



Sharon Township Police Department

95 E. Wilson Bridge Road

Worthington, Ohio 43085

24 Hour Dispatch: 614-525-2125 • Office: 614-885-5115

Website: www.sharontwp.us

June 13, 2018

To the residents of Worthington Hills,

Sharon Township and Perry Township have been approached by members of the Worthington Hills community asking to be allowed to operate golf carts during the 4th of July festivities. One of the concerns is that a few residents find it difficult to transport small children or elderly parents to the various events due to the high number of visitors in Worthington Hills and the additional vehicular traffic.

Perry Twp. Police Chief John Petrozzi checked with four golf cart rental companies in Central Ohio. He found that "Street Legal" carts cannot be rented, but it is possible to rent a cart with a front light, a rear light, a windshield, and a mirror. These carts are considered "street safe," not "street legal."

Chief Petrozzi and I discussed the use of "street safe" golf carts during the 4th of July festivities, and the legal responsibilities of both Departments. We have discussed the issue with the Board of Trustees from both Townships. Both Police Departments have agreed to the following:

- Officer discretion will be used with the enforcement of traffic laws for the use of "**Street Safe**" golf carts for the 4th of July festivities.
- We will permit their use on July 1st, July 2nd, and July 4th; the days of the scheduled 4th of July activities.
- What this means is if there is an event scheduled for 6:00 pm in the evening, you can use the cart for that event during the scheduled hours of the event.
- You cannot arbitrarily drive the carts that are not Street Legal all day throughout the Hills.
- On the 4th of July, carts will be allowed all day due to the parade, neighborhood gatherings and the fireworks. The 4th of July is truly an all-day celebration! Getting our small children and elderly parents to these events is important and we certainly do not want to stand in the way of building memories or having a great time.

Below are some rules for operating a golf cart on the streets of Worthington Hills during the 4th of July events:

1. You must be a licensed driver. Non-licensed drivers will be cited and the person who signed the rental agreement will also be cited for wrongful entrustment.
2. All OVI and Alcohol Laws will be enforced.
3. You will need to have proof of insurance for the golf cart with you. Chief Petrozzi looked into this matter with the following results:

You will need to check with your insurance company to see if your Auto or

Home Owners insurance will cover you. In his conversations with various insurance agents he learned that your personal coverage **MAY NOT** cover rented golf carts. You may need to carry a separate policy on the golf carts and you will need to have it with you while operating on the streets. Please check with your agent to ensure you have coverage.

4. **“Street safe” golf carts cannot be driven across Olentangy River Road (State Route 315). To state it more clearly, no one can drive this type of golf cart across the street to the Olentangy Valley Center (OVC).**
5. All motor vehicle laws must be obeyed and will be enforced.

Please understand, the above rules and regulations for the use of “street safe” golf carts apply only during the 4th of July festivities, and only on July 1st, 2nd and 4th. The use of this classification of golf carts will not be permitted at any other time of the year.

The Ohio Revised Code does allow the use of “street legal” golf carts on Township roads after several steps have been taken. Some of the steps are:

1. A Resolution has to be adopted by each Township’s Board of Trustees. On June 6, 2018, the Sharon Township Board of Trustees adopted **Resolution 06062018A**. It allows the use and regulation of the operation of low-speed, under-speed (golf carts) or a mini-truck on named Township roads in the Worthington Hills area of Sharon Township.
2. The vehicle has to meet certain safety requirements and inspected by a Sharon Township police officer. After the inspection, the owner will be provided a signed inspection certificate.
3. The owner will have to take the inspection certificate and other documents to the Franklin County Title Office to receive a title to the vehicle.
4. The owner will have to take the title to the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) and obtain license plates.

Once the process has been completely developed and approved, more information will be provided on the Township’s Website at www.sharontwp.us. We will make an announcement on our Facebook page as well. Please keep checking.

If you are a Sharon Township resident and have any questions, please call Lt. Jeff Tuchfarber, Sgt. White, or me at 614-885-5115. Or you may e-mail me at police@sharontwp.us. If you are a Perry Township resident and have questions, please call Chief Petrozzi at 614-889-9028.

Thank you for your cooperation and HAVE A SAFE AND FUN FOURTH OF JULY!!!

Respectfully,

Donald E. Schwind
Chief of Police