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City of Richmond

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City of Richmond Golf Cart Ordinance Frequently Asked Questions (p. 1-2) & Rules (p. 3-5)

The City of Richmond golf Cart Ordinance allows residents to register golf carts for use on City Streets.

Who can operate a golf cart?

A person can operate a properly registered golf cart as long as he or she is at least 16 years old and is licensed to operate a motor vehicle.

What types of vehicles fall under the Golf Cart Ordinance?

Only golf carts are covered by this ordinance and can be registered at the Richmond Police Department. To be legal in the City of Richmond all golf carts must be registered with the Richmond Police Department. Golf carts must have a red reflector visible from 500' affixed to the rear of the cart. All other types of vehicles such as ATVs and UTVs are covered under the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code and must be plated and licensed through the Secretary of State.

When can I operate my golf Cart?

You can operate your golf cart one-half hour after sunrise until one-half hour prior to sunset. Essentially, you cannot operate your golf cart in the dark. Also, golf carts shall not be operated during weather events with snow and/or ice on the ground.

Where can I operate my golf cart?

A person may operate a golf cart on City streets with the following restrictions:

The operator of a golf cart shall obey by all sections pertaining to traffic in the Michigan Vehicle Code and the Uniform Traffic Code.

A person operating a golf cart upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or a vehicle proceeding in the same direction.

A person shall not operate a golf cart on a state trunk line highway (Main Street/M-19) or on streets with a speed limit more than 30 miles per hour (Division Road). (A person is allowed to cross Main Street and Division Road using the most direct line of crossing. A person is not allowed to travel down Main Street or Division Road.)

State Highways, County Road, Private Streets and School Drives are not "City Streets". Golf Cart operators need to check with the appropriate owner/governing body of these other types of streets before operating a golf cart on them.

How fast can I operate my golf cart?

The City Ordinance and State Law that allows the use of golf carts on City Streets only allow golf carts to be operated at 15 miles per hour or less. Operating your golf cart faster than 15 miles per hour will result in a ticket.

How much does the registration sticker cost?

There is no cost to register your golf cart with the Richmond Police Department. However, the applicant must show proof of insurance as a rider to a homeowner's or renter's policy, or in any other form of policy, for coverage of personal injury or property damage resulting from operation of the subject golf cart. The minimum amount of coverage shall be no less than \$300,000.00.

Where do I register my golf Cart?

You may bring your golf cart on a trailer to the Richmond Police Department, 36725 Division Road, Richmond, MI 48062. A Richmond Police Officer will process your Registration Application, examine your golf cart and check your proof of insurance.

Please keep in mind that at any given time, the Richmond Police Officers (including Dispatchers) may be responding to an emergency and may not be able to process the application immediately.

What are the penalties for violating the Golf Cart Ordinance?

Violations of the Golf Cart Ordinance are civil infractions. The penalty for the first offense is \$50, \$100 for the second offense, and \$250 for any offense beyond that. However, a court may order a person who damages the environment, a road, or public property as a result of the operation of a golf cart to pay full restitution for that damage above and beyond the penalties paid for civil infractions. (Operating an ATV or UTV on City Streets is a violation of the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code.)

Additional Information - The Golf Cart Ordinance and documents can be found on www.cityofrichmond.net. Should you have any questions or comments feel free to contact the City of Richmond 586-727-7571, or by email at info@cityofrichmond.net. Please see a complete listing of the Rules and Regulations concerning golf carts in the City of Richmond on pages 3-5 of this document.

Golf Carts - Rules and Regulations

Definitions

City means the City of Richmond, Counties of Macomb and St. Clair, State of Michigan.

Decal means the sticker displayed on the front of every registered golf cart within the City, which are obtained by completing and submitting the proper registration form to the Richmond Police Department.

Driver license means an operator's or chauffeur's license or permit issued to an individual by the Secretary of State under Chapter III of the Michigan Vehicle Code, 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.301 to MCL 257.329, as amended, for that individual to operate a vehicle, whether or not conditions are attached to the license or permit.

Golf cart means a vehicle designed for transportation while playing the game of golf.

Maintained portion means that portion of a road improved, designated or ordinarily used for vehicular traffic.

Operate means to ride in or on, or be in actual physical control of the operation of the golf cart.

Operator means a person who operates or is in actual physical control of the operation of a golf cart.

Registration means the process through which every person intending to operate a motorized golf cart on roads or streets within the City must follow.

Street means a road, roadway, street or right-of-way within the City of Richmond street system, but does not include a private road. The terms road, roadway, street and right-of-way are interchangeable.

Sunset and *sunrise* mean that time determined by the National Weather Service on any given day.

Operation of golf carts on City streets - A person may operate a golf cart on City streets, subject to the following restrictions:

- (1) A person shall not operate a golf cart on any street unless he or she is at least 16 years old and is licensed to operate a motor vehicle.
- (2) The operator of a golf cart shall comply with the signal requirements of MCL 257.648, as amended, that apply to the operation of a vehicle.
- (3) All golf carts are required to have a red reflector on the rear of the golf cart that shall be visible from all distances up to 500 feet when in front of lawful low beams of headlamps on a motor vehicle.
- (4) The operator of a golf cart shall obey by all sections pertaining to traffic in the Michigan Vehicle Code and the Uniform Traffic Code.
- (5) A person operating a golf cart upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction.
- (6) A person shall not operate a golf cart on a state trunk line highway. This subsection does not prohibit a person from crossing a state trunk line highway when operating a golf cart on a street of the City, using the most direct line of crossing.
- (7) Where a usable and designated path for golf carts is provided adjacent to a road or street, a person operating a golf cart shall be required to use that path. A golf cart shall not be operated on a sidewalk constructed for the use of pedestrians.
- (8) A person operating a golf cart shall not pass between lines of traffic, but may pass on the left of traffic moving in his or her direction in the case of a two-way street, or on the left or right of traffic, in an unoccupied lane, in the case of a one-way street.

- (9) A golf cart shall be operated at a speed not to exceed 15 miles per hour and shall not be operated on a roadway or street with a speed limit of more than 30 miles per hour except to cross that roadway or street. The City may designate roads or classifications of roads for use by golf carts.
- (10) A golf cart shall not be operated on the streets of the City during the time period from one-half hour before sunset to one-half hour after sunrise.
- (11) A person operating a golf cart or who is a passenger in a golf cart is not required to wear a crash helmet.
- (12) A golf cart shall not be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped.
- (13) A golf cart operated on a street of the City is not required to be registered under this Act for purposes of Section 3101 of the Insurance Code of 1956, 1956 PA 218, MCL 500.3101, as amended.
- (14) A golf cart shall not be operated during weather events with snow and/or ice on the ground.
- (15) Golf carts shall not be operated on a road or street in a negligent manner, endangering any person or property, or obstructing, hindering, or impeding the lawful course of travel of any motor vehicle or the lawful use by any pedestrian of public streets, sidewalks, paths, trails, walkways or parks.
- (16) Off-road vehicles, such as Gators, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), a multitrack or multi-wheel drive vehicle, dune buggy, or like-vehicles are not considered golf carts.
- (17) This section does not apply to a police officer, City officials, employees, contractors or volunteers in the performance of City duties.

Parking regulations - The parking, stopping, and standing regulations provided in the City Code, which may be adopted by reference therein, shall also apply to golf carts operated in the City, as if they are motor vehicles under those provisions.

Registration and decals.

- (a) Golf cart owners shall register each golf cart on an annual basis by making application to the Richmond Police Department. Such application shall include proof of insurance as a rider to a homeowner's or renter's policy, or in any other form of policy selected by the applicant, for coverage of personal injury or property damage resulting from operation of the subject golf cart. The minimum amount of coverage shall be no less than \$300,000.00. The police department shall review and approve or deny each application, and provide a list of registered golf carts to the City Manager.
- (b) There shall be no charge for the registration of a golf cart, and each approved golf cart shall be issued a registration decal. The golf cart owner shall affix each decal provided by the Richmond Police on a clearly visible place on the front of the golf cart. The decal shall be valid for one year.
- (c) Non-residents may register their golf cart with the City as long as they have written approval from a Richmond resident that the resident will act as the host property for the non-resident's golf cart. The host resident will allow the golf cart trailer to be parked on their property so as not to take up parking public parking spaces.
- (d) Failure to register a golf cart or renew an existing registration shall constitute a violation of this article.
- (e) The Richmond Police Department retains the right to refuse to issue and/or revoke any registration decal from any golf cart for any reason that is felt appropriate to ensure the safety and well-being of the citizens of City.

- (f) Any police officer may temporarily suspend any registration decal, and ban further access on any public street or public property by any golf cart, when in the opinion of that officer the golf cart is being used in a manner to cause damage to public property or members of the public.
- (g) The City Council reserves the right to waive the registration requirements of this ordinance for special events that utilize golf carts.

Violations and penalties

- (a) Any person violating any provisions of this article shall be responsible for a civil infraction. The penalty for the first offense shall be \$50.00, and \$100.00 for the first repeat offense. For any second or subsequent repeat offense, the fine shall be no more than \$250.00.
- (b) A court may order a person who causes damage to the environment, a road, or other public property as a result of the operation of a golf cart to pay full restitution for that damage above and beyond the penalties paid for civil infractions.