

FROM THE DESK OF THE POLICE CHIEF

Golf Carts in Pine Knoll Shores

By Ryan Thompson, Pine Knoll Shores Police Chief

As the years go by, I am seeing more and more golf carts being driven around town. Golf carts have blended into the beach town culture and can be an enjoyable experience for a family to get back and forth from a friend's house or to the beach. I want everyone to have an enjoyable and safe experience while using their golf carts around Pine Knoll Shores. I am often asked a number of questions about golf carts, and I wanted to share some of those questions and answers with everyone.

Q: Can I drive my golf cart in Pine Knoll Shores?

A: Yes, but it must be registered with and inspected by the police department.

Q: What is required to register my golf cart?

A: Proof of ownership and liability insurance is required before an officer will complete a safety inspection of your golf cart. Golf carts are required to have two headlights, turn signals, brake/tail lights, a rear view mirror and a rear reflective triangle. The initial registration fee is \$25, and the annual renewal fee is \$20.

Q: Am I required to renew the registration every year?

A: Yes, every calendar year.

Q: Where can I drive my golf cart?

A: On any local street where the speed limit is less than 35 mph.

Q: Can I drive my golf cart on NC Highway 58 to get to a beach access?

A: No. You are only able to directly cross Highway 58, and you cannot drive along the shoulder of the highway to get to a beach access.

Q: Can I drive my golf cart on a sidewalk?

A: No. North Carolina considers a golf cart to be a vehicle, and vehicles are restricted from operating on sidewalks.

Q: Who can drive my golf cart?

A: Anyone over the age of 16 with a valid driver's license. *At no time should anyone under the age of 16 drive a golf cart, even under the supervision of a parent or guardian.*

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PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE

During May, there was 5 arrests; 71 911 hang-ups; 24 alarm activations; 6 animal calls; 1 damage to property call; 16 disturbance calls; 37 assist Fire/EMS calls; 2 motor vehicle collisions; 8 assist other agency calls; 342 traffic stops; 76 citations issued, which included 23 speeding, 5 stop sign/stop light, 11 registration/inspection, 10 license revoked/registration, 30 other traffic violations, 8 drug violations and 2 alcohol violations; 51 beach patrols; 606 business checks; 800 foot patrols; and 24 residence checks. Police personnel participated in 92.5 training hours. Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) did not work any hours because of COVID-19.

FIRE AND EMS

During May, responders handled 2 fires, 4 good intent calls, 26 rescue and emergency medical service incidents, 1 service call, 1 hazardous condition (no fire) call, and 7 false alarm or false calls. Personnel participated in 340 training hours for the month.

REMINDER: Lock your doors, especially your vehicles, and don't leave valuables in sight. Report suspicious people or vehicles to dispatch (726-1911) so that the police can be notified. You are not "bothering" the police if you call to report something that doesn't look right. They prefer to assess the situation rather than find out after the fact that you had noticed something and didn't report it. Alert citizens are assets to the community.

The Shoreline

email: Shoreline@townofpks.com
www.townofpks.com

EDITOR:

Janie Price 240-2365

EDITORS AT LARGE:

Mary Battista 422-4063
Marilyn Brandt 919-377-2501
Alicia Durham 241-8930

CONTRIBUTING

REPORTERS:

Frederick S. Boyce 723-6276
Paige Gillespie
Marian Goetzinger 422-9000
Jean McDanal
Barbara Milhaven 240-0678
Jacquie Pipkin 622-0340
Jim Scanlon 726-4174
Richard Seale 726-0478
Jim Turner 240-2474
Ken Wilkins

CIRCULATION MANAGER:

Erica Reed 247-4353

GRAPHIC DESIGNER:

Michelle Dobbs 726-7081

ADVERTISING:

Marie Lawrence 726-7081

ARTICLE DEADLINE

DUE DATE	ISSUE
Tues., July 14	August
Thurs., Aug. 13	September
Tues., Sept. 15	October
Thurs., Oct. 15	November
Fri., Nov. 13	December
Fri., Dec. 11	January 2021
Thurs., Jan. 14	February
Fri., Feb. 12	March
Mon., Mar. 14	April

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

The 19th of the month prior to desired issue
Articles always welcome.