

Rochester Residents,

With the warm weather here to stay for a while we have noticed more golf carts on village roads. In order to help you ensure you are operating your low speed vehicle (LSV) legally and safely we would like to provide some clarity to the laws governing these vehicles and also direct you to resources that will help you better understand your responsibilities.

The Village of Rochester does not have ordinances governing the use of LSVs on the roadway so by default we rely on the Illinois Vehicle Code to provide regulation of these vehicles and their use. Below you will find links to the Illinois General Assembly website and the particular statutes concerning LSVs on Illinois roads.

- Operation of low-speed vehicles on streets- **625 ILCS 5/11-1426.2**
 - <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/fulltext.asp?DocName=062500050K11-1426.2>
- Definition of Low-speed vehicle- **625 ILCS 5/1-140.7**
 - <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/fulltext.asp?DocName=062500050K1-140.7>
- Requirements for Low-Speed Vehicles Established by Federal Regulation- **49 CFR 571.500**
 - https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=1ce7d953fdeb96942fe95cf4fa60d987&mc=true&node=se49.6.571_1500&rgn=div8

To confuse things even more for everyone there is another statute for “non-highway vehicles.” It is important to note the differences between the two statutes and how they apply to the village. Non-highway vehicles are not permitted on roads unless otherwise specified in the statute. The Village of Rochester does not have any ordinances that provide exception to this statute.

- Operation of non-highway vehicles on streets, roads, and highways- **625 ILCS 5/11-1426.1**
 - <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/fulltext.asp?DocName=062500050K11-1426.1>
- Definition of an ATV- **625 ILCS 5/1-101.8**
 - <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/documents/062500050K1-101.8.htm>
- Definition of a Golf Cart- **625 ILCS 5/1-239.9**
 - <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/documents/062500050K1-123.9.htm>
- Definition of an “Off-Highway Motorcycle”- **625 ILCS 5/1-153.1**
 - <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/documents/062500050K1-153.1.htm>
- Definition of “Off-Highway Recreational Vehicles”- **625 ILCS 5/1-168.8**
 - <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/documents/062500050K1-168.8.htm>

Here are some key highlights for these statutes to get you started. For further explanation please spend some time familiarizing yourself with the statutes listed above:

1. All LSVs must be registered with Illinois Secretary of State
2. All LSVs must have insurance
3. All drivers must have a valid Driver’s License
4. You can receive a citation and be arrested for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and/or Drugs
5. All other Illinois Vehicle Code rules of the road apply
 1. including Graduated Driver regulations
6. LSVs must stick to roads with a posted speed limit of 30MPH or less
 1. You may only cross a road with a posted speed limit of 45 MPH **or less** at an intersection

2. You may only cross a road with a posted speed limit of **more than** 45 MPH at an intersection controlled by a 4-way stop sign or traffic lights.
7. Breakdown of LSV requirements that are listed in 625 ILCS 5/11-1426.2 (*notice that [49 CFR Part 571.500](#) is more restrictive than what is in the IVC*)
 1. Brakes
 2. A steering apparatus
 3. Tires
 4. A rearview mirror
 5. Red reflectorized warning devices in the front and rear
 6. A headlight (white light visible from 500 feet to the front)
 7. A tail lamp (red light visible from 100 feet to the rear)
 8. Break lights
 9. Turn signals

If you have questions whether your “golf cart” is considered a low-speed vehicle look carefully at [49 CFR Part 571.500](#) and see if it meets all of the requirements.

We expect that there will still be questions on this issue. Please contact the Illinois Secretary of State with questions on registering your LSV.

We look forward to maintaining a safe and legal environment for everyone to enjoy driving their LSVs in our community.