

GOLF CART ORDINANCE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Question: What does the golf cart ordinance mean to me?

Answer: The Pinellas County Ordinance makes it legal for golfers to use the approved streets in Highland Lakes to get to the golf course.

Question: Why should I care if it is legal?

Answer: You should care because at any time the Sheriff or the county could have demanded that we keep our carts off the public streets because before the ordinance was passed it was illegal.

Question: What are the special requirements of this ordinance?

Answer: The ordinance states the following:

1. You can only drive your cart from sunrise to sunset.
2. You can only use the streets that are approved in the ordinance.
3. You must have the following equipment – a Slow Moving Vehicle sign, a flag and reflectors.
4. You can only use the golf cart for the purpose of playing golf.

Question: You say we can only use certain streets, why can't I just use the sidewalks?

Answer: It was and still is illegal to drive your golf cart on the sidewalk.

Question: Didn't the county put the wider sidewalks on Highland Boulevard to accommodate golf carts?

Answer: Absolutely not. The wider sidewalks were put in to accommodate wheelchair bound pedestrians, not golf carts.

Question: Does the ordinance mean that I can drive to Publix, the tennis courts, the pool, my neighbors?

Answer: No. The ordinance only allows you to drive your golf carts on the streets that are approved for the purpose of playing golf.

Question: If I am not a golfer, can I purchase a golf cart and use it to run errands, go to the grocery store, come to the clubhouse to use the pool, tennis courts etc?

Answer: If you purchase a golf cart, you must register it with the homeowners association, pay \$107 for the required stickers and equip your cart with the Slow Moving Vehicle sign and flag required by the county. After you do all of that you are still only allowed to drive your cart on the approved streets to the golf course for the purpose of playing golf.

Question: Is every street in Highland Lakes approved?

Answer: No. There is one street that is unapproved and that is Highland Blvd. from Lake St. George to Lake Point Road.

Question: Where am I supposed to get the SMV sign and the flag?

Answer: When you purchase your stickers for your cart from the front desk in the main clubhouse, you will also be able to purchase your SMV sign and your flag.

Question: How much will this cost me?

Answer: The sticker will cost you \$107 and has to be renewed every January. You will be given two large numbered stickers to place on either side of your cart for purposes of identification. You will keep those stickers as long as you own that cart. The front sticker will be replaced every year when you renew your registration.

The cost of the SMV sign and flag will be exactly what it costs the association to purchase these items and keep them in stock. You can get the exact figure from the front desk in the main clubhouse.

Question: What happens if I don't purchase the equipment and put it on my cart?

Answer: We promised the county if they passed this ordinance we would make sure our members were in compliance. If you do not have a SMV sign, flag and stickers you will be asked to leave the golf course immediately and you will not be allowed back on association property until you have met the requirements of the ordinance.