



Columbia County Land Development Sign Regulations

4.2.22

Signs. The provisions of these land development regulations shall govern the sizes, location, and character of signs which may be permitted as a principal or accessory use. No signs shall be permitted in any location except in conformity with these land development regulations.

4.2.22.1

Intent. Signs may unreasonably distract the attention of motorists and interfere with traffic safety. Indiscriminate erection and maintenance of signs seriously detract from the enjoyment and pleasure in the natural scenic beauty of the areas subject to these land development regulations and, in turn, injuriously affects the economic well-being of the citizenry. Thus, it is the intent of these regulations to prevent the uncontrolled erection of signs. The provisions of this section are intended to provide for the regulation of types, sizes, and locations of signs in relation to the identification of various uses and activities on premises, to provide for certain types and locations of off-site signs, and to supplement the regulations set out in the schedule of district regulations.

4.2.22.2

Applicability of other code or regulatory requirements. Signs or other advertising structures shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with the building and electrical codes of the county, and all other applicable ordinances and regulations of the county, as well as other, state and federal rules and regulations.

4.2.22.3

Definitions. Definitions for the purposes of sign regulation under these land development regulations are set out in the definitions section of these land development regulations under Sign, etc. (See Section 2.1 *BELOW for definitions.)

4.2.22.4

Prohibited signs. It shall be a violation of these land development regulations punishable as provided by these land development regulations, to erect or maintain:

1. Traffic or pedestrian hazard. Any sign which constitutes a traffic hazard or a detriment to traffic safety by reason of its size, location, movement, content, coloring, or method of illumination, or by obstructing the vision of drivers, or by obstructing or detracting from the visibility of any official traffic control device by diverting or tending to divert the attention of moving vehicles from the traffic movement on streets, roads, or access facilities; nor shall any sign be erected in such a manner as to obstruct the vision of pedestrians. The use of flashing or revolving red, green, blue, or amber lights is prohibited in any sign as constituting a hazard to traffic. Any sign which by glare or method of illumination constitutes a hazard to traffic is prohibited. Although a sign may use the words "Stop," "Look," "Drive-in," no such words or any other word, phrase, symbol, or character shall be used in such a manner as to interfere with, mislead, or confuse traffic.
2. Obscenities. Signs which are obscene, indecent, or immoral.
3. Rights-of-way. Signs erected on the right-of-way of any street, road, or public way, except as specifically provided by these land development regulations.
4. Public property. Signs erected on public property, other than signs erected by a public authority for public purposes, unless otherwise authorized by these land development regulations.
5. Ingress or egress to buildings. Signs so located as to prevent free ingress or egress from any door, window, or fire escape.
6. Yard areas. Signs in required yard areas except as specifically permitted by the terms of these land development regulations.

4.2.22.4 (Cont'd)

7. Roof signs. Signs erected, constructed, and maintained wholly upon or over the roof structure.
8. Height. Signs which are higher than 35 feet from established grade, except as otherwise specified in these land development regulations.
9. Glare. Illuminated signs which result in glare or reflection of light on residential property in the surrounding area.
10. Minimum clearance. Canopy, marquee, projecting, or hanging signs with less than a nine foot minimum clearance between the bottom of the sign and the ground surface.

4.2.22.5

Sign permits. Within areas subject to these land development regulations, it shall be unlawful for any person to erect, maintain, or replace any sign not specifically exempted by these land development regulations, without first securing from the land development regulation administrator a building permit to do so, as required.

4.2.22.6

Exemptions. Except as otherwise provided, the following signs may be erected without a permit, subject, however, to all remaining requirements of these land development regulations. All exempt signs may be located within the required front yard, but shall not be located within 20 feet of any adjacent property line. Signs under #3 below may be located on or may overhang or infringe upon the right-of-way of streets, roads, or public ways.

1. Signs not exceeding one square foot in area and bearing only property numbers, mail box numbers, names of occupants of premises, or other identification of premises not having commercial connotations.
2. Flags and insignia of any government except when displayed in connection with commercial promotion.
3. Traffic or other municipal, county, state, or federal signs, legal notices, railroad crossing signs, danger signs, and such temporary, emergency, or non-advertising signs as may be approved by the board of county commissioners.
4. Integral decorative or architectural features of buildings except letters, trademarks, moving parts, or moving lights.
5. Signs directing and guiding traffic and parking on private property, but bearing no advertising matter.
6. Signs within buildings.
7. One "For Sale" or "For Rent" sign per parcel of property, unless such property fronts on more than one street, in which case two signs may be erected, one on each frontage. The size of any such sign shall not be in excess of J. square feet, and such sign shall be removed within one month after the premises have been sold or rented.
8. Occupational signs denoting only the name, street number, and business of an occupant, which do not exceed-1 square feet in surface area.
9. Political campaign signs not to exceed 32 square feet.
 - a. A candidate shall remove all of his or her political campaign signs within one month after:
 1. Withdrawal of his or her candidacy;
 2. Having been eliminated as a candidate; or
 3. Being elected to office.
 - b. If in violation of these land development regulations, they shall be removed immediately by the sheriff's office, code enforcement or any other authorized personnel. Signs shall be disposed of without notice or compensation and the candidate can be charged the actual cost of removing any signs. However, a candidate is not expected to remove those political campaign signs as provided for in F.S. chapter 479.
10. Signs and bench signs for non-profit, eleemosynary organizations, churches and other houses of worship which do not exceed 16 square feet in surface area.

4.2.22.7

On-site signs. Unless otherwise specified in these land development regulations, the following regulations shall govern on-site signs. (See Section 2.1 ***BELOW** for definition of on-site signs.)

1. On-site signs may be erected in any zone district.
2. On-site signs may be located in the required front yard; provided, however that any such sign shall not obstruct visibility at intersections and curb breaks. (See section 4.2.26. ****SEE BELOW**)
3. On-site signs shall not exceed a height above established grade of 35 feet.

4.2.22.8

Off-site signs. Unless otherwise specified in these land development regulations, the following regulations shall govern off-site signs. (See Section 2.1 ***BELOW** for definition of off-site signs.):

1. Off-site signs are prohibited, except where specifically permitted by these land development regulations.
2. Off-site signs may be erected in the required front yard, provided:
 - a. Off-site signs shall be no nearer the street right-of-way line than 15 feet.
 - b. No off-site sign shall be erected so as to obstruct visibility at intersections and curb breaks. (See section 4.2.26 ****SEE BELOW**)
3. Off-site signs may not be erected within 100 feet of any church, school, cemetery, public park, public reservation, public playground, state or national forest, or railroad intersection.
4. Off-site signs shall not exceed a height above established grade of 35 feet.

***SECTION 2.1 DEFINITIONS**

Sign. Sign means any device designed to inform or attract the attention of persons not on the premises on which the sign is located. Unless otherwise specified, a sign may have one or two faces. (See article 4 for general regulations governing signs.)

Sign, surface area. The surface area of a sign shall be computed as including the entire area within the periphery of a regular geometric form, or combinations of regular geometric forms, comprising all of the display area of the sign, and including all of the elements of the matter displayed, but not including blank masking, frames, or structural elements of the sign and bearing no advertising matter. In the case of double face signs, each sign face shall be measured as surface area and the combined surface area of both faces shall not exceed the maximum permitted for the building or use.

Sign, on-site. On-site sign means a sign relating in its subject matter to the premises on which it is located, or to products, accommodations, services, or activities on the premises. On-site signs do not include signs erected by the outdoor advertising industry in the conduct of the outdoor advertising business.

Sign, off-site. Off-site sign means a sign other than an on-site sign.

Sign, animated. Animated sign means a sign with externally moving parts or messages, or so operating as to give a viewer the illusion of moving parts or messages.

Sign, attached. Attached sign means a sign painted on the exterior face of a building or attached to a building. Attached signs include canopy signs, marquee signs, wall signs, roof signs, and projecting or hanging signs supported or attached to a canopy, awning, marquee, or building.

Sign, flashing. Flashing sign means a sign designed to attract attention by the inclusion of a flashing, changing, evolving, or flickering light source or a change of light intensity.

Sign, freestanding. Freestanding sign means a sign which is not attached to a building. Freestanding signs include ground signs, pole signs, and portable signs.

Section 2.1 definitions (cont'd)

Sign, identification. Identification sign means a sign which depicts the name and/or address or a building or establishment on the premises where the sign is located as a means of identifying said building or establishment. An identification sign shall not contain promotional or sales material.

Sign, non-flashing. Non-flashing sign means a sign which does not have a flashing, changing, revolving, or flickering light source or which does not change light intensity.

*****Section 4.2.26**

Visibility at intersections and curb breaks.

4.2.26.1

Visibility at intersections. On a corner lot in all zoning districts, no fence, wall, hedge, landscaping, or structure shall be erected, placed, planted, or allowed to grow in such a manner as to obstruct vision between a height of two and one-half feet and six feet above the centerline grades of the intersecting streets in the area bounded by the street lines of such corner lots and a line joining points along said street lines 25 feet from the point of such intersection.

4.2.26.2

Visibility at curb breaks. In all zone districts, where a curb break intersects a public right-of-way, no fence, wall, hedge, landscaping, or structure shall be erected, placed, planted, or allowed to grow in such a manner as to obstruct cross-visibility between a height of two and one-half and six feet within the areas of property on both sides of the curb break formed by the intersection of each side of the curb break and public right-of-way lines with two sides of each triangle being ten feet in length from the point of intersection and the third being a line connecting the end of the two other sides.

4.2.26.3

Retaining walls. The requirements of this section shall not be deemed to prohibit any necessary retaining wall.

4.2.26.4

Trees. Trees shall be permitted in the clear space provided that foliage is cut away within the prescribed heights.

NOTICE TO APPLICANT/OWNER REGARDING FLOODING

Please read carefully before you begin your construction project!

WARNING: The degree of flood protection required by County's floodplain ordinance and the Florida Building Code are considered as minimum regulatory purposes only. The floodplain ordinance and Florida Building Code are based on scientific and engineering considerations, but do not include actual, observed events of flooding that may have occurred at your property. You should also keep in mind that larger floods have, can, and will occur from time to time. Flood heights may be increased by man-made or natural causes. Approval of your permit under the floodplain ordinance does not imply that the permitted structure will be free from flooding or flood damage. The Special Flood Hazard Areas and Base Flood elevations are contained in the Flood Insurance Study and shown on Flood Insurance Rate Maps. The County adopts these maps for purposes of compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program, but makes no representations or assurances of their accuracy or reliability. The County does not maintain, track, or provide flood history data for any particular parcel of land.

THERE IS NO GUARANTY OF VESTED USE, EXISTING USE, OR FUTURE USE CREATED BY YOUR COMPLIANCE WITH THE FLOODPLAIN ORDINANCE. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSESSING YOUR OWN PARTICULAR FLOOD RISK AND YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO SPEAK WITH NEIGHBORING OWNERS AND THE PREVIOUS OWNERS OF YOUR LAND TO OBTAIN FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR PROPERTY'S SPECIFIC FLOOD HISTORY.

DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY. The County floodplain ordinance does not create liability on the part of Board of County Commissioners of Columbia County or any officer or employee thereof for any flood damage that results from reliance on the ordinance, or any administrative decision lawfully made thereunder. Again, it is your responsibility to assess your property's flood risk and build accordingly.

For more information, see the Columbia County Code of Ordinances, Land Development Regulations, Article 8, at: https://library.municode.com/fl/columbia_county. Additional information can also be found on the County Building Department's web page: <https://www.columbiacountyfla.com/BuildingandZoning.asp>.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I have read and understand the foregoing **NOTICE TO APPLICANT/OWNER REGARDING FLOOD ZONES**. I understand it is my responsibility to determine my property's flood risk, and that the County has made me no assurances that my property can not or will not flood.

OWNER SIGNATURE:

 Belmont Academy

PRINT NAME:

Ronald M. Barker, Principal

PARCEL # OR ADDRESS: 1476 SW WATERS AVE, LAKE CITY FL 32024

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