



Cruizin'

St. Marys Style



In honor of the Georgia Bulldawgs, St. Marys Tourism Director Janet Brinko and husband Doug turned their golf cart into a "SailDawg" for the Mardi Gras parade.



Scott and Kathleen Hornbaker's Surfin' Safari golf cart makes great sport of Mardi Gras' "Oceans of Fun" theme.



At the end of a stressful day, Kay Miller likes nothing more than to climb aboard her golf cart and wash the worries of the world away cruizin' St. Marys style. "I bought it (the golf cart) to entertain my granddaughter, but when I go riding, I forget everything that's bothering me, and I see things I wouldn't normally see if I were in my car," Miller said. Such are the sentiments of a growing number of St. Marys residents and visitors who have embraced golf carting as a lifestyle. Besides the obvious benefits to the environment (most of the local golf carts are electric), golf cart owners

tout their "new ride" as a therapy of sorts. Coastal Motors owner Tom (T.C.) Collins enjoys the quiet on his golf cart rides. "I'm around noise all day, so to be able to be mobile and enjoy the town in peaceful quiet helps me to wind down at the end of the day." Collins is often accompanied by Goodbread House Bed and Breakfast owner Mardja Gray, whose guests are thrilled to be offered a tour of the town in a golf cart. "This is just one more piece of uniqueness I can offer my guests," said Mardja. "To use the golf

cart as transportation is in direct sync with the nostalgic theme that bed and breakfast guests are usually seeking." It seems that Mardja is not the only business owner around town who has created added value by offering golf cart amenities. Colonial Dinner House owner Jennifer Elliott has been known to offer pick up and take home golf cart service to her dining guests. And the appeal of the golf cart inspired Elliott to do some creative marketing, extending special dining discounts to guests who arrive on their own golf carts. There is an informal fraternity of golf

cart enthusiasts who meet regularly on the waterfront for sunset celebrations, at the boat ramp for socializing, and sometimes have progressive dinners that include stops at various "members'" homes for each different course. Former City Councilman and Tourism Board Member Doug Vaught, who's almost always seen cruizin' St. Marys style, says one of the first things newcomers inquire about is, "Where do I get a golf cart? What are the rules? And when's your next gathering?" Vaught happily fills them in.

"You can get a complete copy of the rules for Low Speed Moving Vehicles (LSMVs) from the local police station," said Vaught. "But basically, in St. Marys you can operate a golf cart on any two-lane road with a 35 mile-per-hour or lower speed limit, and

you must have an amber strobe light." As for the question about where to get a golf cart, it's a no-brainer. Since its inception last year, Vaught has been manager of The Golf Cart Store which