

# 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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### Congratulations to this year's Vincent's News Drawing Winners:

**1st - Jessica Strickland of Algonac (Aprilaire Humidifier)**

**2nd - Linda Cox of North Street (NSI 3000 Low-Level CO Monitor)**

**3rd - Judy Heyser of Marine City (Germicidal UV Air Purifier)**

OWNER'S CORNER

## THROUGH MY *Yourz* EYES

This month I am 'stepping aside' to let you hear from other Vincent's News readers. Here are a few of the comments we received on the Drawing entry forms that were sent in.  
— Daniel Squires

find it interesting and informative."  
Ralph Knotts

"Look forward to reading because its informative and good stories."  
Roxanne Ball

"I look forward to the newsletter every month, it has been very informing"  
Sharon Snyder

"Don't usually read ad stuff but I read yours. I

"I learn a great deal from reading your articles. I enjoy your puzzles and jokes. Long time satisfied,

very happy customer."  
Daniel McGuire



Here is Brendan performing combustion testing on a gas water heater to make certain it is performing as intended and not making too much carbon monoxide.

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### Water Heater Safety & Maintenance – Part 4 of 4

If you have a natural draft gas water heater it is very important to make certain that your chimney is working correctly and venting the water heater exhaust from your house. If it isn't, then the water heater exhaust products - including carbon monoxide - will 'dump' into your home and put you at risk.

Without getting too

technical, when a chimney is working as planned, there is a pressure difference – the draft – that pulls the exhaust from your water heater and expels it outside your house. The natural direction of flow is from inside the house to outside the house. However, there are factors that can reverse this and create a 'backdraft'. In this case outside air enters

your home through the chimney, which prevents the exhaust from exiting. Instead, the water heater exhaust leaks into your house and contaminates the air you breathe.

One of the causes of a backdraft is a house that is 'too tight'. This may be a surprise to some people, who

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## Water Heater Safety (Continued from Page 1)

listened to all the messages urging us to seal up our houses and replace our 'leaky' windows in order to save energy and reduce our fuel bills. However, a house just can't be sealed up without considering the need for ventilation. Ventilation is needed to let your house dilute and expel indoor pollutants that can have a negative impact on your health – pollutants like detergent odors, cleaning chemicals, outgassing from carpets and other man-made products - including excess humidity.

Ventilation also plays a role in whether your chimney will work correctly, Consider: where does the air come from to 'make up' for the air lost when you turn on your kitchen or bathroom exhaust fan or when you use your fireplace when your house is sealed up tight? Unless there is an alternate source of make-up air, your water heater chimney will be a channel to let air into the house instead of letting the exhaust out. This is a dangerous condition.

(As a side note, if you are constantly having to deal with dust in your house, this can be a symptom of a 'too tight' house that can be

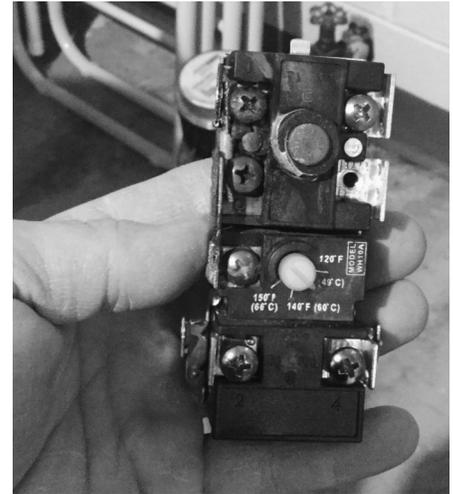
putting you at risk.)

Testing to make certain that your water heater is venting correctly to get rid of water heater exhaust is important to your safety and should be done on an annual basis. If your water heater isn't venting correctly, it needs to be corrected through ventilation – which is, by the way, the 'V' in 'HVAC'.

The amount of carbon monoxide that a gas water heater produces should also be measured on an annual basis to make certain it is within acceptable safe limits. Even assuming that the water heater exhaust products are being vented correctly today, what happens if the chimney gets plugged? – like if a squirrel builds a nest in it? (Not an uncommon occurrence.) There are no water heater safeties to protect against dangerous levels of carbon monoxide. This is why we include combustion testing on water heaters as part of a water heater inspection with a Plumbing & Home Safety Service visit.

Other procedures include:

- On **electric water heaters**, it is important to examine the wiring and all the electrical connections for signs of scorching and other electric



*Recently we discovered a charred electric water heater thermostat - it had caught fire due to faulty electrical connections.*

hazards.

- On **tankless heaters** the slightest amount of scaling in the narrow water passages can dramatically reduce performance. An annual flush is necessary to ensure that it will perform as intended.

These are some of the tasks that we take care of in our Plumbing & Home Safety Service with our water heater safety and maintenance procedures – along with the other tasks that I have described in Parts 1, 2 and 3 of this series over the past three months.

For a full list of water heater maintenance procedures see the enclosed insert.

-Daniel Squires

## Through Your Eyes (Continued from Page 1)

"I love the information given in articles."

Sharon King

"We both feel good having the extra information about things we might need to know. We just enjoy it, 'Through my eyes' and maintenance part and humor section."

Lester Keene

"It's a nice newsletter that keeps you up to date on different tidbits. I have used VHP multiple times for new furnaces and a/c units. Very pleased with them."

Darlene Hess

"Always dependable, expert service and always well trained, honest and friendly repair people. Enjoy the newsletter and learn from it, Thank you!"

Nancy Marcero

"Thank you for doing this newsletter, the information is important to have, things we should know and have probably heard somewhere but ignored or forgot. Your service is above and beyond what is normally expected."

Martha Dougherty

"Very informative & interesting. Like

being kept updated, Keep it up!"

Eileen Moore

"I find some topics informative and helpful. Also like the word search puzzle and jokes. Would like to see more customer questions and service answers."

David Hearn

"We are a Member of your program for a very long time. We trust your workers and would love to win the humidifier. Thank you."

Mrs. Francis Fuller

"I have learned several things about humidifying & dehumidifying a house among other things about keep the home safe."

Mary Lawton

"Very informative. Great how the operation of heating & cooling system is broken down by season."

Ron Ceglarek

"Every one of the employees are wonderful, Great service."

Rebecca Nelson

"Wonderful staff and expert tradesmen! I never have a worry!"

Daniel Shogren

"Love it. Very informative and entertaining."

Ron VanTreese

"Enjoy news. Very pleased with workers."

Patricia Loftis

"Always helpful information and I really enjoy reading "Through My Eyes" and the Humor Section."

Sandy Dersam,

"We have been with VHP since 1996, trust no one else. Everyone is wonderful to work with, very professional. VHP news always has informative maintenance/safety tips. Puzzles are fun too."

Debra Burleson

"Love your newsletter, keep them coming!"

Pam Mollan

"Love to read your newsletter. Valuable information I like to know. Humor section & word search entertain me for a few minutes too. I like to read 'Through my eyes.'"

Diana Hautau

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Vincent's Heating & Plumbing

2650 Oak St.  
Port Huron, MI 48060

Daniel Squires, President  
David Squires, Vice President

Phone: 810-985-7103  
E-mail: sales@vhpinc.com  
Website: www.vhpinc.com

## Word Search: May Flowers

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

Lilac  
Petunia  
Daisy  
Violet  
Rose  
Daffodil  
Tulip  
Orchid  
Marigold  
Sunflower  
Narcissus  
Azalea

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## Humor Section



**Four high school boys afflicted with spring fever skipped morning classes. After lunch they reported to the teacher that they had a flat tire. Much to their relief she smiled and said, "Well, you missed a test today so take seats apart from one another and take out a piece of paper." Still smiling, she waited for them to sit down. Then she said: "First Question: Which tire was flat?"**

source: <http://www.jokes4us.com/miscellaneousjokes/weatherjokes/springjokes.html>