Notices being given for sign violations

By GIBBS ADAMS
Advocate staff writer

Four city-parish inspection crews are giving notices for violations of a new sign ordinance adopted last August.

J. Ben Meyer, assistant director of public works, said the crews on Monday began canvassing along main thoroughfares to spot violations of the new sign ordinance. He estimated the number of signs in violation will run into the thousands.

Building Inspector Jimmy Kidd said when violations are found, the crews give owners notices to inform them of violations of the ordinance. The notice calls for removal of non-complying signs within 10 days.

Kidd said the crews are working Sherwood Forrest Boulevard, Government Street, North Street and North Boulevard this week, and will move to Main Street, North Acadian Thruway, Greenwell Springs Road and Highland Road.

Meyer pointed out the city inspectors will perform their other routine duties of conducting building and plumbing inspections and said it may take as long as six months to cover the entire parish.

As a general rule, the notice cautions, signs must be 10 feet from the property line or 20 feet from the edge of the traveled street surface, whichever is greater. In addition, lighted signs must comply with Underwriter’s Laboratory requirements, and pole signs must have a 10-foot clearance below the sign.

Any sign without a permit is illegal and must be removed, Kidd cautioned. Temporary portable signs are allowed to be displayed for 30 days each year after a permit is granted — if the sign complies with the other regulations of the new sign ordinance.

Existing signs that have a permit may not be subject to the new regulations until they are replaced or repaired, the notice explains.

The new sign ordinance was developed after extensive hearings were conducted by the Planning and Zoning Commission before recommendations were adopted by the Metro Council.