in a place not visible from a public street or designated truck parking or loading area;
  - 2. Making deliveries, sales calls, or other customary practices relating to doing business;
  - 3. Making trips to transport persons or property;
  - 4. In conjunction with active construction operations on the site; or
  - 5. Passenger vehicles, pick-up trucks, and vans, containing signs that do not exceed Sixteen (16) square feet in area painted on or permanently affixed to the doors or integral body panels and such vehicles are of a size fully fit within a standard parking space.

## 1276.06 PERMITTED SIGNS

The following signs are permitted in combination, unless noted otherwise, in each district, subject to the requirements described in Table 1276.06, issuance of a sign permit and all other applicable regulations. In any B, I, or MU, a maximum of two types of signs and three total signs per principal building shall be permitted on any lot, regardless of the number of tenants.

<b>Table 1276.06 Permitted Signs by District</b>	
<b>Residential Districts</b>	
Gateway Sign or Multi-Tenant Building Sign	
<b>Number</b>	One (1) per street frontage
<b>Size</b>	Twenty-Four (24) square feet
<b>Location</b>	Minimum Fifteen (15) feet from all lot lines
<b>Height</b>	Six (6) feet maximum
<b>Development Sign-Promoting a Newly-Developed Subdivision of at Least Ten (10) Dwelling Units.</b>	
<b>Number</b>	One (1) non-illuminated
<b>Size</b>	Maximum Forty-Eight (48) square feet
<b>Location</b>	Minimum Ten (10) feet from all property lines
<b>Height</b>	Eight (8) feet maximum
<b>Other</b>	May be in place for up to One (1) year from date the subdivision record plan is recorded or longer with permission of the Village Authority.
<b>Business District and Multi-Use Districts</b>	
Canopy, Projecting or Awning (C-1, C2, and MU)	
<b>Number</b>	One (1) per property
<b>Size</b>	Eight (8) square feet of advertising area
<b>Location</b>	Projecting out from building wall not more than Three (3) feet.
<b>Height</b>	A clearance of at least Eight (8) feet is required between the sidewalk and the bottom of the sign.
Commercial Districts (C-1 + C2)	
<b>Number</b>	One (1) per property. No other freestanding sign shall be permitted on the property of individual businesses.
<b>Size</b>	Forty-Eight (48) square feet
<b>Location</b>	Minimum Ten (10) feet from front lot line, minimum Twenty-Five (25) feet from all other lot lines
<b>Height</b>	Six (6) feet maximum
Ground Sign (C-2 and MU)	

**Table 1276.06 Permitted Signs by District**

<b>Number</b>	One (1) per street frontage
<b>Business District cont...</b>	
Ground Sign (C-2 and MU) cont...	
<b>Size</b>	Thirty-Two (32) square feet
<b>Type</b>	Ground projecting or wall signs
<b>Location</b>	Minimum Ten (10) feet from front lot line, minimum Ten (10) feet from all other lot lines.
<b>Height</b>	Six (6) feet maximum
Wall Sign (C-1, C-2, and MU)	
<b>Number</b>	One (1) per street frontage, but only one per wall
<b>Size</b>	Five percent (5%) of wall area to which it is attached, not exceeding Twenty-Five (25) square feet total aggregate for wall signs.
<b>Location</b>	Mounted flat against the wall.
Window Sign	
<b>Size</b>	Permanent window signs are limited to Fifty percent (50%) coverage of the window that they are posted within.
<b>Light Industrial and General Industrial Districts</b>	
Business Signs (I-1 and I-2)	
<b>Number</b>	One (1) per property. No other freestanding sign shall be permitted on the property for individual businesses.
<b>Size</b>	Forty-Eight (48) square feet
<b>Location</b>	Minimum Ten (10) feet from front lot line, minimum Twenty-Five (25) feet from all other lot lines.
<b>Height</b>	Six (6) feet maximum
Gateway Signs	
<b>Number</b>	One (1) per street frontage
<b>Size</b>	Twenty-Four (24) square feet
<b>Location</b>	Minimum Fifteen (15) feet from all lot lines.
<b>Height</b>	Six (6) feet maximum
Ground Signs	
<b>Number</b>	One (1) per street frontage
<b>Size</b>	Thirty-Two (32) square feet
<b>Location</b>	Minimum Ten (10) feet from all lot lines, minimum Ten (10) feet from all other lot lines.
<b>Height</b>	Six (6) feet maximum
Wall Sign	
<b>Number</b>	One (1) per street frontage, but only One (1)

<b>Table 1276.06 Permitted Signs by District</b>	
	per wall.
<b>Size</b>	Five percent (5%) of wall area to which it is attached, not exceeding Sixty-Four (64) square feet total aggregate for wall signs.
<b>Location</b>	Mounted flat against the wall.
<b>All Districts</b>	
Banners	
<b>Number</b>	Maximum of three (3) banners per year per person or entity
<b>Size</b>	Twenty-Four (24) square feet
<b>Location</b>	On or off the property on which the event will occur; set back at least Fifteen (15) feet from any side or rear property line and set back from the front property line the same distance as required for a ground sign in the district in which the sign is located.
<b>Height</b>	Four (4) feet maximum
<b>Other</b>	The sign shall be installed no more than Fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled event and must be removed within Twenty Four (24) hours of the event's conclusion.
Construction Signs	
<b>Number</b>	One (1) per street frontage, but only on each street.
<b>Size</b>	Thirty-Two (32) square feet maximum
<b>Location</b>	Minimum Six (6) feet from all street right-of-way lines and at least Ten (10) feet from any other lot line.
<b>Height</b>	Ten (10) feet maximum
<b>Other</b>	The sign shall be posted from the time the building permit is issued and removed within Ten (10) days after certificate of occupancy is issued for the building to which the sign refers or when at least Fifty percent (50%) of the lots within a development have been sold.
Temporary Construction Sign	
<b>Number</b>	One (1) per street frontage, but only one each street.
<b>Size</b>	Twelve (12) square feet
<b>Location</b>	Minimum Five (5) feet from front lot line
<b>Height</b>	Four (4) feet maximum
<b>Other</b>	Temporary signs may be displayed for a maximum of Fourteen (14) consecutive days for any single permit period and a maximum of Three (3) permit period may be permitted

**Table 1276.06 Permitted Signs by District**

	in a calendar year. The sign shall be removed by the permit holder upon expiration of the permit period.
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**1276.07 SIGN PERMITS**

- a) Permits Required. A sign permit shall be required for the erection, use, construction or alteration of all signs, except those specifically exempted by Section 1276.04. For purposes of this section alteration shall mean any change to an existing sign including changing the copy to promote, advertise, or identify another use. Alteration shall not mean normal maintenance of a sign nor apply to changeable.
- b) Electrical Signs. All signs requiring electrical service shall be reviewed for compliance with the applicable electrical code. Approval of signs requiring electrical service shall be noted on or attached to the sign permit.
- c) Issuance of Sign Permit. The zoning administrator shall issue a sign permit if all provisions of this code and other applicable Village regulations are met. A sign authorized by a permit shall be installed or be under construction within six months of the date of issuance of the sign permit or the permit shall expire. A new permit may be issued upon filing of a new application and fee.

**1276.08 APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

An application for a sign permit shall be made to the zoning administrator along with a fee as established by the Village Council. The application, at minimum, shall include the following:

- a) Name, address, and telephone number of applicant and the person, firm or corporation erecting the sign.
- b) Address or permanent parcel number of the property where the sign will be located.
- c) A sketch showing the location of the building, structure or lot upon which the sign is to be attached or erected and showing the proposed sign in relation to buildings and structures along with setback from lot line.
- d) Two sets of plans and specifications showing all dimensions, method of construction and attachment to structures or ground.
- e) The zoning district in which the sign is to be located
- f) Any other information in which the sign is to be located.
- g) Signature of applicant or person, firm or corporation erecting the sign.

## 1276.09 INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE

### a) Sign Inspection

1. Responsibility for Compliance. The owner or tenant of any property on which a sign is located is declared to be responsible for the permit, erection, inspection, safety, condition and removal of a sign.
2. Inspection of New Signs. All signs for which a permit has been issued shall be inspected by the Zoning Inspector when erected. Approval shall be granted only if the sign has been constructed in compliance with the approved plans and applicable requirements of all codes.
3. Inspection of Existing Signs. The Zoning Inspector may, at times as deemed necessary, inspect any sign allowed under this section and, if upon inspection, a sign is found to be unsafe or in a condition that does not comply with all the provisions of this section, the Zoning Inspector shall give notice of that condition to the owner of the and cause the necessary repairs or alterations to be made, or require removal of the sign.

### b) Sign Maintenance

1. Maintenance of Signs. All signs for which a permit is required, as well as those that are exempted from the requirement of a permit, as set forth in Section 1276.04, and all structural supports shall:
  - a) Be kept in compliance with the plans and specifications filed and approved for issuance of the construction permit;
  - b) Be kept and maintained in a safe condition, consistent with adopted building and mechanical codes; and
  - c) At times conform to all provisions of this chapter.
2. Correction of Defects. If the Zoning Inspector finds that any sign is unsafe, insecure, improperly constructed, or poorly maintained, the owner of the sign shall make the sign safe and secure by completing any necessary reconstruction or repairs, or entirely remove the sign in accordance with the timetable established by the Zoning Inspector. Existing signs determined to be unsafe and an immediate hazard to health or safety shall be removed or repaired within 24 hours of notification.
3. Obsolete Signs.
  - a) All non-conforming signs must be removed upon sale of the property or within Thirty (30) days of notification of non-compliance.

- b) Signs which are no longer functional, in despair, or are abandoned for more than Sixty (60) days, shall be removed, at the expense of the owner of the property on which the sign is located, within Thirty (30) days following notice of non-compliance. The owner shall be notified by certified mail. If the sign is not removed within Thirty (30) days, the Zoning Official may cause the sign to be removed and assess the cost of removal against property.
  - c) A sign which no longer identifies a use, product, business or entity located on the property, but is otherwise in conformity with the other provisions of this ordinance, may remain in place if the sign face is completely covered or obscure by a blank panel attached within the frame of the sign. In such case, the sign shall be permitted to remain for a period not to exceed One Hundred and Twenty (120) days. Following expiration of the One Hundred and Twenty (120) days, the sign shall be removed, at the expense of the owner of the property on which the sign is located, unless identifying a new use, product, business or entity located on the property.
- c) Sign Removal.  
 The Zoning Official may obtain a court order to compel removal of a sign that is obsolete or otherwise in violation of this section. The cost of removal shall be added as a lien on the property tax rolls.

**1276.10 FEES**

Any application for a sign permit or other request for action pursuant to the regulations of this chapter shall be subject to and accompanied by a fee as established by the Village Council. Such fees shall be collected in advance of any application review, inspection, or issuance of any permit, or approval. Upon notification of defiant payment of fees, the Zoning Official shall cause any permits to be suspended and reject applications for new permits directly associated with the request.

**1276.11 NONCONFORMING SIGNS**

- a) Any permanent sign or sign structure which was legally established, but no longer conforms to the height, size, area or location requirements of this chapter is deemed to be nonconforming.
- b) Nonconforming signs may not be altered, expanded, enlarged, or extended; however, nonconforming signs may be maintained and repaired so as to continue the useful life of the sign.
- c) For the purpose of this chapter, a nonconforming sign may be diminished in size or dimension or the copy of the sign amended or changed without jeopardizing nonconforming status.



- d) Any nonconforming sign destroyed by fire or other casualty loss shall not be restored or rebuilt if reconstruction will constitute more than Fifty (50) percent of the value of the sign on the date of loss.
- e) Any sign which for a period of Sixty (60) days or more no longer identifies a bona fide business conducted or product sold on the premises shall be removed by the owner of the building, structure, or property upon which the sign is located within Thirty (30) days of receipt of written notice from the Zoning Inspector.
- f) A sign accessory to nonconforming use on the premises may be erected, in accordance with the sign regulations for the district in which the property is located.

#### **1276.12 NO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST NON-COMMERCIAL SIGNS OR SPEECH**

The owner of any sign which is otherwise allowed under this Chapter 1276 may substitute non-commercial copy in lieu of any other commercial or non-commercial copy. This substitution of copy may be made without any additional approval or permitting. The purpose of this provision is to prevent any inadvertent favoring of commercial speech over non-commercial speech, or favoring of any particular noncommercial message over any other non-commercial message. This provision prevails over any more specific provision to the contrary.

#### **1276.13 SEVERABILITY**

If any portion of this Chapter 1276 or any regulation contained herein is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, it is the Village of Lodi's specific legislative intent that said portion or regulation is to be deemed severed from this Chapter 1276 and should in no way affect or diminish the validity of the remainder of Chapter 1276 or any other sign regulation set forth herein.