



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GOLF CARTS ON COUNTY ROADS

On June 10 the County Commission adopted changes to our existing ordinance regarding golf cart operation on county roads to comply with updates to Florida Statutes. In the hope that we can clarify the questions that have been asked, here is a summary of the new ordinance as it applies to unincorporated areas of Shalimar and Fort Walton Beach.

- A golf cart is defined as a motor vehicle that is designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and that is not capable of exceeding speeds of 20 miles per hour.
- Golf carts may only be operated upon a residential roadway with a posted speed limit of 25 miles per hour or less that is clearly posted for use by golf carts.
- Golf carts may not be operated on public roads or streets by persons: under the age of 18 unless he/she possesses a valid learner's driver license or valid driver license; or by a driver 18 years of age and older unless he/she possesses a valid form of government-issued photographic identification.
- Golf cart operators must obey all traffic regulations applicable to motor vehicles.
- The number of passengers shall be restricted to the number of seats on the golf cart. All passengers shall remain seated during operation and no person shall ride on the exterior of the golf cart.

The use of golf carts within the Lake Lorraine subdivision, Meigs Drive, Dogwood Drive, 1st Avenue and portions of 8th Street are also restricted as follows:

- A golf cart may be operated on county-maintained roads only between the hours of sunrise and sunset. A golf cart may be operated outside this timeframe if it is equipped with headlights, brake lights, turn signals, and a windshield.
- A golf cart may not be operated upon 12th Avenue, 12th Street, 4th Avenue, 8th Street north of 1st Avenue, 3rd Street, 2nd Street, or Old Ferry Road north of Meigs Drive. Signs shall be posted to notify drivers of this restriction.

The use of golf carts within designated areas of unincorporated Fort Walton Beach are also restricted as follows:

- A golf cart may be operated on county-maintained roads only between the hours of 30 minutes before sunrise and 30 minutes after sunset. A golf cart may be operated outside this timeframe if it is equipped with headlights, brake lights, turn signals, and a windshield.
- A golf cart may not be operated upon Carmel Drive, Denton Boulevard, James Lee Road, Lewis Street, Mayflower Avenue and Navy Street. Signs shall be posted to notify drivers of this restriction.

The use of golf carts within designated areas of unincorporated Shalimar are also restricted as follows:

- A golf cart may be operated on county-maintained roads only between the hours of 30 minutes before sunrise and 30 minutes after sunset. A golf cart may be operated outside this timeframe if it is equipped with headlights, brake lights, turn signals, and a windshield.
- A golf cart may not be operated upon Poquito Road north of Holley Avenue nor upon Sunset Lane east of Hillcrest Drive.

The use of golf carts within designated areas of Rocky Bayou Country Club Estates Subdivision are also restricted as follows:

- A golf cart may be operated on county-maintained roads only between the hours and sunrise and sunset. A golf cart may be operated outside this timeframe if it is equipped with headlights, brake lights, turn signals, and a windshield.
- A golf cart may only be operated upon a residential roadway with a posted speed limit of 35 mph or less that is clearly posted for use by golf carts.
- A golf cart may not be operated upon College Boulevard or Forrest Drive and signs shall be posted to notify drivers of this restriction.

It is an honor to serve as your Commissioner!

My Sincere Thanks,

Carolyn N. Ketchel
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