

# VINCENT'S NEWS

The 'Van-Go' Gallery



*"Wherever you see a 'Vincent's Van Go' you know the job will be a work of art."*

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OWNER'S CORNER  
THROUGH MY EYES

Finally. In October Karen and I went on a real vacation to the city of Berlin, Germany, for a week. We wanted to go to Europe and in February we met a couple from Berlin who encouraged us to visit their home city. They were convincing, and we went there the first week in October. Berlin is a big city,

with over 3-1/2 million people. It is also modern, as much of it had to be rebuilt after WWII.

While the people were nice – everybody speaks English - and the food was great, the highlight of the trip was all the history.



Karen & I are overlooking the gardens at Frederick the Great's royal palace in Potsdam, Germany.

For both Karen and I, from our earliest years the Cold War was a fact of life. Berlin, of course, was ground zero,

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## Did You Know...

**...that Vincent's will donate 1% of your purchase to a worthy local organization that you designate? It's quick and easy. Visit us online at [www.VHPinc.com](http://www.VHPinc.com) and click on the big "VHP is involved" button (top-right) for more information about "VHPcares".**

## Humidity, Comfort, and Energy Savings - Part 1

Did you know that dry air has a cooling effect on your body? This is a big factor for both heating and cooling your home. Getting the humidity level in your house right can be a big factor in both your comfort and how much you pay to heat or cool your home. Here is how it works:

God designed our bodies with an amazing cooling system: we perspire when we get hot. When the air is dry the perspiration - or sweat - on our skin evaporates and takes heat with it and we feel cooler.

In the summer we can leverage this natural evaporative cooling system to make ourselves more

comfortable: the dryer the air is, the cooler we feel – so we want to make the air very dry during the cooling season. Central air conditioning can go a long way toward accomplishing this if the capacity of air conditioner is the correct size for the house. However, if the air conditioner is too big for the house, the air

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## Humidity, Comfort, and Savings (Cont'd from Page 1)

will cool down quickly, but it won't remove enough humidity, which leaves you feeling clammy and uncomfortable. This is because the moisture on your skin can't evaporate because the air already has as much water vapor as it can hold - and thereby our natural cooling system doesn't work.

Typically, people react to this by turning the setting on their thermostat lower than it needs to be if the air were dryer to feel comfortable. This results in higher utility bills. This situation can be solved by either replacing the oversized air conditioner with the correct size and / or by installing a whole home dehumidifier.

In the winter we want to do the exact opposite: we want the air to be humid to prevent our sweat from evaporating and cooling us off. This helps us stay warmer and so we feel more comfortable. However, if there is not enough humidity in our house to prevent our body's normal evaporative cooling system from working, we feel cold and uncomfortable.

This makes us turn the temperature on the thermostat higher than it needs to be to feel warm and comfortable. This also results in higher utility bills.

The solution is to install a properly sized humidifier that can keep your house at 40% relative humidity. *(More on*

*this in Part 2, next month.)*

### What if I heat my house with a hot water boiler system?

In the past there have been few solutions to humidify a home that is heated with hot water. One solution has been to install a steam humidifier. However, we have stayed away from steam humidifiers because they have been prone to problems and have needed a lot of service to keep them working. One of the big issues is the scale that is left when water evaporates. Now, however, Aprilaire has solved the issues that plagued the earlier models and a steam humidifier is a great option if you have a boiler system.

*- Daniel Squires*

### What Our Clients Are Saying...

The guys are all so nice and respectful. I feel comfortable letting them in my house. They are always great. I don't have to worry about my furnace, because I know its getting the best care.

Sharon, Port Huron

**A** Heating & Air Conditioning  
**Amana**<sup>®</sup>  
LASTS AND LASTS AND LASTS.<sup>®</sup>

Vincent's Heating & Plumbing is proud to install Amana equipment, made in the USA.

## Through My Eyes (Continued from Page 1)

being partitioned after the second world war between the east and west. I was startled when Karen observed that our AirBNB apartment was in the former East Berlin. Wow – I thought of all the movies I had seen that depicted that bleak and repressed time as I marveled at all the changes that have taken place since the end of the Cold War in 1991.

We spent time at the Berlin Wall Memorial which featured an educational time-line at a museum as well as a portion of the wall that was preserved – complete with an inner and outer wall with barbed wire and a “no-man’s” land in between and a guard tower. We also went to the site of the famous “check-point” Charlie where people from the west and the east could cross between the cities if they had a valid reason. The wall had separated families for over a generation and it is so remarkable that it came down peacefully.

An inescapable fact about Berlin is the role it played in World War II. We visited a museum called the Topography of Terror that has an educational time-line that detailed the rise of Hitler’s Nationalist-Socialist Party and how it took over the country and eventually plunged the world into

war. It described all of the horrific things that the Nazis did to so many people groups and how these evil men were held accountable after the war was over. It was staggering to think that so many people could turn a blind eye to all the brutality and genocide that was going on.

On a bike tour of Berlin, after seeing a lot of impressive sites, we were taken to a non-descript gravel parking lot. The tour guide explained that the parking lot was above the site of the German command bunker that Adolf Hitler killed himself in as the Allies captured Berlin. The bunker had been bulldozed and buried to leave no trace. It was left unrecognized and unmarked to avoid having it become a kind of shrine to Neo-Nazis. How fitting that the passing of this evil man should be snubbed in this way.

Finally, there was Potsdam. If you ever go to Berlin, take a short excursion to Potsdam, which is about ½ hour by train. Largely untouched by bombs in WWII, Potsdam is the site of the Prussian King Frederick the Great’s palace, “Sans Souci”, that is called the Versailles of Germany. Potsdam is also where President Franklin D Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, and Joseph

Stalin met at the end of WWII to discuss the resolution of the war and how Germany would be partitioned – leading to the Cold War. The building where they met is preserved as it was and is now a museum. Potsdam was also the location of the Soviet checkpoint where spies – including shot-down spy plane pilot Gary Powers - were exchanged as dramatized in the Steven Spielberg Cold War thriller “Bridge of Spies”, starring Tom Hanks.

As an American, it made me proud of the role that America played in freeing Europe in WWII and in ending the communist repression of the Cold War. And as much as Karen and I enjoyed our time in Berlin, we’re glad that we live in the U.S. – especially for someone in the HVAC business. That we went in October was intentional. There is very little air conditioning in Europe, and our AirBNB flat was no exception. People remarked that this past summer was brutally hot and I’m glad we waited until it cooled down. It was a nice place to visit, but I’m glad to be back home where people need both heating and cooling. –

*Daniel Squires*

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### Word Search: European Cities

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

- Berlin
- London
- Amsterdam
- Dublin
- Lisbon
- Copenhagen
- Minsk
- Rome
- Budapest
- Madrid
- Vienna
- Athens
- Helsinki
- Paris

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## Humor Section



*The Most Reasons to be  
Your Best Choice*

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In 2013 the CIA declassified jokes they had collected over the years from behind the iron curtain. Here is a sample:

A worker standing in a liquor line says, "I have had enough, save my place, I am going to shoot Gorbachev." Two hours later he returns to claim his place in line. His friends ask, "Did you get him?" "No, the line there was even longer than the line here."

A man was jailed 15 years for calling Joseph Stalin a fathead. One year for sedition, 14 years for revealing a state secret.

Here is a favorite of Ronald Reagan that he shared with Mikhail Gorbachev and got a laugh: An American tells a Russian that the U.S is so free he can stand in front of the White House and yell, "To h\*\*\* with Ronald Reagan." The Russian replies: "That's nothing, I can stand in front of the Kremlin and yell, 'To h\*\*\* with Ronald Reagan,' too."

*(source: Google 'Cold War Jokes')*