

GOLF CARTS IN ROYAL PINES

by Michael Johns

On the streets of Royal Pines the most obvious reminder that we live in a golfing community is the presence of golf carts. They are a routine and unremarkable part of the landscape. As with many pieces of equipment, they are perfectly safe and a great time saver when used in the manner intended by the manufacturer and required by law. The following article is intended to be informational.

At recent HOA Board meetings, there have been questions raised about minor's driving golf carts at excessive speed or with too many passengers. The tone of these questions is never one of chiding the children. (It is, after all, fun to ride in a golf cart.) It is expressed out of a sense of apprehension that a child, sooner or later, will be hurt.

The South Carolina Code of Laws (Section 56-2-105) deals with golf cart permits and their operation. A golf-cart owner must go to the Department of Motor Vehicles, present proof of title and liability insurance, and pay a five dollar fee. For this they will be given a permit decal and registration, good for five years. The permitted golf cart may only be driven during daylight hours on secondary highways or streets with a speed limit of 35 mph or less and golf carts are subject to the same laws as normal motor vehicles. The operator must be at least 16 years old and hold a valid driver's license. When on a street, the operator must have in their possession the registration certificate issued by the DMV, proof of liability insurance, and his driver's license. It is illegal for children or unlicensed drivers to operate a golf cart on a public road. It does not matter if an adult is seated next to the child; they still cannot drive. If the child has an accident, the adult can be criminally liable for endangering the child and civilly liable for "negligent entrustment" for any accident caused by the child. If a police officer pulls over a child on a golf cart, the parents will receive a \$200+ fine. (Disclaimer: Traffic violations are not the responsibility of the HOA; call county law enforcement to report traffic violations. The HOA oversees the planning of community activities and covenant enforcement.)

Golf carts appear to be safe because they are slow-moving and easy to operate, but they offer little protection to occupants. A study conducted at Ohio State University looked at the nationwide frequency of golf cart injuries using emergency room medical treatment rec-

orded through the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System database: Between 1990 and 2006, there were an estimated 147,696 injuries reported from golf cart accidents; 38.3% of the injuries were due to falling off the golf cart, making it the highest cause of injury; and one third of the victims were children. In a July 8, 2011 Insurance Journal article, Eric Goldstein, manager of Ridgeland-based Lowcountry Golf Cars, said drivers should alert passengers if they are making a turn, especially at higher speeds. "If you're not paying attention, you can fall out of a passenger seat pretty easily at 10 or 15 mph," he said. "You have to watch where you're going and lean with the turn." Goldstein recommends installing seat belts, which start at about \$25 per belt, depending on the cart model. Beaufort County Sheriff P.J. Tanner also supports the use of seat belts in golf carts and believes state lawmakers should require them for those who ride on public roads. "It would be helpful," Tanner said of the belts. However, he also noted that in most of the serious cart accidents in the county, rules already in place weren't followed.

The Insurance Journal came to a stunning conclusion: "Golf-cart accidents rarely cause serious injury or death in Beaufort County — only about a half-dozen have been documented in the past decade." Really? Isn't that six too many? Golf cart accidents are completely preventable with proper understanding of the rules of the road and reasonable caution. The odds that you will have a safe trip also go up if the driver is at least sixteen years old and licensed. And its the law.



PERSONAL SAFETY WHILE YOU ARE OUT

More Safety Tips for Seniors from Msgt. Mike Jennings
of the Beaufort County Sheriff's Department:

Be aware of your surroundings: **Purse snatchers** are most frequently teenagers who prey upon people in crowded places.

Pickpockets do their work when the intended victim is distracted in a crowd.

Muggers look for victims in out-of-the-way and secluded places.

Carry as little cash as possible and carry credit cards in a concealed coat or chest pocket. For a woman with a purse, carry it close to the body, preferably in front. If the purse has a clasp, cover it with your hand. Don't wrap the strap of the purse around your wrist. If you carry packages and a purse, put the purse between your body and the packages. Never leave a purse unattended.

If a robber attempts to snatch your purse: Don't resist. Give the robber what he wants. Sit down to avoid injury. Observe the robber as closely as possible to get a description for the police. Never pursue the attacker. After sitting down, make noise by calling for help. Carry a whistle and blow it repeatedly.

When walking: Plan your route and stay alert in your surroundings. Never exhibit or flash large sums of cash or other valuables. Walk with a companion when possible and greet familiar people, merchants and vendors. Stay away from buildings and walk next to the street. Avoid dark places, short cuts, alleys, thick trees and shrubs and sparsely traveled areas. Be wary of strangers who attempt to start meaningless or

odd conversations. If you must walk at night, choose the busiest and best-lit streets.

In stores: Don't display cash except in small amounts. Don't leave a purse in a shopping cart or on a counter while examining an item. Don't get separated from your purse in a crowded restroom. When opening your purse to make a purchase, don't allow yourself to be distracted and close it as quickly as possible. Make sure you retrieve your credit card from a clerk after using it.

In your car: Keep the gas tank full and vehicle well maintained to avoid breakdowns. Lock your car doors—even while you are in the car—and keep windows rolled up. Lock packages/valuables in the trunk; do not leave them where potential thieves can see them. When returning to the car, check the front and back seat before you get in. Don't leave your purse on the seat beside you when driving; place it on the floor. Keep your cellphone charged. If you purchase gas and go inside to pay for it, take your vehicle keys with you. Don't keep your car keys on the same ring as your house keys; if your car is stolen you don't want the thief to also have keys to your house. Don't rent vehicles that are clearly marked as rental vehicles; thieves often target rentals because they believe tourists who carry a lot of money drive them. Never pick up hitchhikers. If your car breaks down, pull over to the right as far as possible, raise the hood, and wait inside for help. Do not get out of the car until police arrive.

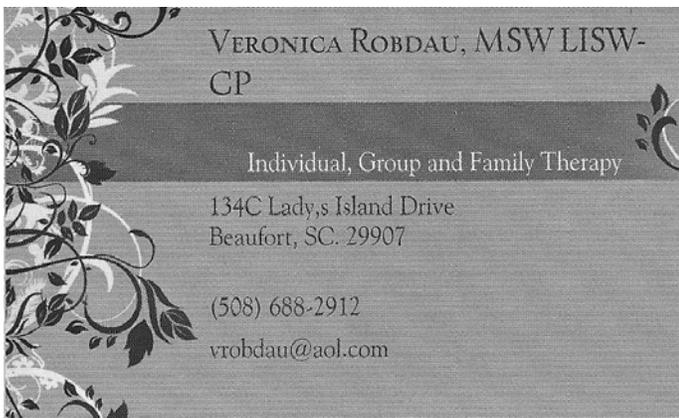


Our Neighbor VERONICA ROBDAU

I recently had the opportunity to speak with a local resident, Veronica Robdau regarding her psychotherapy practice on Lady's Island. Veronica feels strongly that it is important for the specialist and patient to spend time getting to know each other and to understand the issues an individual is dealing with. It is oftentimes easier for an individual to speak to a professional in a private environment where they know confidentiality is of utmost importance when seeking assistance and guidance with resolving difficult issues in

their lives. She believes that it is extremely important to establish a trust worthy connection with clients in order to maintain an ongoing, healthy relationship. Veronica works with a variety of issues including, but not limited to, depression, anxiety and marital problems.

Veronica Robdau, MSW, LISW-CP offers individual, group and family therapy on Lady's Island. She recently opened her office at 134C Lady's Island Drive and can be reached at (508) 688-2912 or vrobdau@aol.com



VERONICA ROBDAU, MSW LISW-CP

Individual, Group and Family Therapy

134C Lady's Island Drive
Beaufort, SC. 29907

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SCHOOL IS STARTING SOON!!

This means that you will see an increase in children waiting for buses, walking to school or riding their bikes. Please make sure you take care in driving. They are not watching out for you so it is up to the car drivers to watch for the children. SLOW DOWN! That 1 or 2 minutes it costs you might save a life or prevent an injury.

Our Neighbors BEN & JESS NOLAND

Jess and Ben and their 2 teenage boys (Kolton and Kaleb) moved here from Ohio last July. Jess is an Emergency Dispatcher at MCAS and Parris Island. Ben does yard work around the neighborhood but is quickly establishing a reputation for himself building furniture. He works from either a general idea you give him or a picture that you might have available. Either way, there is a very good chance that he can make it to your specifications.

Ben and Jess take great passion working together in making things from reclaimed wood. Jess has an artistic hand in painting southern and coastal themes. Ben makes tables and chairs for patios. He also makes makeup vanities, coffee tables and tables that have hand painted themes on them. Some of the antique shops on Bay

Street have taken his work on consignment and they are often sold on the same day he brings them in. If you are interested in discussing a project or seeing some of their work give them a call at 843-592-1823 or 567-242-9140.



NEED A RIDE?

By Michelle Johns

While walking in the neighborhood, not one, but twice I've had people drive by in their car asking, "Need a ride?" Back in the day, as a teenager beach hopping in New Jersey, hitchhiking was the way to get around. Nowadays that might be frowned on. But I wasn't hitchhiking or looking for a ride. It happened when I was walking my dog, Baby.

She decided, despite the off-hour and mid-afternoon temperature, that Nature was calling. So, "doggie" water bottle in hand, we headed out. As we got farther and farther from home, I knew this was not a

good idea. Mission accomplished, she splayed herself out on the cool grass as if preparing to take a refreshing nap. As the minutes ticked by, I finally decided that the "walk" meant I would walk and Baby (all 32 dead-weight pounds) would get carried home.

"Do you need a ride," asked an observant, kind, dog-loving neighbor. "Yes!" We rode in first-class air-conditioned comfort the rest of the way to our door. Do I need any other reason for loving Royal Pines? Baby and I say, "No."

EVENTS SUGGESTION FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD

In last the last issue of Royal Pines times there was an article seeking input from local residents regarding ideas and/or suggestions they may have to bring events of interest to the neighborhood. The response was amazing and I wish to thank all of those who took time from their busy schedules to contact me and offer your input on ideas to bring the neighbors/neighborhood together and share time and perhaps to meet new friends. Listed below are several of the suggestions offered:

Yard of the Month Contest

4th of July Bike and Golf Cart Parade

Block Parties

Family Movie Nights

Halloween Trunk and Treat

Book Clubs

Christmas "Best" Decorated House

Monthly Speakers/Variety of Topics

After Dinner Dance and Drinks

As you can see this is quite a variety of ideas. As we work with a very limited budget, some of these ideas may be supported by the HOA. However, there are some that will take individuals to step up and volunteer to organize. If you would like to start a Book Club or speak on a specific topic or organize a Block Party, the newsletter will be glad to publish your plans and contact information.

This newsletter is for the community and we want you to participate in getting involved in the areas that are of most interest to you. If you wish to undertake an event, or volunteer to help the HOA hold an event, please call Melissa Klingenberg at 843-592-2189.

Once again, thank you for your suggestions and showing your support for Royal Pines.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who joined in the Royal Pines Community yard sale. I am so sorry that I could not be there. Special thanks to Pat and Gordon Mabie for scheduling to pick up unsold items and bringing them to the Treasure House. Also, special thanks to Gene Brancho from Eat Sleep Play Beaufort for working with me on the ad changing the date when we had to postpone. Next year I am suggesting that we have the yard sale in April when it is much cooler. This is a really great way of getting people together and for those who live on Middle Road, Gator, Sea Gull and others to be able to come and participate in this community event. Again, my sincerest thanks to all of you and I look forward to next year's event.

Melissa Klingenberg
843-52-2189

Recently, I spoke with a neighbor who had come down with Lyme Disease and did not know it for several weeks. Since we live in an area that is heavily wooded, marshy, and have a deer population I thought that it might be important to pass on some information that I have obtained while researching the disease. Most of this information came from rmhealthy.com and webmd. I hope that you find it informative.

Lyme Disease is raking in a reported 300,000 new cases each year confirmed just in the United States alone. The often debilitating illness has become a major concern for parents and those who own pets as well, considering your furry friends can also become incredibly sick from a tick bite.

The symptoms of Lyme Disease can be treated mostly through the help of antibiotics, but if it has been a long time since the tick bite originally occurred and was never diagnosed, severe symptoms may begin to set in within weeks. More and more patients are being diagnosed with an advanced version of Lyme disease, so without question, take this disease very seriously.

With over 200,000 cases per year in the U.S., take the time for yourself to carefully review some of the symptoms of Lyme disease:

Rashes	Neurological Issues
Joint Pain	Flu Symptoms
Swollen Lymph Nodes	Eye Inflammation
Fatigue	Hepatitis
Heart Palpitations	

I personally always took Lyme Disease casually until I started reading about it. It is a much more serious issue that I realize and one that I will take steps to try to prevent. For instances, when we go in the yard I will make sure we check our bodies, clothes, etc., for ticks. I have my animals treated against ticks and fleas but now I am going to personally check them often just to ensure that the prevention that I am using is working. I always heard that an ounce of prevention was worth a pound of cure...

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The name will be drawn and WINNER selected at our weekly meeting on Monday 12th at the Celandon Club!! Winner does not need to be present!

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Alice and Michael Motyka



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ROYAL PINES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

The Royal Pines Community has over 600 lots most of which have homes. All of the lots are subject to the covenants of Royal Pines. The covenants run with the land meaning that transfer of ownership does not overcome the binding nature of the covenants.

Being a dues paying Member in the Royal Pines HOA is not mandatory. ALL owners are still bound by the Covenants as are the tenants of a rental property.

The cost of the Annual Dues in the RPHOA is a mere \$75.00 per year. What does the membership fee provide?

Membership entitles the member to vote in the annual election. Members are entitled to run for an office if so desired.

It goes towards mowing over nine miles of berm several times a year, in addition to the State Mowing, to help maintain an attractive look.

In the last year it provided seed money to start publishing the newsletter which is now self-sufficient.

It pays for both Liability Insurance needed for vendors that may be hired by the Association and Directors Insurance coverage. It goes towards legal expenses when necessary.

The Association has both mailing and supply expenses. The annual election requires a mailing to all owners announcing the annual meeting. That entails both printing and mailing expenses.

It helps pay for part of the Armed Forces Recognition Day Picnic, Refreshments for the Santa and Easter Bunny Days and other events sponsored by the HOA.

Money has been spent on painting, irrigation and soon new plantings for the main entrance at the intersection of Royal Pines Boulevard and Sam's Point Road all for enhancing the look and value for all property owners.

There is no outside Management Company managing RPHOA affairs nor are any Board Members compensated for their voluntary efforts.

Maintaining the appearance of YOUR community for just \$75.00 per year is the one the best investments you can make for your home. We have included a membership application in this month's newsletter. We encourage past members to reconsider and new owners to apply for membership if you have not already. We need and encourage your support of your community.

PLEASE JOIN TODAY

Annual Membership: \$75

Unimproved Lot: \$40

Complete the form below and include it with your remittance or bring it to the meeting. Make checks payable to RPHOA and mail to: RPHOA, PO Box 1763, Beaufort, SC 29901. If you do not choose to join, please consider making a contribution to cover Association costs. The Association's sole reason for existing is to create an environment that helps maintain the value of our homes and fosters a sense of community.

Name:

Royal Pines Property Address:

Email Address:

Phone #:

Mailing Address (if different from property address):