

8/2/05

Keeping Up With Stuff

by
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Hey, all you new residents to The Villages! Are you beginning to feel like kids who have been in time out all our life and have been freed and transported to Pinocchio's "Toyland?" Suddenly you can dream your wildest dreams and are encouraged to live them out. One of my dreams was to have a golf cart of my own and here I am living in a place where it would be downright sinful **NOT** to buy a golf cart. Can you imagine having a golf cart of your very own that you can get in whenever you want and drive it all over the place? Is that too much, or what? Well, not wanting to be thought of as square people in round holes, Judy and I ordered a new cart and it should be delivered within a couple of weeks.

The problem is this... having never owned a golf cart I'm not sure what I need to get with the cart. Judy said accessories are often as important, if not more so, than the item you are buying. Unfortunately, I could find no manual entitled "*The Idiots Guide to Accessorizing Golf Carts,*" so I'm going to have to wing it. If I had to guess, based on observing some of the 20,000+ golf carts that roam the streets of my new hometown, we will need a large collection of flags of various sizes, colors and origins... especially one or more from my alma mater. Several hats of various hot spots are needed to show everyone you were well traveled and not just some couch potato in your formal life as a pre-retiree.

The license plate one puts on his golf cart is critical as well. Do you put one of your birth state, last residence state, or current residence state? Putting one from your birth state can speak volumes about you, especially if you're from WV... do you really want all that attention? Putting "*last residence*" state tags on your cart would require explaining you really aren't a native of there, you were just trying to raise yourself to a higher station and avoid all the disparaging remarks about your birth state and your relatives... especially if you're from WV. Obviously, putting a FL or The Villages license plate on your cart means absolutely nothing and would not be making any statement at all, so we have decided to put our birth state plates on our cart... at least until we sense some rejection.

Color coordinated enclosure fabric for the "*isinglass curtains you can roll right down, in case there's a change in the weather;*" is a must. Colors could be a problem area if your spouse did not go to the same college as you, so appear to be open to her input. Also, a man can't go around with mud and yuck on his golf towel when he's in his own cart... he must have a clean one with each public appearance. I suggest pulling out the souvenir Pebble Beach, Greenbrier Resort, St. Andrews, and Pinehurst towels friends sent to you so your fellow golfers will know they're not hanging with just anybody here.

Now, there is an area of golf cart accessorizing I hadn't considered and I found myself in a dilemma when asked whose name will go on the driver's side and whose will go on the passenger's side. The obvious came to mind but a warning bell sounded in my skull... "*Does the name on the driver's side*

indicate ownership of the cart, or in any way place the passenger in a subservient position to the driver? Be careful Tom how you proceed with this.” I told the salesman we would think on that and get back to him.

After observing literally thousands of golf carts of villagers I have found ***NONE*** where the wife’s name is on the driver’s side, although I’m sure I will hear from you readers on the ones I missed. One cart Judy and I viewed last night confused me even more. On the driver’s side was “Captain,” and on the passenger’s side was “Co-Pilot.” A prime example of just how noncommittal one can get?

Who would have thought so much would be required of one when purchasing one’s own golf cart? Well, these are the challenges we face and I ask the good Lord to give us the opportunity to meet many more such challenges in the years ahead.

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