

Forsyth County Sheriff's Office

SHERIFF
TED PAXTON



CHIEF DEPUTY
J. ROBERT HAMRICK

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH INFORMATION

(PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ALL NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PARTICIPANTS)

TO: ALL NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH RESIDENTS

FROM: DEP. COURTNEY SPRIGGS

SUBJECT: GOLF CART SAFETY

DATE: 04-05-10

In order to prevent accidents and injuries this summer, please read the following rules regarding golf carts. *Some have changed and may differ from what we have sent out previously; please follow THESE rules, and pass them on to anyone you know who owns/operates a golf cart.*

Golf Cart Laws and Safety on Roadways

A golf cart, legally defined as a motorized cart, may operate on roadways when all of the following elements of law are met:

- 1) Operate during daylight hours only (O.C.G.A. 40-6-330). May, however, operate at night if they meet the equipment requirements of 49 Code of Federal Registry 571.500: headlights, taillights, brake lights, and turn signals; and
- 2) Operate only on a roadway with a posted maximum speed limit of 35 MPH or less (O.C.G.A. 40-6-362); and
- 3) Must be equipped with an amber strobe light that is visible for 500 feet to the rear and front (O.C.G.A. 40-6-362); and
- 4) The operator possesses a valid driver's license (O.C.G.A. 40-5-20 and Coker v. State, Georgia Court of Appeals. June 13, 2003); and a
- 5) Slow Moving Emblem (16 inch red/orange retro-reflective triangle) is visibly attached to the rear (O.C.G.A. 40-8-4 (a)).

Other Restrictions:

6) Impeding the normal flow of traffic is prohibited: a golf cart or other may not drive “at such a slow speed as to impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic” (O.C.G.A. 40-6-184), e.g., operating in a 35 mph zone that prevents a following vehicle from driving the posted speed limit.

7) Occupants: Children under the age of 6 prohibited from riding as a passenger, for “a child passenger restraining system” shall be provided in all passenger vehicles (O.C.G.A. 48-8-76). Occupants must only ride in a proper seat position.

Legal exemptions:

Registration (tag) is not required (40-2-20 exempts motorized carts), and Insurance is not required (34-33-2 – only registered vehicles require Insurance).

Low Speed Vehicles:

GEM Electric vehicles are manufactured as “low speed vehicles” that require registration (tag); insurance, and all other safety lightening as any other vehicle pursuant to 40-8-35: headlights, turn signals, brakes lights, taillights, slow moving triangle emblem, and amber strobe light.

Note: Off-road vehicles, such as John Deere Gators, Kawasaki Mules, Yamaha Rhinos, etc. may not operate on the roadway.

If you have any questions about these rules, please contact me or your neighborhood’s Crime Prevention Deputy.

Thank you for your help keeping our community safe!

Deputy Courtney Beal Spriggs

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