Houston Chronicle

La Porte Passes Golf Cart Rules

By: Scott Gordon

Published: March 28th, 2011

The La Porte City Council recently passed a new ordinance on golf carts that goes into effect Monday.

The new law allows people to drive golf carts on roads whose speed limit doesn't exceed 35 miles per hour. It also requires golf-cart owners to register their carts for a \$35 fee and have them inspected by city police officers.

La Porte Police Department spokesperson Sgt. John Krueger says the ordinance merely provides some standard guidelines for cart owners and won't create much new work for officers.

"While golf carts have not been a large problem in La Porte, there was confusion among residents, both owners and non-owners, regarding the specific guidelines surrounding enforcement," Krueger says, pointing out that many cities across the state have been enacting similar golf-cart regulations.

For police officers, Krueger says, "there will be an occasional diversion from patrolling services when an officer is required to travel to an owners' residence for an initial inspection [and] certification of a golf cart. But with the low number of private golf-cart owners in the city, and the inspection/registration process occurring only once a year, the impact is expected to be inconsequential."

The ordinance does make some specific demands of cart drivers on public roads. They must yield right-of-way to faster vehicles, children under 10 must wear seat belts, and golf carts are not allowed to tow anything.

The city invites residents with questions about the new rules to reach City Hall at 281-471-5020