

# Centennial Valley Neighborhood Association, Inc.

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## Board of Directors

*Michelle Hoyt, President; Nikki Burk, Vice-President; Lynn Tanguay, Treasurer; Jeannie Ratliff, Secretary;  
Mark McCuin, James Piraino, Bob Elliott, Mike Stout, Tim Cummins*

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Dear Neighbors,

In the past few weeks, there have been several accidents concerning golf carts driven by children. A little boy in Sunderlin Park was run over by a teenager and in Centennial we had an accident, also. There has been a lot of concern expressed to the Board and the Club about children behind the wheel of a golf cart and we have been asked to address this matter to the neighborhood. Several examples of complaints we have received are six teenagers riding around and hanging off of one golf cart; a teenager hanging off of the roof top of a golf cart; kids riding down the center of Bay Hill not paying attention to cars behind them; texting while driving; kids playing "Chicken" and "Golf Cart Tag" and just this weekend a homeowner had to swerve and slam on their breaks to avoid a child that pulled out right in front of his vehicle. The list goes on.

The biggest fear and concern expressed for the safety of the children at Centennial is a child(ren) not paying attention and pulling out in front of an oncoming vehicle and getting seriously injured or killed.

We would like to offer a few examples of golf cart safety that we hope are helpful in talking to children about the dos and don'ts of golf cart usage:

- ❖ Pay attention to your surroundings (look for pedestrians and cars to the side, behind, backing out, turning)
- ❖ Keep it to a minimum of 2 to 3 passengers in total riding on the golf cart
- ❖ No form of horseplay what-so-ever ("Chicken"; "Tag"; swerving back and forth; racing; sharp turns)
- ❖ No texting while operating a golf cart – keep your eyes on the road
- ❖ Pull over to the side when a vehicle is coming – do not stay in the middle of the road
- ❖ Golf carts can flip over if taking too sharp of a turn too fast (especially with a number of children riding)
- ❖ Stop at stop signs and look to your left and right before proceeding
- ❖ A police officer can pull over and ticket a child and/or adult if they deem that individual being reckless. Fines vary but can be up to \$200.
- ❖ Centennial Valley Country Club rule is you must be 16 years of age or older to operate their golf carts

Again, just a few examples that could potentially save a child's life and/or a lawsuit and a heavy heart if someone is badly injured or killed. All it takes is for it to happen just once. Let's be proactive together as a neighborhood for our children.

Thank you and we wish you all a wonderful and safe summer.

Centennial Valley Neighborhood Association

Centennial Valley Country Club

Michelle Hoyt  
President

Reggie Rose  
General Manager