

## **Sign Ordinance Status**

The Arlington County Sign Ordinance is currently being updated by Arlington County Staff. On 27 Oct 11, twelve representatives from various civic associations and concerned citizens attended the first focus group meeting sponsored by the Arlington County Staff. The proposed amendments to Section 34 of the Zoning Ordinance will be presented to the board in two phases. The first phase (during the Nov/Dec timeframe) focuses on the following provisions:

temporary sidewalk signs (A-frame or sandwich boards) within commercial, mixed-use, industrial, public and special zoning districts; commercial messages on umbrellas limited to no more than 4 sq ft per umbrella; additional signs on public parking garages.

The second phase to discuss approval of additional proposed amendments should occur in the spring of 2012. The overall objective of these changes is to make the ordinance user-friendly, combine recommended guidelines into the regulatory document, and remove the board from deciding on discretionary approval. While we applaud the staff's pursuit of producing a comprehensive sign ordinance, their current recommendation of not having any outlet to discuss waivers or contest interpretation of the policy is something that we will continue to explore. We expect the Arlington County staff get back with us soon on when the next focus group will be held.