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# Political ads sprout along area roadways

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LIAM FARRELL, Staff Writer

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Roadsides in Anne Arundel County won't need Mother Nature's rain this election season to sprout new and colorful adornments - candidates will do that on their own.



Shannon Lee Zirkle — The Capital

Political signs line Route 175 in Odenton as the election season kicks into high gear. Both Annapolis and Anne Arundel County have regulations on where the signs can be placed.

With election season inching closer toward its pivotal weeks, political signs are starting to proliferate in their myriad colors and fonts.

The House race in District 30 alone showcases multiple varieties on West Street. There is the red, white and blue of Republican Del. Ron George; the wave motif of Democrat Judd Legum; and the slogans like Republican Herb McMillan's "It's your money," and House Speaker Michael E. Busch's "Maryland's Speaker, Our Delegate."

So far Del. Nic Kipke, R-Pasadena, may take the creativity prize, with his campaign adopting a two-mile section of Mountain Road and having "Friends of Nic Kipke" placed on the sign.

"This stretch of road just came open and it is near my house, so I jumped on it," he said in an e-mail.

AP VIDEO

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Like parade appearances and rounds of door-knocking to meet constituents, signs are one of the rituals campaigns use to create some buzz among the general public.

Newcomers can find them particularly helpful, as is the case with Republican Dr. Ron Effenbein, who is trying to topple longtime Democratic state Sen. John Astle in District 30.

Effenbein said he tries to place signs in locations with plenty of traffic - even on docks.

Signs "certainly help name recognition," he said. "These things cost money ... We try to manage the bang for the buck."

Under the County Code, campaign signs have to be placed on private property with the

EVENTS CALENDAR

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- Aug 03 - LAFRA Unit 24's Monthly Meeting
- Aug 04 - intuitive Development Class \$20.00 per class
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- Aug 07 - Aug 08 - PAST TENSE returns to Coconut Joe's!
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owner's permission and cannot be put in county rights of way. Signs cannot be put up more than 60 days before the election and should be removed within a week after the election.

Signs cannot extend more than 12 feet above grade level, with a maximum area of 9 square feet in a residential area and 24 square feet in other places.

In Annapolis, signs cannot block rights of way or thoroughfares, and cannot impede drivers' sight lines, according to Phill McGowan, a city spokesman.

But political signs, like anything else connected to money and ambition, are often a source of finger-pointing, particularly if some disappear or are vandalized.

Some politicians in north county believe that this year a coordinated effort has started against some campaign signs.

Del. Don Dwyer, R-Glen Burnie, said more than 25 of his signs have been stolen or vandalized since being put up with the permission of private property owners.

He said a supporter told him a black truck with magnetically attached State Highway Administration markings was removing signs in the area. The SHA later told Dwyer no such truck was working for the agency.

"A couple here, a couple there, that is to be expected," the delegate said about sign problems. "Clearly, the sign destruction is way up and it is also real early."

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**pollution** - 2010-08-02 21:31:44

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These obnoxious signs are pollution, pure and simple. They show a total disregard by the candidate and his election team of our environment and aesthetics in general. Is it REALLY necessary for a candidate for the office of sheriff to have such a disproportionate number of signs along Ritchie Hwy.? I wouldn't vote for him regardless of his credentials because if he spends this much money on signage, and considers himself that important, I should have no expectation of fiscal responsibility if he's elected. The same goes for the candidates who seem to be competing to have the largest signs. This vulgar practice needs to be legislated out of existence. Maybe then the candidates would have to focus on the issues in print or broadcast media.

*Dave Moore - Arnold, MD - Karma: Excellent*

**disturbing visual peace** - 2010-08-02 19:04:25

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i find the size of the sign is inversely proportional to the candidates sense of his own masculinity. I also find many of the larger signs are approaching billboard proportions and therefore in violation of zoning ordinances. I ask that people join together in expressing a dislike for the obnoxiously large signs ( ex. anything larger than 18"x24") and ask that they be removed or the candidate will not even be considered as a viable option due to his careless disregard for the appearance of our environment.

*reynold cavern - Annapolis, md - Karma: Neutral*

**Tacky signs** - 2010-08-02 17:48:46

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Is it really necessary to put all these signs everywhere. I understand if people want to put them in their yard, but everywhere it looks a mess and tacky. As far as not putting them in county right of ways, I have seen plenty in county right of ways and some you have to look around for traffic.

 

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Maybe the county will enforce its own rule and remove them from county right of ways

Anthony Forrest - crownsville, MD - Karma: Excellent

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