

VINCENT'S NEWS

The 'Van-Go' Gallery



OWNER'S CORNER

60 Years of Excellence!

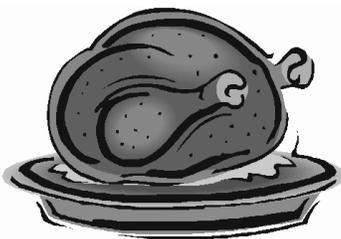
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Did you know...

...that you could have a hidden danger in your sewer line?

See the enclosed Cross Bore Awareness insert and nearby article.



THROUGH MY EYES

If you have been reading my column in Vincent's News for a while you won't be surprised that my wife, Karen, and I love to ride bicycles. In fact, when the weather is warm, we typically end our work day with a 6- to 8-mile bike ride. When the weather is cold or rainy, I have a stationary recumbent bike set up in our basement so I can still get some exercise.

This year we stepped it up a notch. As I write this in early October,

we are returning home on a flight from Munich, Germany, after spending a week riding bikes along the Danube River. This year is a landmark wedding anniversary for Karen and me - our 40th! - and we wanted to do something special to commemorate it. So, we did - with a 'bike & barge' trip on the

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



Karen and I enjoyed beautiful views like this on our bike ride along the Danube River. - Daniel Squires

Danube River that let us ride on some of the most popular bike paths in Europe in four different countries: Germany, Austria, Slovakia, and

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How to Make Sure You're Not Blown Up If Your Sewer Backs Up!

Have you ever had a sewer cleaner snake out your sewer drain line to unplug it? Using a rotary cutting head to clear an obstruction without first using a video inspection camera can put you and your

family at risk if the stoppage is caused by a plastic, high-pressure natural gas line penetrating - or 'cross-boring' - your sewer!

Included with this month's Vincent's News is a 'Cross Bore Awareness' brochure

provided by MISS DIG 811 that describes how a clog in your sewer might be a utility line - or caused by a utility line.

While cutting a telecommunication line with a sewer cleaning auger - like

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Sewer Backup ... (Continued from Page 1)

a fiber optic cable – may cause a disruption, cutting a power line or a natural gas line could be deadly.

For over 40 years utilities have used trenchless technology to install new lines without having to dig.

According to the Cross Bore Safety Association, “It is expected with millions of miles of sewers and where utility lines have been installed with trenchless technologies, that there ... exists a legacy of at least thousands of cross-bores of gas lines alone in sewers.”
<http://www.crossboresafety.org/history.htm>

The danger of cross-bores first entered public awareness in 1976 in Kenosha, Wisconsin, when a sewer cleaner hit a ‘cross-bored’ gas line, causing an explosion that resulted in two deaths, four injuries, a destroyed house, and two damaged adjacent homes. While this tragic incident brought awareness of

cross-bores, many remain undetected underground for years.

After a series of explosions across the country in the early 2000s, the danger of cross bores became a major issue in the industry.

Just last February, a plumber trying to unclog a sewer line in St Paul, Minnesota, ruptured a gas service line that was ‘cross-bored’ through the house’s sewer line. Fortunately, the plumber and the home’s occupant escaped the house moments before an explosion and fire destroyed the home.

The cross-bore problem is rooted in a system-wide lack of marked sewer lines. In one case study of 11,000 sewer laterals, 250 cross bores were discovered.

Another case study found 24 cross-bores in just four blocks. With more and more

trenchless gas line installations done each year, the potential threat to life and property can only increase without public awareness and industry action. <https://gonpl.com/calling-an-industry-to-action-on-cross-bores/>

The DTE website advises homeowners with a blocked sewer or septic line to contract a licensed plumber who has camera equipment capable of identifying a cross bore. The website goes even further by recommending that MISS DIG 811 should be contacted to request emergency staking due to a sewer blockage!

As discussed in last month’s issue, Vincent’s Heating & Plumbing has video inspection equipment and a sewer cleaning system that works in conjunction with the inspection camera. Give us a call if we can help.

-Daniel Squires

What Our Clients Are Saying...

Preventive maintenance on furnace and purchase of a REAL carbon monoxide detector. The usual VHP technician professionalism! On scheduled time, work done with as much time as needed. Explanation of findings. VHP Club Membership a great program! Just very happy!!

John—Marysville

Through My Eyes (Continued from Page 1)

Hungary.

Before a year ago we had never heard of such a tour - a 'bike & barge'. The 'barge' part of the tour is that we ate and slept on a narrow river boat cruise ship that transported us with the bikes to the various bike paths that we rode.

All told, there were almost 100 passengers with about 20 crew members. A majority of the passengers were German, followed by people from across Canada, and a handful of Americans including us. Rounding out the passengers were a smattering of couples from other countries, from as far away as New Zealand, Australia, Argentina, and two couples from Denmark. The crew were from all over Eastern Europe. We had an interesting time getting acquainted with this diverse group.

There was also a lot of age diversity, from a young couple that were newly wed to some in their 70's. While Karen and I did the trip with regular bikes that they provided, some of the people opted for E-Bikes. These are bikes with battery packs that had motors to provide assistance. While most of the path was flat, there were some hills and I have to confess that there were a few times - mainly on the hills - when I was more than a little envious

when people on E-Bikes whizzed by us as we struggled in first gear to crest a hill.

In the morning we would eat an early breakfast and pack a lunch of a cold-cut meat and cheese sandwiches and fruit. Then we would get off the ship and either ride a trail that brought us back to the ship, or the ship would meet us further down the river. And the views were spectacular.

Bike paths in Europe are very well kept, and for the most part the ones we rode were paved - similar to the Griswold Rd to McLain Rd stretch of our Wadhams to Avoca Trail - except imagine it along the St Clair River (plus throw in some mountains and castles!). This is a good comparison because the Danube is as wide as the St Clair River, but I was a little surprised by its color. Although the Danube has been popularized as the 'Blue' Danube, in color it was more of a greenish brown. Our St Clair River is actually a much more beautiful color of blue!

We had planned our trip for a long time, and there were only three things that had me a little anxious. The first was the language barrier, but that turned out to be no problem as most of the people that we encountered understood and

spoke at least a little English. The second concern was our first day of travel. After arriving in Munich after a long flight from Detroit that connected through Paris, we had to exchange our dollars for Euros, purchase bus and train tickets, find the bus to the rail station, and get on the right train for the two hour trip to Passau, Germany, where our hotel was as well as where we met the ship the next day. I was concerned about pulling this off after our red-eye flight and being jet-lagged, but I was able to sleep on the flight and we managed just fine.

My third concern was about our conditioning. We had added some long bike rides to our routine over the summer to prepare, but I was uncertain of whether it had been enough. Our longest day of riding was 54 kilometers - or roughly 33 miles, and while I took some Ibuprofen, we did just fine. It was a fantastic trip, and we made memories for a lifetime. It was a terrific anniversary celebration.

And as long as I am talking anniversaries, 2019 is also Vincent's Heating & Plumbing's 60th anniversary. I want to thank you and all of our loyal clients for allowing us to serve you for these many years!

- Daniel Squires

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Famous Rivers Word Search

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Humor Section



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Your Best Choice*

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A doctor accidentally prescribes his patient a laxative instead of cough syrup.

Three days later the patient comes for a check-up and the doctor asks: "Well? Are you still coughing?"

The patient replies: "No. I'm afraid to."

I got another letter from a bill collector. It said "Final Notice".

Good - they won't bother me anymore!

I dreamt I ate a giant marshmallow.

When I woke up, my pillow was gone.