

Golf Car OPTIONS Magazine

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COVER PHOTO
Cunningham Golf &
Utility Vehicles

WACKY WORLD

Your Golf Car Is Worth More Than
You Think

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Gulf Atlantic Vehicles,
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GOLF CARTS: FUN-SIZED TRANSPORTATION OR MENACE?

SOUTH HAVEN – Over the past three years golf carts have become a common site on South Haven city streets during summer months. The people who ride them look like they're having fun, and finding a spot to park the carts in the crowded downtown area can be much easier than it is for standard-size vehicles.



But some people wonder why golf carts were ever allowed to operate on city streets in the first place.

The issue was front and center last week with the city's planning commission.

"We've all heard our neighbors complain about golf carts and we're cognizant of the fact that Labor Day has come and gone and Memorial Day will be coming up. So we have a few months to look at this (golf cart ordinance) and maybe tweak it," said planning commission Chairman Tim Stegeman.

The city council passed the original ordinance to allow golf carts on city streets in 2016, according to Assistant City Manager Kate Hosier, and did so with the intention of revisiting the law to determine its effectiveness.

At Thursday's meeting she asked planners whether they wanted to review how golf carts operate in the city.

She got an earful of comments – many related to safety.

“The biggest thing I see is the number of people they can fit onto a golf cart. It’s amazing. It’s like a clown cart,” said planner Michael Neiss. “Something’s going to happen. ... We’re not a retirement village, we’re a city. Do we really need golf carts?”

Planner Clark Gruber said he has observed carts driving in bike lanes, while planner Rosalie Plechaty said it’s not unusual for golf cart drivers and passengers to be drinking alcoholic beverages, or driving their vehicles in city parks and public lawns.

According to Hosier, the city’s ordinance directly aligns with the state’s law for the operation of golf carts on city streets. Among other things:

- They can only be driven on city streets from April 15 to Oct. 15;
- Drivers must be at least 16 and have a valid driver’s license;
- Drivers have to signal when turning;
- Drivers have to drive as far to the right of the road as practicable;
- Carts can only be driven on streets with speed limits of 30 miles per hour or less;
- Carts cannot go faster than 15 miles per hour;
- Carts cannot be driven on state trunklines or Blue Star Highway, but can cross them if necessary;
- Carts cannot operate from half an hour before sunset to half an hour before sunrise;
- Cart owners must register their vehicle and display a tag issued by the South Haven Police on their vehicle.

But some planners say rules simply aren’t being followed.

“I don’t mean to be Scrooge, but it (the ordinance

allowing golf carts) ain’t working,” Neiss said.

“There are a lot of kids driving the golf carts,” Plechaty said.

“They’re parking wherever one can find a spot,” Gruber said.

Hosier noted that when people register their carts and obtain tags from the police, they also are given a list of rules and maps where they can drive their carts within city limits.

When police do stop golf cart drivers for infractions, they often spend more time educating the drivers about golf cart rules, before automatically issuing tickets.

However, some tickets are given each summer, according to Hosier.

“Police issued three tickets this summer,” Hosier said. One of the tickets was issued for a cart driver operating their cart while intoxicated, she indicated, while others were for cart operators driving in bike lanes.

“They have been doing quite a bit of education,” Hosier said.

But some of the planners think the police should start issuing more tickets.

“Education should be over,” Neiss said. “We need to start enforcement.”

Plechaty agreed. “Maybe the education period is over,” she said.

City planners made no decisions, saying more discussion is needed on the matter, with input from the police department.



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FLIP FORE COVERS – We Cover Your Rear!

The Flip Fore Cover was created out of necessity when trying to find a solution for my 4-seater RXV. Often during the Florida rainy season I'd get caught far from any shelter on the course and scrambling to cover my clubs and the cargo box I keep in the back seat. The usual golf bag rain hood seemed defenseless against some of the torrential downpours we face here in the sunshine state. This inspired me to create a cover for us 4-seater folks that the golf cart cover world forgot about. I am actually glad they did, as it allowed me to come up with a product that benefits cart owners using their carts for much more than just golf.



Our cover serves multiple functions, from the hunter and camper who want to cover their gear when needed, to the community cruiser that takes their cart grocery shopping or out to dinner and finds themselves in an unexpected shower. Golf carts are not just for golf anymore and whether you are cruising around with the grandkids, out in the woods or on the golf course, coverage in 60 seconds will come in handy.

Even though protecting my valuable golf gear was the driving force behind my design, I knew prior to the prototype this cover would benefit many in the golf cart market. There were many threads online looking for the same solution I was looking for with my golf cart – rear seat area coverage.

How It Works

The Flip Fore Cover is a pretty to simple product to install and use. We have 3 options for attaching to your golf cart and each cover is designed specifically to the roof supports of your par-

ticular model. The attachment options are the drill and 4 bolt method, the 4 U-bolt attachment method (no drilling) and the combination method which is the drilling of two holes and then using 2 U-bolts. I used this method on my cart as I already had 2 available holes drilled for my speaker bar. It comes fully assembled so with two people it can be installed in no time at all.

(30 minutes or less) Once the cover is fastened to your cart you simply flip and zip! There are five panels, (four side panels and one rear panel) that roll down and zip together to make a perfect enclosure to protect you from the sun, snow or rain. When not in use the panels are rolled up, the flip cover folds directly on top of itself and straps together for safety during transport.

Options

The flip cover has options on top of options. Though we initially were just making covers for 4-seaters, we have filled orders for 2-seater golf carts simply because our flip style looked "much cooler" than the clubs covers some golfers had looked to purchase. Their words not ours. Anyway, back to options. We offer 12 different colors of the Outdura fabric we use for our covers and if embroidery is something you need, we offer that as well. Logos, family names, whatever you want embroidered on your cover, we can accommodate you. How you position your cover once it is attached includes a few variations as well. Stowed away completely, stowed away with 2 panels down at the rear seat area, folded down with panels rolled up or fully deployed. Depending on your need and the look you like best, the options are there for you.

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IN MEMORIAM: MICHELLE ELYSE ELLIS KEMMER



Michelle Elyse Ellis Kemmer passed away peacefully in her home on November 27, 2019. Michelle was born on March 24, 1970, and leaves behind her husband Trent Kemmer, her mother Ruth Ellis, her brother Jim Ellis, her niece Jasmine Ellis and nephew Trevor Ellis all of Portland, Oregon and many, many friends whose lives she touched.

Michelle attended school in Portland to include Portland Community College, Lewis & Clark College, Northwest School of Law and Stanford University School of Law in CA. Michelle was raised in the Lutheran faith and knew that the Lord is our Savior.

Spending many years in the golf car industry, (Intercoastal Manufacturing, Nivel Parts, and most recently Red Hawk), Michelle will be sorely missed by all those in the golf cart community who had the pleasure of working with her.

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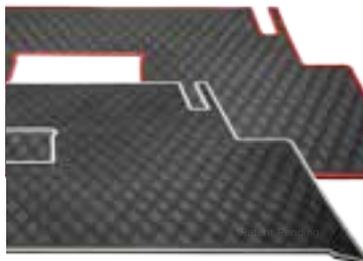
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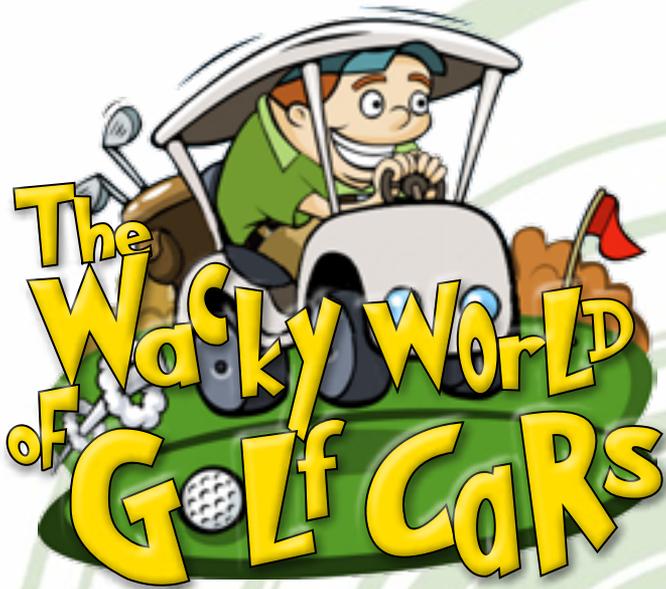
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Your Golf Car Is Worth More Than You Think

(Reprint May '18)

By Julie Starr, Owner
WHEELZ Custom Carts & Accessories

You may have thought, at some point, that your golf car is expensive. Whether you were purchasing a new or used golf car, a pack of batteries, or just a few accessories, the price of a golf car and its upkeep can get pricey. After reading this, you will be comfortable with your golf car spend.

Originally reported in Bloomberg earlier this month, golf cars are an expensive delicacy afforded only by the mega rich in a small corner of Hong Kong. Would you believe that golf car prices are topping those of a Tesla or Porsche?

In a small residential community called Discovery Bay, outside of Hong Kong, golf cars are the transportation of choice. Like many golf car communities in the US, like Boca Grande and Sun City, private passenger cars are not permitted. The quaint two lane roads are heavily populated with bicycles, pedestrians, and golf cars. Private residences in Discovery Bay typically sell between \$8M and \$80M.

And here is why golf cars are so expensive-Discovery Bay has a population of 20,000, according to the 2016 census. The Transpor-

tation Department has capped golf car licenses at 500. In order to own and drive a golf car within Discovery Bay, you must have a golf car license. The short supply has skyrocketed the prices for golf cars and their accompanying licenses within the community. Since standard vehicles are not permitted, walking and biking are the only ways to get around if you aren't one of the lucky few with a golf car license.

Recently, licensed golf cars have been selling for \$255,000USD within Discovery Bay. The upscale neighborhood is home to airline pilots, bankers, lawyers, and high profile investors. The ability to own a golf car is not only convenient but is also a





status symbol within the community. Residents take notice when nannies drive children around on golf cars or when they are parked at the community grocery store. Golf cars are coveted in Discovery Bay.

Not only are golf cars highly sought after, they have also become lucrative investments. The region has been faced with low interest rates and soaring property prices, so investors have taken to putting money into unconventional investments, like golf cars in Discovery Bay. Golf car licenses in Discovery Bay can only be owned by residents and can be freely bought and sold between owners. Golf car rentals can yield as much as \$12,000 month, costing more than an apartment rental. These factors combined make for the perfect storm for investing in golf cars.

The next time you are hit with a golf car expense, just think of how expensive your golf car would be in Discovery Bay.

.....



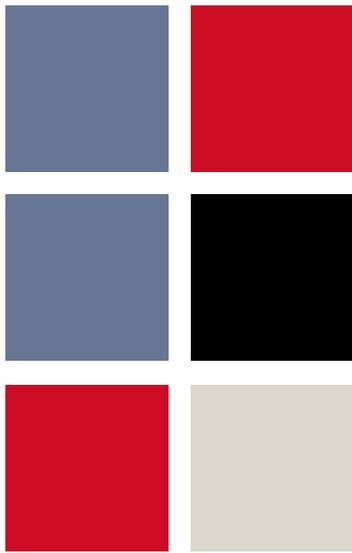
The Owner of WHEELZ Custom Carts & Accessories, Julie Starr was one of the industry's first on-line retailers of golf car products. Her eCommerce store, www.WHEELZLLC.com, has been serving golf car owners since 2008 and the store remains a popular on-line shopping experience for golf car owners who want to take their golf cars to the next level.

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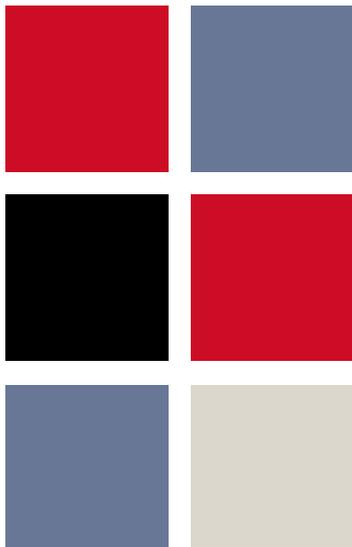
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GOLF CAR NEWS

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Tyler Pierce and Will Pierce are cousins and the owners of Arkansas Golf and Powersports in Little Rock.

What started as a fun hobby out of their own garage when they were still in college, has now turned into a growing family business.

Will, 29, encourages any young entrepreneur to go after their passion.

"To a young business owner, I would say just follow

your dreams. You have to be diligent. It's not going to form overnight. It's not going to come together as smoothly as you think it will," he advises.

The business has recently opened a new location in Fayetteville that they say is doing very well and has even gotten the attention of some state coaches.

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Winters Recreation specializes in used customized golf carts, new golf carts, snowmobiles, vehicles and campers. Our top brands are Yamaha, E Z GO, Club Car, Arctic Cat, Polaris and Ski-Doo.



**WINTERS
RECREATION**

A conversation with Minnow Speidel

A big **thank you** to Minnow for sharing this insider look at Winters Recreation.

Tell our readers a brief history of Winters Recreation...

Believe it or not – the story of owner/operator Matt Winters starts back when he was a teenager. Between him and his dad, they repaired snowmobiles and sold them for a profit out of his garage. A little adventurer and an American Entrepreneur at such a young age was not just another daydream. His passion for running a business was real. He likes a challenge.

So what started out by selling a couple of used snowmobiles quickly led into hundreds. Besides just sleds, he dabbled into ATV's, vehicles and more. Back in 2000 (just after his high school graduation), Matt's specialty was wholesale deals and that is when Centre Motor Sports, LLC was officially established. Fast forward a few years, Matt rented out a storage facility to house the entire inventory while working from his

“home office”, aka – the bedroom! This only lasted so long before he soon outgrew that, relocated to a Brick N' Mortar and hired his first employee. Years passed, connections were made and business was good.

2008-ish, Matt purchased a handful of Penske Box Trucks from Texas. To help pay for fuel back to Minnesota, he loaded them with golf carts. And I'm sure you could guess what that led to – more wholesale deals. Quickly these wholesalers turned into retailers asking for a rear seat, then lights, paint... One turned into two, quickly turned to three and so on. Demand was in the present. Matt held on tight and ran with it.

In 2017, this was one of the driving forces of Centre Motor Sports LLC rebranding itself to Winters Recreation. With a fair amount of golf cart customization under our belt, we have acquired a reputation for



high-quality products and sharp looking units. This epic and mega move had not only helped shape Winters Recreation into becoming more retail-friendly but become the Midwest's Largest "Customized" Golf Cart Supplier. Since then, we took on a few new lines such as Cherokee Grey Wolf Fish Houses, while maintaining a solid selection of customized golf carts, new Club Car Onward, used vehicles and used snowmobiles.

Currently, we have an in-town office location and an 18,000 square foot warehouse location where the majority of inventory lies. Because of such exponential growth in the past couple of years, we are more than doubling our warehouse and showroom area. Rough eta is Spring 2020. We're very excited about this move – for our 20+ employees and customers.

What kind of services do you offer...

We are a proud Authorized Club Car, Onward Golf Cart Dealer. We are well known for our vast selection of customizations ready to drive off the lot as well as custom builds. New and used inventory allows room to cater to all budget and brand loyal customers; Yamaha, Club Car, E-Z-GO and Gas, Fuel Injected, Electric Battery Powered. With the high demand and having a good selection in stock, this allows us to have that competitive edge and be priced right. Tailor-made orders come from all corners of the nation. Custom orders are precisely laid out before production; therefore, giving the customer comfort in knowing exactly what they are getting. One of our most popular

paint schemes is our "Patriotic". They don't stay in inventory long and we're always shipping nationwide.

Because we specialize in golf carts, we also stay busy with golf cart service & repair, special event rentals, delivery & financing and wholesale dealership opportunities.

Can you tell us about any special builds...

Sponsorships and they are all decked out, college campus's with mascot themes, and a few public sporting or musical events where celebrities are taking a ride in a Winters Recreation golf cart without even knowing it!

Is there a business aspect that you feel has elevated your success...

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The GolfGlide Is the Answer Nobody Is Looking For

For those of you who have said to yourselves, “Self? I think my current golf cart is too carty, and I need something less typical and way, way goofier,” the GolfGlide CGV, or Compact Golf Vehicle may be for you. I swear to you this is what it is actually called and I am not making this up. It exists at that point between your traditional motorcycle with a luggage rack to which you’ve managed to strap your golf bag and that purpose-built golf cart that probably won’t get you kicked off the course, but might, the way you drive it. Right. Ready?

The inventor of said Compact Golf Vehicle (I can’t get over that this is a real acronym yet, give me a second) insists the first prototypes will be released in March. That’s next month. For now, all we have are some renderings, which purport to have a “beautiful modern design” but in fact remind me of the scooter Sarah Connor rode in *The Terminator*. I think it was a mid-80s Honda (It is, in fact, a first-gen Honda Elite - JM).

Anyway, it’s a dedicated golfing scooter. It was designed for golf. So, sadly, it probably won’t be street legal. Amongst the other touted but non-ball-washing features are:

- Dual driving positions: [sitting] and standing, *like... every other motorcycle ever?*
- Unique E Brake, allows the car to stand still in inclined positions, *like most scooters you’ll come across!*
- Integrated scorecard holder, tee holder, ball holder, drink holder. *Although, seriously, I could use a drink holder on more*

of my bikes.

- In seat Cooler that fits up to 7 cans of any drink. *OK, you got me here. We all need this.*
- Sand/Seed dispenser. *I’m not a golfer, so I’m guessing this is for when, absent the ball you just sliced, you lob your divot into the woods in anger.*
- Umbrella stand. *I mean, who doesn’t need an umbrella stand?*
- Uses traditional golf cart tires for tight cornering and excellent handling. *I would absolutely not track down some very knobby ATV tires with the same wheel diame-*

ter... and get kicked off the course for tearing up the greens.

While I have so very many questions, the one that pops to mind first and foremost is, doesn’t Harley have the copyrights to the name “Glide” when it comes to forms of two-wheeled transportation?

At any rate: Motorcyclists who are also golfers, here’s yet another dedicated golf scooter that might be more fun than a cart. We’ll certainly keep you posted if it ever makes its way out of the 3D renders.

www.golfglide.com

Golf Car Options dealernews

New Smyrna Beach company Gulf Atlantic Vehicles specializes in custom golf carts

A fixture in the area since 1991, Gulf Atlantic specializes in golf cars, an evolution of the battery-powered carts once relegated to transporting weekend foursomes from tee to green. The family-owned business is now in its fourth generation, a span long enough to witness an industry transformation.

“He points to a Club Car Onward, a six-seat model that’s street legal. “You can take it on any road with a posted speed limit of 35 mph or less,” Welsh said. “It comes with a heavier suspension, kind of like a Jeep, higher off the ground.”

It’s also equipped with everything required for a VIN from the state Department of Motor Vehicles: a windshield that meets Florida Department of Transportation standards, wipers, mirrors, a lighted license plate frame and a slow-moving vehicle emblem for the back.

The brand-new 2019 model lists for \$15,995 and it’s a popular choice for customers that have kept Gulf Atlantic’s business trending upward in recent years, Welsh said.

A lot of potential buyers are coming from new developments that have contributed to a recent home-building boom in Volusia County, especially the 3,400-home Jimmy Buffett-themed Latitude Margaritaville 55-and-older community in Daytona Beach, Welsh said.

“Probably in the last five years our business is up 30 percent,” he said. “It has been growing steadily. It used to be seasonal, so in April things would slow down pretty much through September, but now we’re busy year-round.”

For the Welsh family, the golf cart connection goes back to the mid-1960s. That’s when Dale Noland, Carrie’s grandfather, started selling them.

A decade later, her father, Jim Noland, started Noland Car Company in Edgewater, a company that supplied Pargo brand carts to Walt Disney World and other resorts nationally and internationally.

Greg and Carrie met there as employees in the early 1980s. He worked on fiberglass installation and she assembled wiring harnesses.

Cushman bought the Noland dealership in 1987. A few years later, the Welshes opened Gulf Atlantic, after a stint of working in the sod business on the company’s current site a few miles east of Interstate 95 on Pioneer Trail.

Now, the family operation boasts a 5,000-square-foot service center on three acres and employs a 10-person staff, not including the Welshes’ two ever-present Boston terriers, Lilly and Ivy.

The couple’s son, Jimmy, is general manager. After earning a degree in environment horticulture and turf science at the University of Florida, Jimmy had considered becoming a golf course superintendent until his parents offered him the same “keep you busy” pitch that Carrie’s father had once given her.

“If it’s something somebody can think of, we can get it done,” Jimmy said. In equipment, the possibilities range from back-up cameras to premium audio components and seating to custom T-tops resembling a boat accessory.

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By Stephen Metzger
Managing Director
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INSIDE THE GATED COMMUNITY

Will Price Be a Barrier to the Lithium Battery Market?

It seems that every time there is an innovation suggested in small vehicles, such as our personal transportation vehicles (PTVs), the immediate concern by manufacturers and marketers is price rather than performance. The introduction of lithium power into the universe of small vehicles is no different in this regard. Ultimately, we as the consumer base for lithium batteries (for PTVs) will make or break the market; that is, we will decide whether the extra cost is offset by better performance.

Prediction: Lithium will take over

As a lifelong market researcher, and having concentrated the past two decades on small, task-oriented vehicles (STOVs) of all sorts, including golf cars, PTVs, utility vehicles, and off-road vehicles, the market reports generated by my company, Small Vehicle Resource, LLC, are rife with predictions and forecasts—and, for the most part they have been on target.

One small example of this: the forecast regarding AC electric motors. Not so long ago, the timorous were hesitating because the AC motor

would be more expensive than DC motors. Our view at the time was that the better incremental performance of AC motors would be more than compensatory. As you know, AC power is now mainstream.

So, we have somewhat the same scenario with regard to lithium batteries. The really exciting thing is that there are now several battery makers that feature a “drop-in” lithium battery solution, thus opening up the vast aftermarket for PTVs for easy conversions from lead acid technology.

My prediction is that lithium power will take over much of the small vehicle market, and in the balance of this article, I will state my case.

The performance data: Lithium batteries compared to lead acid

Compared to lead acid batteries, the upfront cost of a lithium battery is quite a bit more. Eight 6-volt Trojan T105 batteries run about \$1,900. Checking prices on golf car batteries from RELiON Battery and Allied Battery a lithium battery pack delivering 40-50 miles of driving distance will run between \$2,200-\$2,600.

So, let's say the price difference could range between \$400-\$700. But once the performance differences are factored, especially with regard to the number of lifetime cycles, it is hard to argue that lithium is not the better buy.

By the way, it is very easy to make the conversion. In fact you can even order online and have your battery shipped directly to you. Once you have the battery in hand you need only extract the lead acid batteries (careful they are heavy), drop in the new lithiums, and hook up the cables. No need to change out the controller or even the charger (although Allied does promote its own charger). If you are uncertain about this you can always revert to your local golf car dealer or order through him.

As to the key performance differences, the table below gives you some idea about the tremendous edge lithium batteries have over lead acid. In choosing among brands, it's always a good idea to check the reviews on third party internet-based distributor sites—and, of course, consult with your local dealer.

Comparison of Performance Attributes of a Typical Lithium Battery Compare to a Lead Acid Battery

Source: Compilation of information on RELiON and Allied websites

Performance Metric	Lead Acid	Lithium	Lithium Advantage
Lifetime cycles	500-750 cycles	3500-5000+ cycles	6-10 times longer life
Maintenance	Need to monitor discharge limit—usually 50%	No maintenance required	Much easier to maintain and to store
Self-discharge rate	Typically 1/3 to 1/2 of the battery will discharge in 30-40 day period	Only 2%-4% of the battery will discharge in a 30-40 day period.	Storage over the winter or any significant non-use period does not present a problem with a lithium battery.
Maximum usage (measured as % of full battery charge)	Should not go below 50% of full charge	Can use 100% of full charge	Much more flexible with regard to usage
Charge time	8-10 hours	2-3 hours	Much reduced time to achieve full charge, plus lithium can be effectively charged from complete discharge e. Makes opportunity charging much more feasible
Weight (equivalent power output)	350+ lbs.	70-75 lbs.	Significantly less total vehicle weight, which adds to distance on a charge.

Market acceptance: The key factor in lithium battery market growth

Demonstrably better performance metrics for lithium will be, early-on, mostly “on paper”, and the real test of superiority will come from the experiences of actual users. As noted above, you will have internet access to the comments by the early adopters, and every new product has them. They pave the way for the more reserved, show-me followers.

And, I believe the followers will be there, the result of their own research, complemented by objective, educational promotions and advertising. In this case the key manufacturers, Club Car, E-Z-GO, and Yamaha, all have every incentive to tout lithium because the technology will clearly energize the PTV market, which is now their main revenue source, displacing fleet golf cars. Of course, the battery manufacturers will be promoting their product via YouTube, webinars, and other means. At this stage of market development each battery manufacturer, despite the fact they are in

competition, has a common interest in seeing the market grow³.

You could put it this way, for market take-off and early accelerated growth, the necessary condition will be superior performance metrics, as confirmed by the early adopters, while the sufficient condition will be general market acceptance, fueled the much larger body of consumers that follow.

Transition to the urban mobility market

Lithium power will open up a new market for small vehicles, electric powered bikes, scooter, and shuttles, in urban and suburban environments. I have introduced readers to several of these small vehicles in past articles. Here is another entrant, and it would indeed, fit well in the urban mobility testing ground that is our gated community and its environs.

It comes from the Netherlands, is aimed directly at the urban mobility market, and is called the Squad.

Here is what my cohort, Marc Cesare at Small Vehicle Resource, has to say about this new market entrant:

“Netherlands based Squad Mobility launched their Squad urban mobility vehicle last week. The electric powered Squad features solar cells on the roof, seating for two and a small, rear cargo area. The name Squad is short for solar quadricycle.

“The vehicle is designed for the European market and falls under the L6e or light quadricycle category. These vehicles are similar to low speed vehicles in the US. They can’t exceed 28 mph or have a battery pack larger than 4 kWh. The L7e category includes heavier vehicles with a top speed up to 50 mph and a 15 kWh battery pack limit. The vehicles have proven to be popular with teenagers and older drivers.”

Perhaps designed for the European market, but I would sure like to see them exhibit at the 2020 PGA Show.

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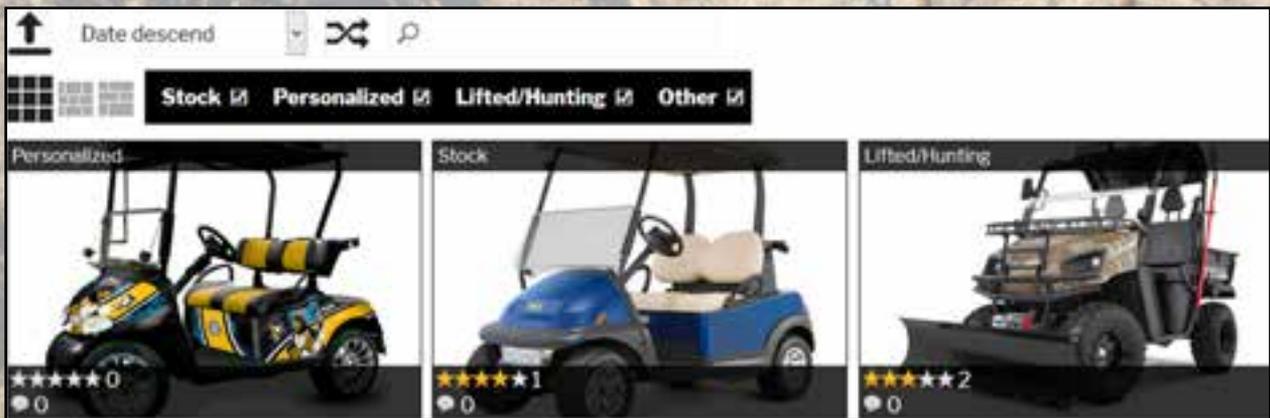


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Kind Of Blingy The Tricked Out Golf Carts Of The Villages, FL

Plenty of the golf carts that roam the roads of the Villages in Florida look as if they had just come from the 18th hole, and maybe some did.

But many of the owners there — a retirement community with 120,000 residents and about 60,000 golf carts — want a little more zing, and a cottage industry has developed to sell tricked-out rides.

Tom Sarauer, 63, moved to the Villages from Wisconsin in 2017. In the garage are his-and-hers golf carts (or golf cars, as they're also known) that pay tribute to the Green Bay Packers. His is two-toned in Packers green and gold; his wife's is jazzed up with stickers and LED lights.

Wisconsinites who have fled for

warmer climes always make sure to stop and say hello when they spot the carts. "It's a conversation piece and a great way to meet people," Mr. Sarauer said.

The Villages was laid out so the residents, people in their 50s and older, could meet all their shopping, medical and entertainment needs without a full-size vehicle. "If you can't have a real Corvette, you can at least drive something designed to look like one," said Lori Resmondo, who has worked for the Villages Golf Cars (which has five locations) for 26 years.

The Villages was laid out so the residents could meet all their shopping, medical and entertainment needs without a full-size vehicle. Some reflect the owner's alma mater, favorite sports

team, former profession or main hobby. There are golf cars made to look like Model Ts and racecars. One popular option is to stencil the owners' first names in decorative script across the front. Also popular are bonus safety features and extra-comfy seats.

Donna Joy, 60, chose metallic green paint with silver and gold pinstripes for her vehicle, adding reclining cushioned seats with armrests. It also has a "Monarch front," a premium add-on that gives the golf cart the more rounded front-end

look of a car and provides storage space for groceries or other items.

Ms. Joy had fold-up seats installed in the back where golf clubs would be carried so she could transport more people, and a special basket that clips in for her two small dogs. "It's kind of blingy," she said. "You want to have something that you love."

The terms golf carts and golf cars cover two types of vehicle. The more traditional golf carts are not allowed on general roads, but "low-speed vehicles" can share the road with automobiles and have additional safety requirements, like headlights, taillights and a parking brake.

Some companies, like Club Car, make both types, and either can be customized. The vehicles have traditionally run on gas, but consumer demand for electric models is increasing, and more solar power options are coming to market. Basic models start around \$11,000 and can top \$20,000 with all the bells, whistles.

Sotero Gutierrez, who is 82 and goes by Salty, retired to the Villages but still works part time in a barbershop. Mr. Gutierrez said he was always in the local dealership seeing what was new and trying to be one of the first to order it. He has added a customized horn, Bluetooth speakers and lights under the dashboard to help him see in the morning.

Mr. Gutierrez, however, has had to tone down his custom wheels. An old cart of his was Yankees themed, with blue and white stripes. It wasn't easy to

sell, he said: "It was hard to find someone that wanted that." His new cart still tips its cap to the Yanks, but more subtly, painted blue on the bottom half and white on the top half with a blue and white striped canopy, LED running lights and team decals. His new cart also has custom seats that are more comfortable (and help with the resale value here, too).

Holidays especially will bring out the carts, with parades and residents lined up to watch. "It's a very patriotic community," Ms. Resmondo said, so on holidays like the Fourth of July, residents will "deck out their golf carts in honor of the event." Special events will draw out a drill team that drives in formations like a marching band.

Polaris, which makes GEM low-speed vehicles, sells mostly to the business market but is "diving into the consumer segment and seeing what they are most interested in," said Keith Simon, vice president of Polaris Commercial North America. No surprise, sales are especially strong in retirement, beach and golf communities.

"Customization is a big part of our business," Mr. Simon said. Buyers can order a vehicle online and have many more choices than car customers. Along with passenger capacity, color and type of seats, there are choices on suspension, wheels, bumpers, battery, type of dashboard and whether to have doors or not.

One of the biggest differences between fleet and individual sales is the level of conformity. A golf course will want identical

carts, because "uniform presentation is part of the brand," said Robert McElreath, a vice president at Club Car, which has been making golf carts since the 1960s. Club Car has noted a "very strong rise in consumer sales," Mr. McElreath said. The first individual purchases were carts being retired by golf courses, but now the vehicles are designed for personal use.

Safety features are a key distinction. Low-speed vehicles are legal to drive on streets with speed limits up to 35 miles an hour, but they must include items like seat belts. On the GEM, seat belts, low- and high-beam headlights and backup cameras come standard, Mr. Simon said.

Ms. Joy uses her golf cart for just about everything, so she wanted to make sure it was as safe to drive and ride in as possible, she said. She ordered seatbelts, a backup camera, self-canceling turn signals, an electronic dashboard, backup lights, taillights and an extra-bright light to see what is behind her when she goes in reverse.

The first golf cart she bought when she moved to the Villages cost about \$16,000, but after spending some time seeing other carts, what was available and how much she used her own, she wanted more features and paid about \$24,000 for the current one.

Ms. Joy has a friend who is retiring from the Army soon and moving to the Villages. She is encouraging him to order a golf cart painted camouflage or "maybe some kind of James Bond themed golf cart."



Golf Carts Modified 2019 Golf Cart Build-Off

A two class build-off
featuring some of the coolest carts out there

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Austin Fehler
Bill Brown
Billy Cochrane
Billy Russell
Bob Mann Jr
Brad Couch
Buddy Williams
Carl Schlitz
Chad Heffernan

Charles Tracey
CME Custom Carts
Cory Shane O'Steen
Courtland Sweatman
Daniel Quentin Durgin
Fred Tegtmeyer
Heath Maxwell
Jimmy Elless
John Nolan

Joshua Pun Collins
Larry Sumpter
Len Sabata
Mathew Smith
Rick Hoffart
Rob Cook
Ron Manns (Alltrax Team)
Ryan McNeal
Stephen Cooper

Class 2: Super Modified Class - Entrants

Ryan O'Rear (War Machine)
Travis Andrews & Cory Shane O'Steen (Loland)
Chris Bourgeois & Bryan Frye (Silent Warrior)

Waylon Cox
Kenny Hooks
Steve Krohn

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Good Luck To All The Builders

**The 2019 Build-Off Has Ended
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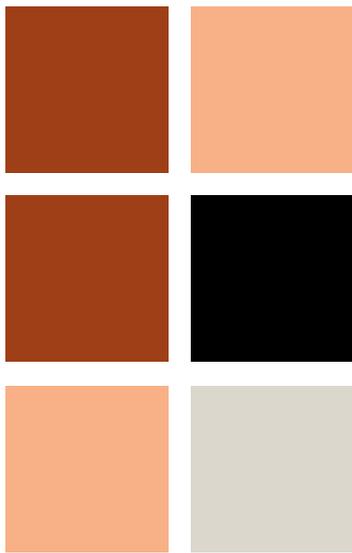
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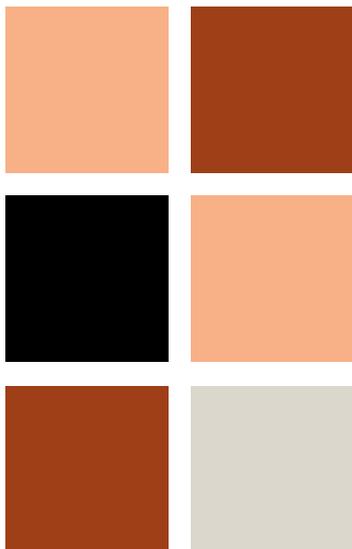
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GOLF CAR NEWS

Evolution Electric
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Updates In 2020



As the name implies, Evolution Electric Vehicles is constantly striving for a better, more efficient, and more aesthetic vehicle. An excellent visionary, they have managed to look ahead of the curve to make themselves a major player in the personal vehicle and LSV market, and next year will be no different.

“2020 will be the year of the Evolution PLUS. Evolution has made huge strides to keep ourselves ahead and this year and will be introducing something very special with the newest, Classic PLUS and Forester PLUS series.”

Evolutions’ ultimate goal is to produce a vehicle that is the epitome of what will fit the customers’ wants and needs. The Evolution Classic PLUS, and Forester PLUS are the latest in advances to meet that need. Everything that you’ve come to know and expect from Evolution remains and now include a plethora of brand-new options. In addition to the existing high demand components, these lines will be adding two-tone color matched seats, color matched decorative rims,

a brand-new automotive dash with color matched framing, and a full 9-inch touch screen with bluetooth audio, mp5, speedometer, and rear-view camera. Rear flip out seats have also been upgraded to an all plastic, rust-free platform and includes extra cargo space storage compartment. As if that wasn’t enough, Evolution PLUS models will also come standard with industry leading Lithium-Ion batteries.

“These are meant to add a longer run time, shorter charge time, and massively reduced maintenance headaches from typical lead-acid. Over time, every manufacturer gets to hear what the customers think and what they want. I don’t know about everyone else, but we make it our priority to listen. You asked for it, and I am very happy to say that as of now, you have it!”

Be sure to not sleep on this. Pre-orders are moving fast, but you’ve still got time to be the first in your city to put out these absolutely stunning vehicles into your showroom! For more information, please visit www.evolutionelectricvehicle.com.



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Golf Cart Stuck in Mud?

There will be many places where the golf cart would have to pass through mud or sand. If the cart is passing through mud and gets stuck, there are some action steps that need to be taken.

Initially, you will need to reduce the weight placed on the golf cart to prevent further sinking of your vehicle. If passengers are sitting on the cart, they should get off the cart, along with their kits and bags.

Now there is a need to make room for the tires to move a little. Turn your wheels left and right so that the mud will be displaced from the wheels, and you would be able to maneuver through.

After doing this, you will have to position your tires in a way that they are pointed straight ahead for the next try.

Manual cart drivers are required to shift the gear to neutral to allow the vehicle to move freely.

For automatics, use 1 or 2 and slowly give it gas.

If none of the above works, you will need to deflate the tires to get your cart out of the mud. Don't forget to inflate the tires again.

If all of the above fails, place the floor mats in front of the tires so that the traction will result in movement of the cart.

Golf Cart Stuck in the Sand?

Tools needed to get golf cart out of the sand:

- Tire pressure gauge
- Traction mats
- Shovel
- Rope (14' or more)
- Couple gallons of water
- Spare tire
- Tow straps

If you have limited space, try using a small shovel and start digging! A hanging bag will help cover the interior and prevent additional sand from going everywhere.

When your golf cart is stuck in the sand, you will have to first let go of the gas. The more your tires struggle, the more they will dig deeper into the sand. Assess the situation and avoid making things worse.

Traction mats may prove to be very helpful. Place the mat behind the tires, and begin pushing the cart over the mat.

If this strategy does not work, it's time to grab your shovel:

- Use the shovel to remove sand in front of all the tires.
- Make a path parallel to the tire depth, and it should be a few feet long in front of each tire. Using this technique, there will be less sand under the wheel; therefore less resistance.

If the above is not working try wetting the sand to further reduce the resistance.

Tip: Don't use the gallon jugs because they're specifically reserved for the engines in case of overheating. Wetting the sand will make it easier to drive get your cart out of the sand.

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The Golf Cart CHRONICLES

BY: SUZY JAMES - WWW.ITSNEVER2LATEBOOKS.COM

This Is A Story taken from The Golf Cart Chronicles - A Compilation Of Funny Golf Cart/Golfing Related Short Stories

DON'T FORGET TO REMEMBER 2020 IS HERE!

SUZY JAMES, Author

Just in case you forgot, it's time to start your New Year's golfing resolutions and other promises you made way back in early 2019. If you didn't make any, or never followed through on most of them maybe the following suggestions from the Golfing Wizard might be the perfect time to start off 2020 with a few laughs:

Enter the seniors over 80 pro-amateur golfing contest where the golfer with the highest score gets new teeth implants free

- Eat less golf balls this year
- Stop scratching your head when you don't know where the golf ball landed, use a compass
- Spend ten dollars on a raffle ticket and take a chance at winning a unique golf cart toboggan donated by the "Florida Down Hill Toboggan Lawn Racers"
- Stop working on your putting skills when sleeping; so you won't end up in your kids sand box
- Drive your golf cart carefully, it can't see where it's going
- Stop telling everyone your score, people know from looking you're either a hole in one winner, or a hole in the ground duffer
- Spend more time on the golf course instead of doing what really matters
- Decide to give up golfing and take up polo; you have a polo shirt, all you need is a real horse
- Stop keeping a golf score card and just estimate your score, and try to beat it
- Don't worry about having a bad day of golf anymore; it always is, so why worry
- Don't cry like a baby when you hit the ball on your fourth try
- If your ball goes left when you

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want it to go straight do not
call it a stupid, silly, thick
headed, four letter word
ball unless you really mean
it

- Learn to swim so you don't have to buy 150 golf balls this year
- If you have another bad day of golfing, take up bowling, it's hard to lose a bowling ball
- Try not to stand too close to the ball after you have whacked it

WISHING YOU A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR

Suzy James

*A note from the Author:
It has been so much fun
playing with words to
bring about amusing
and entertaining stories
portraying people and
other living things as
out of the ordinary.*

*So, I wrote, and wrote,
and wrote for over
sixty-five years. Each
article was stored away
in a box never to see the
light of day until now.*

THE GOLF CART CHRONICLES

OTHER TITLES BY SUZY JAMES

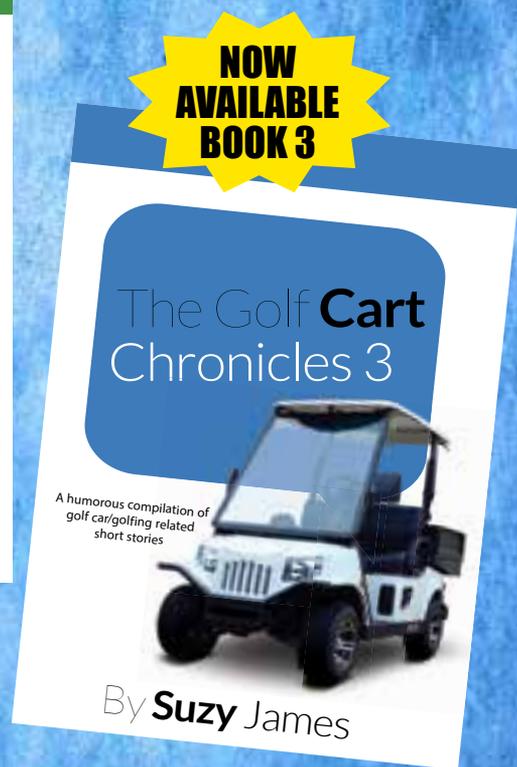
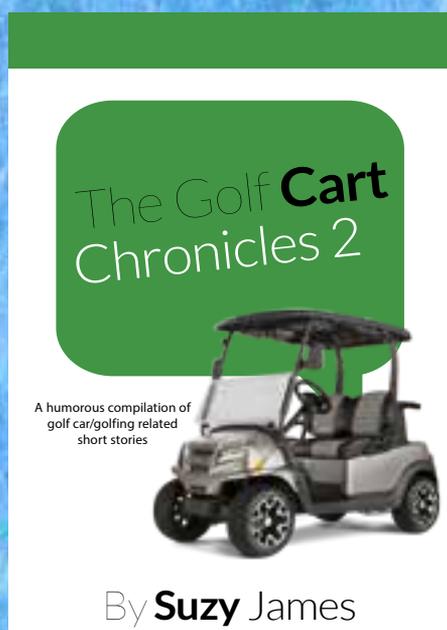
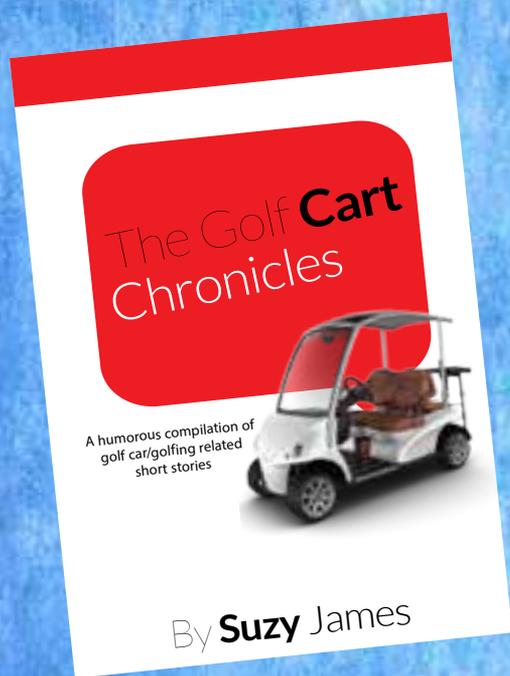
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Fixing A Blown Fuse

As more people choose golf cars as their preferred method for quick transportation, understanding how to make simple repairs, like changing a blown fuse, becomes necessary. If you don't have a local golf car dealer, many hardware stores also carry fuses that are compatible with those in a golf car. Remember a blown fuse can also indicate that there may be an electrical problem and requires a thorough examination of the circuit system to locate the problem.

▶▶ Locate the service panel on the rear fender on the driver side of the golf car behind the battery. Read the inside panel to determine the level of current the fuses are set to take at a maximum voltage. It is common for fuses to be 250V. Pay close attention to the current rating on the fuse; the current rating needs to be the same when replacing. An example is a 10A current level on a 250V system is replaceable with a 5A current level on a 17V.

▶▶ Search for the bad fuse. Pay attention to what part of the electrical system isn't working.

Things You'll Need

- ▶▶ New replacement fuse
- ▶▶ Fuse pliers (optional)

When you discover the malfunctioning part of the electrical system, you know the name of the blown fuse. An example is the electric start. If the golf car won't start, then on the inside of the service panel read to see where the electrical start fuse is and pull it out.

▶▶ Pinch the fuse with your fingers and pull it straight out. Sometimes on the inside service panel there are plastic pliers to help you pull the fuse. If there are no pliers

then use your finger tips.

▶▶ Read the fuse and determine what the level of current is. Most fuses have white numbers stamped on the face of the fuse to tell you the type of fuse. Examples of level of current stamps on a fuse are 5A, 10A and 15A.

▶▶ Purchase the replacement fuse with the same level of current as the blown fuse. As mentioned in Step 2, the volts can vary, but not the level of current.

▶▶ Push the replacement fuse into the same slot as the blown fuse. It is important that you push the fuse in straight and until it can't go in any further. A fuse not pushed in all the way causes a weak connection and the possibility of the fuse blowing again.

Tips & Warnings

▶▶ Routine maintenance can prevent a small issue like a blown fuse from becoming a major electrical problem.

▶▶ If the fuse continues to blow, there is a serious problem with the electrical system.



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Holds Grand Opening Of Their New Location



Charleston-based golf cart dealership, Charleston Custom Carts held its grand opening of their new location in Mount Pleasant on Saturday, Dec. 7. The new dealership and service center is located at the intersection of Highway 41 and Highway 17 at 1161 Highway 41 in Mount Pleasant.

Charleston Custom Carts first location opened on Clements Ferry Road in February 2019 and experienced tremendous success due to their custom cart designs, service department performance and their online ratings.

Charleston Custom Carts is an authorized Yamaha and Epic Cart dealership and provides new, used and refurbished golf carts and street legal LSV's. The new state-of-the-art facility is a 9,000-square-foot building that has just gone through an extensive renovation. The large new retail showroom and cutting-edge service department is all indoors and setup to make customers feel comfortable during their visits.

Charleston Custom Carts features an all new interactive 3D Touch Screen Design Studio where you can build your all new completely custom golf cart in real time on a 70-inch TV. As you choose various features you can keep tabs on the cost of the build out so you can stay safely within your budget and view all the parts, accessories and feature with a 360 degree view.

For more information visit charlestoncarts.com or contact Christian Amico at 843-800-8626 or email mp@charlestoncarts.com.



SECURITY SYSTEMS FOR YOUR GOLF CART

www.golfcartcable.com | 678-456-8457 | caddyshackgolfcarts@yahoo.com

One of the most unavailable things for a golf cart is a security device or system to keep it from getting stolen that isn't bulky and inconvenient. There are steering wheel clubs that really aren't effective, accelerator pedal block boxes which are a giant pain, and one or two electronic systems that cost a mint. It seems like the industry as a whole just passed right over being able to secure your golf cart!

CaddyShack Golf Carts of GA, in partnership with Golfcartcable.com have created a solution for this problem. We have designed a small, economically feasible system that works just like a car alarm with starter kill. After installing this system, your cart will not go just by turning the key on and pressing the accelerator.

You will have a remote just like for your car that will fully disable your cart at the click of the button. This will prevent unauthorized use and joyriding as well as theft when parked in public. Most cart manufacturers have one key. That one key works on all their carts. Anyone can buy a key, watch you park your cart and simply get in and drive off. But if you have installed our security module, they will be thwarted right from the start.

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legalNEWS

Pleasantville man charged with selling golf carts stolen from Holy Spirit

ABSECON — A Pleasantville man was arrested after he was found selling a golf cart stolen from Holy Spirit High School, police said Wednesday.

At 3:21 p.m. Tuesday, officers took a report of a burglary at Holy Spirit. The accused caused damage to the concession stand and other parts of the building, then stole two golf carts and battery chargers belonging to the school, police said.

One of the golf carts was listed for sale on Craigslist, police said. Officers made contact with the seller and arranged a fake purchase of the golf cart, police said.

Jahill L. Barley, 25, was charged with receiving stolen property and released on a summons.

The golf cart was confiscated and returned to Holy Spirit, police said.

Barley sold the second golf cart Monday, police said.

The buyer was identified, contacted and on Wednesday returned the golf cart and battery charger he had purchased from Barley, police said.

Anyone with additional information on the burglary and theft can call police at 609-641-0667.



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