

Golf Carts in Pine Knoll Shores

By Ryan Thompson, Pine Knoll Shores Police Chief

Golf carts are a hot topic in Pine Knoll Shores right now. In the past year, we have gone from having 56 golf carts registered in town to over 160. I have posted this question and answer session before, but I thought it relevant to do it again for the benefit of newcomers or those who simply missed it before.

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, seatbelts 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 NC Highway 58. You cannot drive on NC Highway 58 or the shoulder of the highway to get to a beach access.

Q: What if my golf cart is registered as a low-speed vehicle (LSV) with North Carolina? Can I drive it on NC Highway 58 now that the speed limit is 35 mph?

A: No. The NC Department of Transportation passed a special prohibition for safety reasons, so your LSV is still not allowed on NC Highway 58 unless you are directly crossing the highway. Violations can result in a combined court cost/fine of \$266 for driving an LSV on NC Highway 58.

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

A: No. North Carolina considers a golf cart 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

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PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE

During May, there were 6 arrests; 77 911 hang-ups; 5 alarm activations; 7 animal calls; 1 damage to property call; 17 disturbance calls; 16 assist Fire/EMS calls; 1 motor vehicle collision; 9 assist other agency calls; 214 traffic stops; 35 citations issued, which included 9 speeding, 2 stoplight/stop sign, 5 registration/inspection, 8 license revoked/registration, 18 other traffic violations and 8 drug violations. There were 100 beach patrols, 461 business checks, 686 foot patrols and 61 residence checks. Police personnel participated in 78 training hours.

FIRE AND EMS

During May, responders handled 1 fire, 8 rescue and emergency medical service incidents, 2 service calls, 4 good intent calls, 1 false alarm and false call and 2 special incident type calls. Personnel participated in 310 training hours.

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

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ARTICLE DEADLINE

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Wed., Sept. 15	October
Wed., Oct. 13	November
Fri., Nov. 12	December
Mon., Dec. 13	Jan. 2022
Fri., Jan. 14	February
Mon. Feb. 14	March
Mon., Mar. 14	April

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The 15th of the month prior to desired issue
Articles always welcome.