

## **DPIE Attacks Roadside Litter in Sign Blitz**

DPIE has a message for those who litter local roadways with illegal signs: we're coming for the ugly signs and you will be fined.

Enforcement Division staffers seized more than 1,800 illegal signs posted on County rights-of-way during a Sign Blitz on March 30. DPW&T staffers removed 1,700 signs during a blitz earlier this month.

"These signs violate County Code," said Enforcement Division Associate Director Val Cary. "Some people feel it is their right to deface the public right-of-way with their signs, but nobody has the right to litter roadways to tout their message."

Each year, Sign Blitz events are held in the spring and fall. DPIE works with DoE, DPW&T, the State Highway Administration (SHA) and local municipalities to remove thousands of illegal signs from local rights-of-way. The signs create an eyesore and pose a safety hazard by distracting drivers' attention.

The signs confiscated in the recent blitzes included cheap plastic placards, sandwich signs, waving signs and giant banners that advertised everything from alcohol to yard maintenance.

Code Enforcement Officer Bill Edelen, who coordinates the Sign Blitz Program, said the signs will be destroyed. Those who post them face a fine of \$1,000 per location.

"Prince George's County has zero tolerance for roadside sign litter," Edelen said. "We're going to keep tearing them down and trashing them and working to identify those who are responsible for them."

The Sign Blitz Program aligns with the County's Beautification Initiative, which urges residents, businesses and visitors to reduce litter and adopt behaviors that will result in less waste. The Initiative's goals include instilling pride in residents and encouraging them to become stewards of the environment. Residents use the hashtag #pgcpartofitproudoft on social media to show support.

Residents can help DPIE and other agencies in the fight against sign litter by reporting it to 311 and refraining from patronizing the companies that advertise on the signs.