

City of Buena Vista

Golf Cart Operator's Manual

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Buena Vista, Virginia
August 2016

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Ordinance Chapter 32, Article XX **Effective August XX, 2016**

The City Council adopted Ordinance Chapter 32, Article XX on xxxx, to allow the operation of golf carts upon designated streets in the City of Buena Vista. This ordinance is provided in full in the contents of this Operator's Manual.

The City of Buena Vista is responsible for the annual registration of resident-owned golf carts. A decal will be issued to be displayed on each registered golf cart. This registration and decal must be current at all times the golf cart is operated on City streets.

Violations of Ordinance Chapter 32, Article XX shall be enforced by a law enforcement office who has legal authority and jurisdiction allows.

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1 INTRODUCTION

The freedom to use golf carts on City streets is a lifestyle benefit many Virginia residents enjoy. When golf cart drivers share the public roads with automobiles, trucks, buses, bicycles and pedestrians, a high degree of care and knowledge in the operation of golf carts is essential. This Golf Cart Operator's Manual provides important guidance and instruction on golf cart operations, and is a valuable tool to ensure the safety of golf cart drivers, pedestrians and other roadway travelers.

The City of Buena Vista provides this material to assist you with the State and City rules applicable to the use of golf carts on City streets.

Please read this information carefully
Please drive with caution
Please be careful
Please obey all traffic laws

GOLF CART SAFETY

This Golf Cart Operator's Manual is intended to encourage the safe operation of golf carts for general transport in the City of Buena Vista and in consonance with City Ordinance Chapter 32, Article XX and Virginia Law 46.2-1010. This manual outlines the basic expectations of golf cart safety. With this intent, the City shall promote safe golf cart operations with reliance on the following:

1. Golf cart operators shall be duly licensed to operate registered golf carts (must possess driver license);
2. Golf carts shall be subject to an annual registration by the City of Buena Vista Commissioner of Revenue.
3. The City shall develop and distribute appropriate literature advising safe operation of golf carts; and
4. The City shall coordinate and encourage safe golf cart operation on approved City streets and across permitted County and State roadways.

DISCLAIMER

This Golf Cart Operator's Manual addresses the requirements of City Ordinance and Virginia Law. It offers safety advice not covered in the laws. However, this Manual should not be considered a legal reference. The Golf Cart Operator's Manual may be periodically revised and redistributed at the time of annual registration renewal. Just as safe golf cart operation is the sole responsibility of the golf cart owner/operator, the golf cart owner/operator is solely responsible for knowing and complying with all pertinent rules and regulations on the use of golf carts in the City of Buena Vista.

DRIVING IS A PRIVILEGE

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The Commonwealth of Virginia considers the operation of a motor vehicle a privilege, not a right, which one must earn by demonstrating that he or she is a good driver and be recognized in that regard by issuance of a driver's license. One must not abuse the privilege or else risk losing it. The extension by the State to the operation of golf carts away from the golf course is likewise a privilege, and golf cart users in the City of Buena Vista are challenged to protect that privilege and to avoid concerns that might result in the loss of this privilege.

2. GOLF CART OPERATION FOR GENERAL TRANSPORT IN DUNEDIN

A. CONDITIONS FOR GOLF CART OPERATION

For general transport purposes on City of Buena Vista streets, in addition to the requirements of State and County laws, as well as common sense, the following conditions apply:

1. Golf cart operators must carry a valid Drivers License issued by the Commonwealth of Virginia or similar responsible governmental agency.
2. Golf carts operated on City streets must be registered with the City for such operation. Registration with the City would be made by application to the Police Department, 306 Park Avenue, Buena Vista Virginia, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.. The Permit Application would require the following supporting information:
 - Proof of vehicle ownership (bill of sale or affidavit of ownership)
 - Proof that the vehicle owner has a valid Drivers License
 - Signed owner affidavit of liability insurance coverage either as a rider on a homeowner's policy or a separate vehicle policy.
 - Signed owner affidavit that the vehicle has the following, operable equipment for dawn to dusk operation: efficient brakes, reliable steering, a horn, safe tires, a rearview mirror and red reflectorized warning devices in the front and rear. For vehicles to be used for dusk to dawn operation there must be the following operable equipment: headlights, brake lights, turn signals and a windshield.
 - Owners of existing golf carts that are not equipped as described above shall be required to modify their golf carts prior to registration for operation on City streets.
 - Payment of annual registration fee.
 - Golf carts registered for general transport in the City will be identified by a decal to be mounted in an obvious place on a rear fender.
3. Golf carts shall be restricted to operation on City streets that are specifically designated for golf cart operation.
4. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Buena Vista City policies for golf cart operation is restricted to the crossing of State and County roads only where the intersecting roads are designated for golf carts and the crossing is specifically approved and signed by the appropriate agency. At this time, the permitted crossings of either a State or City road are U.S. 501 (Magnolia, Sycamore and Beech Ave.) and U.S Route 60.

5. The City of Buena Vista recognizes that there is an added cost to equip a standard golf cart with the equipment discussed in paragraph 2. The City recognizes that there may be added costs and occasional inconvenience related to the other conditions discussed in paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 4. However, the added cost and inconvenience to a golf cart operator seeking the privilege of operating a golf cart on City streets is reasonable for protecting the interests of other drivers and pedestrians in and on those same streets.
6. Golf cart owners might mistakenly believe their homeowners insurance covers them in event of any accidental occurrence with their golf cart. Such coverage is generally only in force for general transport purposes, including shopping, doctor's appointments, banking and such, will usually necessitate a separate golf cart insurance policy for coverage. The absence of such coverage exposes the owner/operator to personal liability for property damage and bodily injury to others. Some insurance companies will write attachments to your homeowner's policy for an additional fee, but most will not, which will make it necessary that you purchase a separate policy for this needed protection. This should provide coverage for liability, property damage, and comprehensive coverage for damage to your own golf cart. Local providers of golf cart insurance (which do not require other coverage) can be found in telephone directories and websites.

B. GOLF CART OPERATING ZONES

At this time, the City has defined city wide transport using golf carts. Golf cart zone maps illustrating the boundaries, excluded streets and allowed crossings are included in the Appendix. The following narrative explains the boundaries, excluded streets and allowed crossings.

GOLF CART ZONE

The golf cart zone is bounded by and does **not** include:

- U.S 501 (crossing only)
- Route 60 (crossing only)
- Any road south of 1st Street
- Any road with posted speed limit 35 mph or above



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C. THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA AND VIRGINIA LAW

Virginia State laws provide that “A golf cart may be operated only upon... a municipal street that has been designated by a municipality for use by golf carts. (Virginia Statute 46.2-916.3). Prior to making such designation, the responsible local governmental entity must first determine that golf carts may safely travel on or across the public road or street, considering factors including speed, volume, and character of motor vehicle traffic using the road or street.” The City of Buena Vista, Chapter 32, Article XX provides for golf cart operation on and across certain of its roads and streets pursuant to Virginia Law. In addition, under State law, golf carts are not required to be registered with the Division of Motor Vehicles or carry a license plate. Specific elements of Virginia Law and their application in the City of Buena Vista are summarized as follows:

1. **MOTOR VEHICLE:** An automobile, motorcycle, truck, trailer, semi trailer, truck tractor and semi trailer combination, or any other vehicle operated on the roads of this state, used to transport persons or property, and propelled by power other than muscular power, but the term does not include traction engines, road rollers, such vehicles as run only upon a track, bicycles, or mopeds.
2. **GOLF CART:** 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. A golf cart may be operated on municipal streets that have been designated for such operation by the local municipality. The City of Buena Vista, Chapter 32, Article XX do allow operation on certain of its streets:
 - a. Golf carts may only be operated on roads that have a posted speed limit of 25 miles per hour or less.

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- b. Golf carts may cross State or county roads only at such locations that have been specifically designated for golf cart crossings.
- c. Under Virginia Law, a golf cart may not be operated on designated public roads or streets by any person under the age of 14. However, in Buena Vista, only licensed drivers are allowed operate golf carts on City streets.
- d. Under Virginia Law, golf carts may be operated only during the hours between sunrise and sunset unless the local municipality has specifically approved their nighttime operation and the golf carts are equipped with headlights, brake lights, turn signals, and a windshield. The City of Buena Vista Chapter 32, Article XX allows nighttime operation of properly-equipped golf carts.
- e. A golf cart must be equipped with efficient brakes, reliable steering apparatus, safe tires, a rearview mirror, horn, backup alarm, and red reflectorized warning devices in both front and rear. The City of Buena Vista requires that golf carts operated on City streets be such operation.
- f. Golf carts are not permitted to drive on State roads except in such locations as are specifically permitted for purposes of crossing such roads. In addition, golf carts are not permitted to operate on City of Buena Vista streets which have posted speed limits higher than 25 miles per hour or which have excessive traffic. A golf cart may cross those roads at a designated golf cart crossing.
- g. Golf carts are not to be operated carrying more people than the designed limits of the particular cart manufacturer.

D. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

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Auto vs. Golf Cart

A golf cart can be similar to an automobile. It is built something like an auto, and has auto-like parts such as leaf springs, axles, brakes and gearboxes. New golf carts steer like autos, and passengers ride sitting down on cushioned seats. They can attain reasonable speed and carry useful loads.

However, compared with automobiles, safety is sacrificed in many ways. The ratio of their maximum turning angle to their normal speed is much higher, rendering them easy to roll over on a sharp turn. Their braking systems are limited due to reduced mechanical leverage in the brake system and the relatively low pressure of treads on the road surface. Passenger protection on common golf carts is very limited with no seat belts, no restraining sides or doors, no impact-absorption features of any kind. Awareness of this difference should make the golf cart operator more careful as he wheels around our streets.

Rules of Traffic

The Virginia's Driver's Handbook rules apply to both automobile and golf cart

CAUTION: VIOLATING VIRGINIA STATUTES 46.2-916.3, OR OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE VIRGINIA STATUTES MAY RESULT IN BEING ISSUED A TRAFFIC CITATION.

Traffic Lanes

Always drive on the right side of the street except in those rare cases when you might be passing a bicyclist or a parked car. A golf cart, being a slow vehicle, must stay in the right lane unless passing or turning left.



Making Turns

You must use hand signals or directional signals to show that you are about to turn. Turning a corner may seem to be a simple operation, but many traffic crashes are caused by drivers who do not turn correctly. There are nine (9) steps in making a good turn:

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1. Make up your mind about your turn before you get to the turning point. Never make "last-minute" turns.
 2. Look behind and to both sides to see where other vehicles are if you must change lanes before making your turn. Give your turn signal before changing lanes also.
 3. Move into the correct lane as you near the intersection. The correct lane for the right turn is the lane next to the right edge of the roadway. On a two-lane road with traffic in both directions, an approach for a left turn should be made in the part of the right half of the roadway nearest the centerline.
 4. Give a turn signal for at least the last 100 feet before you make your turn. Let other drivers know what you are going to do.
 5. Slow down to a safe turning speed.
 6. When you are slowing to make a right turn, the bicyclist you passed may be catching up to you. Search over your shoulder before turning. Yield to bicyclists and pedestrians.
 7. When turning left, you may be crossing the path of a pedestrian or bicyclist. Always search before starting your turn.
 8. Make the turn, staying in the proper lane. Yield the right-of-way to any vehicle coming from the opposite direction.
 9. Finish your turn in the proper lane. A right turn should be from the right lane into the right lane of the roadway entered. A left turn may be completed in any lane lawfully available, or safe, for the desired direction of travel.

Blind Spots

Blind spots are areas near the left and right rear corners of your vehicle that you cannot see in your rearview mirrors. Before you move sideways to change lanes on an expressway or to pass on any road, turn your head to make sure these areas are clear. Required signals may be given by hand and arm or by signal lamps or devices. When doing so the arm should be fully extended; and the driver should check visually to make sure his signal is observed. Enclosing a cart in curtains against inclement weather does not relieve the operator from the responsibility of proper signaling.

Backing Up

In backing up:

1. Look first to see that you will not interfere with traffic flow or endanger pedestrians. Special care should be used when backing out of busy parking areas.
2. Switch to "reverse" before depressing the accelerator pedal. This should turn on an audible warning noise in a properly equipped and maintained golf cart.
3. Proceed slowly backwards, continuing to be watchful.
4. Move into a position parallel with the nearest traffic lane before moving forward.

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Emergency Vehicles

Pedestrians and drivers must yield the right-of-way to law-enforcement and other emergency vehicles using sirens and/or flashing lights. Pull over to the right and stop until the emergency vehicle has passed.

Stop Signs

Please yield the right of way to all other traffic and pedestrians before proceeding to cross a street, or to turn onto a street. Move forward only when the road is clear. At a four-way stop intersection, the driver of the first vehicle to stop at the intersection should be the first to proceed. If two or more vehicles reach the four-way stop intersection at the same time, the driver of the vehicle on the left shall yield the right-of-way to the vehicle on the right.

Open Intersections

An open intersection is one without traffic control signs or signals. When you enter one, you must yield the right-of-way if:

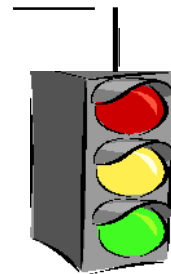
1. A vehicle is already in the intersection
2. You enter or cross a state highway from a secondary road
3. You enter a paved road from an unpaved road
4. You plan to make a left turn and a vehicle is approaching from the opposite direction

When two cars enter an open intersection at the same time, the driver on the left must yield to the driver on the right.

Traffic Control Signals

Traffic signals are placed at intersections to keep traffic moving and avoid accidents. Drivers, pedestrians, and bicycle riders must obey these signals except when an officer is directing traffic. Stop on the stop line if your golf cart is nearest the signal. Some signals change only when a car is at the stop line.

If traffic signals are out of order, stop as you would for a four-way stop sign.



The RED light requires a complete stop at the marked stop line. If there is no marked stop line, stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection. Wait until the signal changes to green before you proceed. The YELLOW light warns that the signal is changing from green to red. Stop if you can. When the red light appears, you are prohibited from entering the intersection. Do not try to beat a traffic light with a golf cart. They usually have inadequate acceleration and are unable to speed out of harm's way. The GREEN light means you may proceed if it is safe to do so. However, you must first yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and vehicles that are still within the intersection.

Speeding Draft

Golf carts are not known for their racing qualities. Electric golf carts with their fixed battery and electric motor combination, seldom can reach more than about twelve (12) miles per hour. Over smooth and level roadways, progress at this speed can seem agonizingly slow. So, some golf cart owners may attempt to boost speed with lower gear ratios, altered motor field strength, and higher horsepower ratings to get the golf carts to go faster. The result has been the achievement of speeds over twenty-five (25) miles per hour.

Such speeds are well below the limits set for automobile operation. The danger for golf cart users is fewer golf cart safety features:

1. No restraint system for passengers
2. No metal shell surrounding passenger and little to hold on
3. High turn angle
4. Lower braking friction
5. Higher center of gravity relative to golf cart width

All of the above put golf cart riders at significant risk especially at brisk speeds. At 24 miles per hour, the momentum of the human body is four times the force experienced at 12 miles per hour. Even at 6 miles per hour, the cart passenger has difficulty staying in the cart in an abrupt left turn. A collision at 24 miles per hour would be like dropping from a second story window. Golf carts going fast are also at the mercy of uneven pavements and could be thrown against a parked or passing car.

Children Drivers

Children are not allowed to drive golf carts on City of Buena Vista streets even when accompanied by an adult.

Passenger Safety Tips

Passengers and drivers should always keep their feet inside the golf cart while it is in motion. There is a tendency to leave a leg or foot outside of the cart while it is in motion. Many serious injuries are reported from unexpectedly catching on the ground or a stationary object. Moreover, passengers should have both feet planted firmly on the floor while the golf cart is moving. For extra stability, a passenger should sit with his right hip against the right arm of the seat.

A passenger should be aware of traffic conditions. A sharp, unexpected turn can throw a rider from the golf cart with serious consequences. On turns and fast straight-aways, the passenger should grasp with his hand the right arm of the seat.

Pedestrians and Bicyclists

It is the driver's responsibility to do everything possible to avoid colliding with any pedestrians, bicyclist or other person. All motorists must yield to bicyclists and pedestrians utilizing the sidewalk. At any non-signalized intersection, marked mid-block crossing or driveway, motorists must yield to pedestrians wishing to cross the street or driveway. At signalized intersections, before making any turn, motorists must yield to pedestrians and bicyclists.



Vehicle Maintenance

Regardless of how well you drive, you are not safe unless your golf cart is in good operating condition. You should regularly check for safe operation of brakes, lights (if so equipped), steering, turn signals (if so equipped) and tires. You should also make sure your batteries are charged to good operating levels. A faulty symptom such as loose holding brakes, wheel wobble or unstable steering should prompt the immediate attention of a mechanic.

Driving Tips as We Age *(From the Virginia Driver's Handbook)*

Most older drivers enjoy the use of their golf carts and they handle them with skill. There is no reason why they should not continue to drive as long as they are in good health and keep up to date with the Florida traffic laws.

The passing years, unfortunately, take their toll so gradually that we ourselves are not aware of the change. Deterioration of vision, hearing or reaction develops almost unnoticed until we find ourselves faced with an emergency that we are no longer equipped to handle. The result is an accident that the driver could easily have averted a few years, or even months, earlier. Frequently reported errors made by older drivers include inattention, failure to drive in the proper lane, and failure to signal or to observe STOP signs and signals.

Defensive Driving

Defensive driving means doing all you can to prevent crashes. As a defensive driver, you will "give" a little. You will change your driving to fit the weather conditions, the way you feel and the actions of other drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians. Follow these steps to avoid accidents.

1. Look for possible danger. Think about what might happen. If there are children playing by the road, plan what you will do if one runs or rides into the street.
2. Understand what can be done to prevent a crash. See the defensive driving tips that follow.
3. Act in time. Once you have seen a dangerous situation, act right away to prevent a crash.

Use these defensive driving tips if you see that you are about to be involved in a crash:

1. It is better to swerve right instead of toward oncoming traffic to prevent a crash.
2. Hitting a row of bushes is better than hitting a tree, post or solid object.
3. Hitting a vehicle moving in the same direction as you are is better than hitting a vehicle head-on.
4. It is better to drive off the road than skid off when avoiding a crash.
5. It is better to hit something that is not moving instead of a vehicle moving toward you.

Common Sense Applies

Golf cart drivers must comply with driving laws and all rules of common sense. Never move your golf cart until you have looked in front, behind and to the side for pedestrians and oncoming traffic. Then, signal and pull into traffic when safe.

Driving is a Full Time Job

Concentration is one of the most important elements of safe driving. The driver's seat is no place for daydreaming, mental napping, window shopping, scenic viewing or distracting conversation (including cell phone usage and texting). Nor is it a place for a person who is ill, worried and angry or in grief. There have been too many accidents after which the driver (if he survived) said, "I don't know what happened."

Accident Causes The following are major contributors to serious accidents:

1. Making turns without looking and signaling
2. Backing without waiting and warning
3. Entering traffic lanes without stopping
4. Speeding beyond the ability to maintain control
5. Driving in a manner dangerous to passengers
6. Traveling in an improper traffic lane - stay to the right
7. Driving after dark without head or taillights
8. Operating an improperly maintained cart

Traffic Crashes: What Are Your Responsibilities?

Stop. If you are in a crash while driving, you must stop. If anyone is hurt, you must get help. You must also be ready to give your name, address, and driver license. A driver convicted of leaving the scene of a crash involving death or personal injury will have his or her license revoked. The driver is also subject to criminal penalties.

Report the crash. If the crash causes injury, death or property damage, it must be reported. Call the Buena Vista Police Department. If the crash involves a charge of driving under the influence (DUI) or results in death, injury or property damage to the extent a wrecker must tow a vehicle away, the officer will fill out a report. If the crash is investigated by an officer, you, the driver need not make a written report. The officer will provide you with a copy of the form for your records.

Move your vehicle if it is blocking traffic. If your vehicle is blocking the flow of traffic, you must move it. If you cannot move it yourself, you must get help or call a tow truck. This is true anytime your vehicle is blocking the flow of traffic whether it has been involved in a crash or not.

Appear in court. If you are charged in a driving crash, you may have to go to court. The officer who comes to the scene of the crash will file charges against any driver who violated a traffic law. Anyone who is charged will have a chance to explain to the court what happened. The court will then decide what the penalty will be. Anyone who is not charged with violating the law may have to come to court as a witness.

Crash Involving an Unattended Vehicle

If, while driving, you hit a vehicle with no one in it or if you damage any object that belongs to someone else, you must tell the owner. Give the owner your name and address in person or in a note attached to the object that was hit. Report the crash immediately to the proper law enforcement agency.

Avoiding Rear-End Collisions

Many crashes happen because one vehicle runs into the back of another one. Here are some things you can do to lower the risk of someone running into the rear of your vehicle. Check your brake lights often to make sure they are clean and working properly, if your golf cart is so equipped.

1. Know what is going on behind you. Use your rearview mirrors.
2. Signal well in advance for turns, stops and lane changes.
3. Slow down gradually. Avoid any sudden actions.
4. Drive with the flow of traffic (within the speed limit).
5. Adjust your speed to traffic conditions on streets and parking lots.

ARTICLE XX

OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS

Section 32-900- Definitions.

The following words and phrases when used in this article shall, for the purposes of this Article, have the meanings respectfully ascribed to them:

Golf cart means a self-propelled vehicle that is designed to transport persons playing golf and their equipment on a golf course.

Multi-purpose path means that area of a public street designated by the City for pedestrian travel and use by golf carts.

Sidewalk means that area of a public street set aside or used for pedestrian travel which is parallel to and within the boundary lines of a street.

Street means the entire width between the boundary lines of every way or place open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel in the City, including the streets and alleys, and, for law enforcement purposes, the entire width between the boundary lines of all private roads or private streets that have been specifically designated "highways", as that term is defined in Code of Virginia, § 46.2-100, by Ordinance, and also including sidewalks and multi-purpose paths.

Section 32.901 - Golf Cart Operation on Streets Not Otherwise Designated for Such Operation.

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a golf cart on or over any street, sidewalk, or multi-purpose path in the city except as provided in this article.

Section 32.902 - Designation of Public Streets of the City for Golf Cart Operation; Posting of Signs.

Pursuant to Code of Virginia, §46.2-916.2 et seq. and §46.2-676 City Council may authorize by Ordinance, the operation of golf carts on designated public streets within the City after (i) considering the speed, volume, and character of motor vehicle traffic using such streets, and (ii) determining that golf cart operation on particular streets is compatible with state and local transportation plans and consistent with the Commonwealth's Statewide Pedestrian Policy. No public street of the City shall be designated for use by golf carts if such golf cart operations will impede the safe and efficient flow of motor vehicle traffic, or if the street's posted speed limit is greater than 25 miles per hour.

Section 32.903 - Limitations.

Golf cart operations on designated public streets of the City shall be in accordance with the following limitations:

- (1) Golf carts may be operated on the streets of the City of Buena Vista that allow a maximum speed of 25 miles per hour.
- (2) No golf cart shall be driven across any street at an intersection where the street being crossed has a posted speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour.
- (3) No person shall operate any golf cart on any designated public street of the City unless he has in his possession a valid driver's license.
- (4) No golf cart shall be operated on any designated public street of the City without displaying a slow-moving, vehicle emblem in conformity with Code of Virginia, §46.2-1081.
- (5) No person shall operate any golf cart on any designated public street of the City between sunset and sunrise, unless equipped with lights as required in Code of Virginia, §46.2-1010.
- (6) Golf carts operating on designated public streets of the City pursuant to this Article shall be insured by a policy of liability insurance with coverage of not less than \$300,000.00 per accident. In lieu of coverage provided by an insurance policy, the owner of such golf cart may self-insure the liability coverage if the Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles has issued a certificate of self-insurance pursuant to Code of Virginia, §46.2-368.
- (7) Golf carts must be operated in accordance with all applicable state and local laws and ordinances, including all laws, regulations and ordinances pertaining to the possession and use of alcoholic beverages.
- (8) The operation of golf carts shall be in a manner so as not to impede the safety and efficient flow of motor vehicle traffic.
- (9) No golf cart shall be operated within 150 feet of any intersection with a street having a posted speed limit exceeding 35 miles per hour.
- (10) Only the number of people the golf cart is designed to seat may ride on a golf cart. Additionally, passengers shall not be carried on the part of a golf cart designed to carry golf bags.
- (11) Golf carts must be operated in accordance with the motor vehicle laws of the Commonwealth.

(12) Golf carts shall not be operated during inclement weather, nor when visibility is impaired by weather, smoke, fog or other conditions.

(13) The Chief of Police, or his designee, may temporarily prohibit the operation of golf carts on any highway if the Chief determines that the prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.

(14) Golf carts may not be operated in designated school zones.

Section 32-904 - Exception.

The limitations set forth in Subsections 32-903 (1) and (2) above shall not apply to golf carts being operated as follows:

(1) To the extent necessary for City employees and City contractors to fulfill a governmental purpose, or as otherwise authorized by the City manager or his designee, provided the golf cart is not operated on a public street of the City with a posted speed limit over 25 miles per hour except during special events when traffic on the roadway will be redirected.

Section 32-905 - City Inspection and Safety Equipment.

Golf carts shall pass a safety inspection at least once yearly. Such safety inspection shall be conducted by an inspection station approved by the city. Such safety inspection shall only cover the following items:

- (1) Headlights, tail lights and turn signals, if the golf cart is driving between sunset and sunrise;
- (2) Horn, adequate steering gear, brakes, emergency or parking brake, one mirror, and an adequately fixed driver's seat;
- (3) All other factory installed safety or mechanical systems, including checking for gasoline or propane leaks;
- (4) Speed governor, if gasoline powered;
- (5) Safety lap belts, if equipped;
- (6) Rubber or equivalent tires;
- (7) Slow moving vehicle emblem in conformity with Code of Virginia, §46.2-1081; and
- (8) Proof of insurance is required.

The owner of the golf cart shall be responsible for obtaining a certification from the inspection station that the golf cart passed the inspection.

Section 32-906 - License and Decal.

It shall be unlawful for any owner or operator of any golf cart that is used within the City to fail to obtain and display the City vehicle license decal required by this Article.

(1) *License year.* For the purpose of this Article, the license year shall extend from April 1 of each year through April 15 of the next succeeding calendar year.

(2) *License fee levied.* There is hereby assessed and levied an annual license fee upon each golf cart required to be licensed under this Article.

(3) *When fee payable.* The license fee imposed by this article shall be paid to the City treasurer not later than April 15 of the license year, but the same may be paid on or after March 1 preceding the license year.

(4) *Proration of golf cart license/decal.* One-half of the license fee prescribed by this Article shall be collected when the license is issued during the period beginning on October 1 and ending on January 15 in the same license year, and one-third of such fee shall be collected when the license issued after January 15 in any license year.

(5) *Disposition of revenue derived from fee.* The revenue derived from the fee levied by this Article shall be paid into the general revenue fund of the City and applied to general City purposes.

(6) *Issuance and contents of decal.* Upon receipt of the prescribed license fee, approved inspection and proof of insurance, the police department shall issue a license decal for the golf cart on which the fee was paid. The decal shall show thereon the words "City of Buena Vista," an indication of the year for which it was issued and the number of the license, together with such other matter as the council may from time to time designate.

(7) *Display decal generally.*

a. A decal issued pursuant to this Article shall be attached to the lower right-hand side of the windshield of the golf cart for which it was purchased or to such other location as the police department shall direct on a golf cart not equipped with a windshield.

b. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a golf cart required to be licensed under this Article on any street unless a current license decal is displayed on the golf cart in the manner prescribed in this section.

(8) *Display of expired decal.* It shall be unlawful for the owner of a golf cart to display thereon a City license decal after its expiration date.

(9) *Transfer or reissuance of decal.* A license decal acquired pursuant to the provisions of this Article shall be transferable by the licensee from any golf cart sold, traded in or otherwise

disposed of by the licensee to any golf cart thereafter acquired by the licensee during the license year subject to proof of insurance in accordance with the requirements of Section 32-903 and a certification that the golf cart has passed a safety inspection required by Section 32-905. The transfer shall be accomplished by the payment of \$1.00 to the police department, together with the delivery to the police department of either the remains of the decal, including the number portion thereof, or an affidavit of the licensee certifying that the original decal was destroyed or is no longer in the City and is unavailable to the licensee for delivery to the police department. The police department shall then transfer or reissue the decal.

Section 32-907 - Local vehicle license.

No golf cart shall be used on the public street unless it has obtained a City of Buena Vista Vehicle License under Section 32-906. No vehicle license shall be issued until the owner of the golf cart presents evidence that the golf cart is insured in accordance with the requirements of Section 32-902 and the golf cart has passed a safety inspection required by Section 32-905. The fee for such license shall be \$10.00 per year.

Section 32-908 - Liability disclaimer.

This chapter is adopted to address the interest of public safety. Golf carts are not designed or manufactured to be used on the public streets, and the City of Buena Vista in no way advocates or endorses their operation on public streets or roads. The City of Buena Vista "assumes" no liability for permitting golf carts to be operated on public streets and roads under special legislation granted by the Virginia General Assembly. The City of Buena Vista, by regulating such operation is merely trying to address obvious safety issues. All persons who operate or ride upon golf carts upon public streets or roads do so at their own risk and peril, and must be observant of bicyclists, pedestrians and other vehicular traffic. Any person who operates a golf cart is responsible for procuring liability insurance sufficient to cover the risk involved in using a golf cart on the public streets and roads.

Section 32-909 - Compliance with article, general penalty for violations.

It shall be unlawful for any person to refuse, fail or neglect to comply with any of the provisions of this article or any rule or regulation promulgated pursuant thereto. A violation of this article shall constitute a traffic infraction punishable by a fine of not more than \$100.00.

Section 32-910 – Section 32-950

Reserved

Golf Cart Transportation

Per City Ordinance Chapter 32 Article XX; Golf Carts are now allowed in the City of Buena Vista on designated streets as an alternative mode of transportation. Please see the reverse side for a map.



What are the rules?

- ✓ All golf carts must be registered by the City of Buena Vista
- ✓ Operator must be the owner and possess a valid Driver License
- ✓ Operator must obey all rules of the road
- ✓ Operator Manual to be distributed with registration of vehicle



What equipment do I need?

- ✓ Efficient brakes
- ✓ Reliable steering
- ✓ Horn
- ✓ Safe tires
- ✓ Rearview mirror
- ✓ Red reflectorized warning devices (front/rear)
- ✓ If driven between the hours of sunset and sunrise, headlights, brake lights, turn signals, and a windshield are also required

How do I get a permit?

- ✓ Through the Buena Vista Police Department at:
306 Park Avenue, Buena Vista, VA
(540-261-6174)
- ✓ Hours of Operation:
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday
- ✓ \$10.00 annual fee
- ✓ You will be issued a decal and Operator's Manual

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Drive Carefully!

Thank you for helping to keep our City eco-friendly

All rules and regulations are enforceable by Buena Vista Police Department and the City of Buena Vista Code Enforcement Office.

City of Buena Vista Ordinance
Pursuant to Chapter 32 Article XX

Draft

Rt- 60
Cross Only

U.S. 501
Cross Only





CITY OF BUENA VISTA

Golf Cart Operator Permit Application

APPLICANT INFORMATION

OWNER: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

VEHICLE INFORMATION

TYPE: _____ MAKE/MODEL: _____
VIN OR SERIAL NUMBER OF VEHICLE: _____

REQUIREMENTS

I hereby certify that I possess liability insurance coverage (either as a rider on a homeowner's policy or a separate vehicle policy) on the above referenced vehicle. I also certify that this vehicle has the following equipment and is inspection-ready: efficient brakes; reliable steering; a horn; safe tires; a rearview mirror; and red reflectorized warning devices in front and rear. If this vehicle is to be operated from dusk to dawn, I hereby certify that it will also be equipped with the following equipment: headlights; turn signals; and a windshield.

I swear that the information contained in this application is, to the best of my knowledge, true and complete. I have received a copy of and further agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the City of Buena Vista Golf Cart Operator's Manual.

Signature of Owner: _____ Date: _____

PERMIT ISSUED

- Proof of vehicle ownership (bill of sale or affidavit of ownership - see reverse)
 Proof of owner's valid Driver License DL# _____
 Fee Paid \$ _____ Decal Number: _____ DECAL TO BE PLACED ON REAR FENDER

Date Processed: _____ Registration Expires: _____

Initials of Permit Technician: _____

AFFIDAVIT OF OWNERSHIP

I hereby certify that I am the owner of the vehicle described below:

I swear that the information contained in this application is, to the best of my knowledge, true and complete.

Signature of Owner: _____ Date: _____

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