

September 2012

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Covington Lake Cryer

Published by the Board of Directors quarterly so that we can all stay in touch with what is happening in our development. Tell us what you think: opinion@covingtonlakepoa.com



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www.covingtonlakepoa.com

Free Classified Advertising on the website for Property Owners of Covington Lake. Sell or swap with your neighbors.

Business Classified Advertising is \$25.00 per year. If you have a local business, you can build awareness and expand your customer base. See the Covington Lake website for details.

Seventh annual Beach, Boogie & BBQ Festival at the Market Common <http://www.grandstrandevents.com/>

Festivities kick off on Friday 8-31 at 6 p.m. and continue through Sunday 9-2 at 5 p.m.

This family-friendly festival, organized by the OMAR Shriners and Palmetto Event Productions, Inc., will feature free live entertainment, wake board demonstrations, free boat rides, kids zone, art & craft vendors, beer gardens, fireworks and of course, the main attraction is the finger-lickin', lip-smackin' good barbecue (available for purchase) and lots of it from competing teams, along with fes-

tival food favorites from vendors. Admission is free for the event and most event activities are complimentary. Several cooking events promise to attract the nation's finest competitors: Anything Goes contest and tasting on Friday, the **Official S.C. Barbecue Championship** and **Kansas City Barbecue Society Cook-Off** on Saturday, and the Sunday **Wing-Off** competition. Each cooking event will award prize money. Attendees can sample delicious barbecue from all competing

barbecue teams on Saturday beginning at 12 p.m. by purchasing a \$10 wristband. Kids 10 and under can sample for free. Live entertainment kicks off on main stage Friday at 6 p.m. and **The Fantastic Shakers**, known as the South's Finest Show Band, will be Saturday night's headliners taking the stage at 8 p.m., followed by a fireworks extravaganza.



It is unlawful to feed migratory waterfowl in Horry County. Do not feed the Ducks and Geese in our Ponds.



DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

Every responsible dog owner agrees... picking up after your dog is a **MUST**.



No matter where or when it occurs, there is **NO** excuse for not scooping the poop. It's common courtesy. Cleaning up after your dogs shows respect for our neighbors and our community.

Dog Poop is unhealthy. Abandoned dog poop can host diseases and/or parasites which can infect other dogs who come into contact with it, or be transmitted to people who accidentally step in it and track it home.

Dog Poop bio-degrades slowly. Some people think it's okay

to leave dog poop because it will break down naturally. However, the biodegradation process is very slow.

It's not fertilizer! In fact, poop impedes landscaping efforts. Leaving dog poop encourages other dogs to mark that spot (by urinating over the previous dog's scent) creating "nitrogen burn."

Dog Poop is unsightly. Everybody knows that. It's disgusting. Pick it up.

Weeds in Curbs and Gutters

Yes, your curbs and the curb gutter are part of your home's "curb appeal". Not only that, according to Horry County, it is the responsibility of homeowners to



maintain the sidewalk and curbs outside of their homes.

Because weeds and other plant



growth can damage curbs, residents are encouraged to remove weeds from joints and cracks in the curbs and gutters and keep the area clean.

Curb and sidewalk weeds can be removed by hand or killed back with the spot application of an herbicide.

WHAT IS A SURGE PROTECTOR AND WHY SHOULD YOU CARE WHAT IT DOES FOR YOU?

By: Jim Collins, This Old House magazine

Not long ago, electrical contractor Allen Gallant was about halfway through the job of completely rewiring a 3,200-square-foot house in Acton, Massachusetts, when the owners decided to save some money and not install whole-house protection against power surges. Sure enough, soon after the house was finished, Gallant got a phone call from the distressed owners: Lightning had struck a utility pole near their house, sending a tidal wave of voltage through the wires, past the main breaker panel, and into the house. "It burned out the motherboard in the Sub-Zero refrigerator, fried the temperature controls in the double-wall oven, killed six dimmers, two computers, and every GFCI plug in the house," Gallant says. "It was an \$11,000 loss."

Many homeowners believe that adequate surge protection begins and ends with plugging their computer into a power strip. Unfortunately, that's seldom the case. First of all, not all surge protectors live up to their name; some are little more than glorified extension cords. Second, a surge will follow any wire into a house — phone and cable lines included — and threaten fax and answering machines, televisions, satellite systems, computers, and modems. And third, as the owners in the Acton remodel discovered, delicate electronic circuitry has proliferated throughout our homes, leaving common appliances as vulnerable as computers to the effects of surges.

Two Types of Surges

A power surge may last for only a few millionths of a second, but at its worst, it carries tens of thousands of volts, enough to fry circuit boards, crash hard drives, and ruin DVD and home-entertainment systems. Lightning-induced surges are the most powerful and most feared: A 200,000-amp jolt crashing through a power line will burn standard 20-amp wiring like a lightbulb filament. But a lightning strike has to be less than a mile from the house to cause harm, and in fact most surge-related damage is not caused by lightning.

Far more common, if not as dramatic, are surges caused by downed power lines, sudden changes in electricity use by a nearby factory, or even the cycling on and off of laser printers, electric dryers, air conditioners, refrigerators, and other energy-sucking devices in the home. The damage inflicted by these minor power fluctuations can be instantaneous — but may not show up for some time. "You might not even notice it," says Andy Ligor, a consultant with A.M.I. Systems Inc., a firm that installs both residential and commercial surge-protection systems. "Then a year or so later your microwave stops working."

The Best Defense

Guarding against surges requires a two-pronged approach: a whole-house suppressor to tame the big, dangerous power spikes and an individual circuit (or "plug-in") surge suppressor for vulnerable appliances and electronic devices. Both types essentially act like pressure-relief valves. Normally they just sit there, allowing electric current to flow through them. But with higher-than-normal voltage, the devices instantly divert excess voltage to the ground wire. (The best ones react in less than a nanosecond.) As soon as voltage levels return to normal, the flow of electricity is restored, unless the surge was big enough to melt the fuse built into some units.

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WHAT IS A SURGE PROTECTOR AND WHY SHOULD YOU CARE WHAT IT DOES FOR YOU?

Continued from Page 3

Typically, whole-house suppressors are hard-wired to the service panel, a process that takes a licensed electrician about two hours. Whole-house systems should be rated to stop a 40,000-amp surge, at minimum. Features to look for include thermal fuses, and lights or alarms that indicate when a device has taken a hit. Protection for an average house with 200-amp service will run about \$500 — including a couple of hours of an electrician's labor. Separate but smaller whole-house units are recommended for the phone and cable lines. These protect fax and answering machines, televisions, and modems.

By themselves, whole-house suppressors can't stop surges completely; up to 15 percent of excess voltage may leak by. That's where "plug-in" surge protectors come in. These buffers between individual appliances and wall outlets come in a bewildering array of options and prices. They range from \$70 units not much bigger than a computer mouse to \$350 units the size of a pizza box that guard all the components in a home theater. But most plug-in models fall into three basic categories: the familiar multi-outlet power strip; the multitasking surge station that can handle phone and cable jacks as well as power cords; and the UPS

(uninterruptible power supply), which completely cleanses electric power of random fluctuations and provides a short-term battery backup in case the power dips or goes out entirely. Expect to pay between \$20 and \$70 for a quality power strip or surge station, and from \$100 to \$250 for a UPS.

Buying Plug-in Protection

Before buying a plug-in unit, check that it does the following:

- Meets UL Standard 1449 (second edition)
- Has a clamping voltage — the amount that triggers the diversion of electricity to the ground — of 400 volts or less. The lower the number, the better the protection
- Absorbs at least 600 joules of energy
- Protects all three incoming lines: hot, neutral, and ground. Look for "L-N, L-G, N-G" (line to neutral, line to ground, neutral to ground) on the product's spec sheet
- Stops functioning when its circuits are damaged by a surge

Both whole-house and plug-in types can get zapped without your knowing it; look for indicator lights that signal when a unit no longer works.

Even the best surge suppressor can't do its job if the house wiring isn't properly grounded; there has to be a single way for the diverted

electricity to go. "Without a good ground, the current may follow another wire and end up inside your modem or fax machine," says Tom Plesich, director of business development at Innovative Technology, a maker of surge-suppression equipment. Also, avoid plugging surge-sensitive electronic devices into the same power strip with laser printers, air conditioners, or other appliances with large motor loads. These produce their own low-level power surges that will affect all the devices sharing the strip.

Insurance companies don't typically give discounts for surge-protected homes, but investing in protection may very well pay for itself, and then some. That's what the owners of the house in Acton discovered — too late. When Allen Gallant returned to the surge-damaged site, he spent an hour and a half installing a whole-house system that included a panel-mounted, whole-house surge suppressor and similar devices for phone and cable lines. The new wall ovens (\$3,000) are now safe from surges, as are the repaired Sub-Zero refrigerator (\$1,200) and all of the house's other electronics. Total bill from Gallant: \$940.

Do you have a whole house Surge protector? Tell us what you think about your investment.

opinion@covingtonlakepoa.com

Children driving Golf Carts on Roads in Covington Lake

Understanding South Carolina Golf Cart Laws and Preventing Accidents



Golf cart accidents are relatively common in South Carolina, specifically

in the **Myrtle Beach and coastal area**, where golf carts are used as a means of transportation on roads, instead of just on golf courses. Golf carts serve as an alternate option for South Carolina residents in that they are a simple and quick mode of transportation. However, while golf carts are not typically seen as dangerous vehicles, there have been a few cases recently where **adults and children have been injured or killed while riding golf carts**.

Many residents of Myrtle Beach believe that golf carts are only as dangerous as you make them,

while others believe that there should be **stricter golf cart laws in South Carolina**.

Currently, South Carolina law states that to drive a golf cart, you must be at least 16 years old and possess a valid drivers license and a golf cart permit tag affixed to the cart issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles and the cart must be properly insured. Children under the age of 16 are not authorized to drive a golf cart in the State of South Carolina. Golf carts are not permitted to be driven after daylight hours and cannot be driven more than two miles from your home or office. They also cannot be driven on primary roads- only secondary roads where the speed limit is not more than 35 mph.

One option for making golf carts safer would be to **require seat belts** to be worn while operating the vehicle. There are many instances where people who wore a seat belt and were involved in a car accident were not as badly injured as those who did not wear a

seat belt. It only makes sense that adding a seat belt law for golf carts would drastically decrease the amount of accidents. However, this of course would be contested by golfers because it would make it more difficult to get in and out of the golf cart when playing, which is the original purpose of the golf cart.

While additional safety features, such as **lights and rearview mirrors**, help to decrease accidents, the fact of the matter is that golf cart drivers need to drive safer on South Carolina secondary roads. Golf carts are meant to be driven on golf courses at low speeds. When driving on residential roads, golf cart drivers should never exceed the posted speed limit and always be aware of other vehicles on the road. This way, devastating South Carolina golf cart accidents can be prevented.

If you see a child driving a golf cart within Covington Lake you should report this to the Horry County Police dispatcher at their non-emergency phone number 843-248-1520.

Grand Strand Humane Society

Paws in the Park Charity Softball Tournament

Date:

Friday September 7 , 12:27am
until September 8 , 12:27am

Location:

The Ripken Experience
3051 Ripken Way Blvd
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
29577

Our 2nd Annual Paws in the Park

Charity Softball Tournament will be held on September 7th and September 8th at the Ripken Experience off of Mr. Joe White Avenue in Myrtle Beach.



KIDS PAGE

Fall - Word Search

How many vocabulary words can you find in this puzzle using the word bank below? Words go in many directions.

T	H	A	N	K	S	G	I	V	I	N	G
E	S	N	O	V	E	M	B	E	R	I	W
W	O	R	C	E	R	A	C	S	E	N	N
G	P	A	C	O	R	N	E	H	B	F	O
D	O	L	V	S	E	N	Q	A	O	F	I
N	E	U	X	C	T	I	U	R	T	R	T
R	W	O	R	C	A	K	I	V	C	O	A
O	E	D	C	D	E	P	N	E	O	S	R
C	J	H	C	P	W	M	O	S	H	T	G
M	D	A	S	R	S	U	X	T	G	C	I
Y	V	Y	R	O	S	P	C	E	I	S	M
K	O	N	E	E	W	O	L	L	A	H	K

ACORN	FROST	HAY	PUMPKIN
CORN	GOURD	MIGRATION	SCARECROW
CROW	HALLOWEEN	NOVEMBER	SWEATER
EQUINOX	HARVEST	OCTOBER	THANKSGIVING

ANSWERS ON PAGE 7

**Covington Lake
Property Owner
Association**

We're on the Web!
covingtonlakepoa.com



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Carolina Forest

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**SLOW
DOWN**



Only bad drivers themselves can cure their bad driving habits. They will do this only when they decide it is to their benefit to change.



ACORN	FROST	HAY	PUMPKIN
CORN	GOURD	MIGRATION	SCARECROW
CROW	HALLOWEEN	NOVEMBER	SWEATER
EQUINOX	HARVEST	OCTOBER	THANKSGIVING

NEWSLETTER SURVEY — opinion@covingtonlakepoa.com

For those of you that read the quarterly newsletter on the web-site, we would like for you to rank your concerns for Covington Lake POA.

Below are some suggestions that you can choose from or you can add your own suggestions.

1. Crime
2. Recycling
3. Speeding
4. Pool Safety
5. Noise
6. Parking
7. Trash Collection
8. Maintaining Property Values

9. Association Dues
10. Common Area Landscaping
11. Dog Waste Problems
12. Volunteering for Committees
13. Communication from POA
14. Social Events
15. Garage Sales
16. Golf Carts
17. Playground
18. Covenant Enforcement

Give us your top (3) three concerns and give us a brief explanation for each.
Please submit via email back to opinion@covingtonlakepoa.com

THANK YOU

**WE
WOULD
LIKE
YOUR
OPINION**

We will not use your name

