

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."

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Through My Eyes</i>	1
<i>Furnace Safety</i>	1
<i>Did You Know</i>	1
<i>Letter From a Client</i>	2
<i>Word Search</i>	4
<i>Humor</i>	4

Did you know...

...if you only have one carbon monoxide alarm the best place to put it is in your bedroom? The danger from carbon monoxide is greatest in the early hours of the morning when it is the coldest and when people are typically in bed. You want the alarm where you can hear it to wake you – not in the kitchen or by the furnace.



OWNER'S CORNER

THROUGH MY EYES

December 2014. Already? What a big year of change this has been for me – with more still yet to come. My oldest son Brendan got married in June and my second son Bryan is getting married between Christmas and New Year. Happily, these are good changes and my wife Karen and I are delighted to add two beautiful daughters to our family.

As much as it is a big year of change, 2014 is also a big year for consistency: this month Karen and I celebrate our 35th wedding anniversary. Ironically, we were also married between Christmas and New Year - and at the same church. Karen thinks it is more than



My 35 year adventure with Karen includes this moment at a coffee plantation on the side of a mountain in a remote area of Thailand.

irony – she thinks it is poetic justice for what we put our parent's through to
(Continued on page 3)

How to Make Sure Your Furnace Is Safe

Part 3 - Furnace 'Safeties', Furnace Exhaust, Electric & Gas Safety, and Common Sense!

This series has explored why it is important not to take your furnace or boiler for granted. Manufacturers have engineered very safe products, but still every year news stories tell of furnace related tragedies, so it is important to understand the risks – regardless of the furnace age - in order to avoid them. The first 2 parts are online at www.VHPinc.com in the 'Van Go' Gallery. Here is the conclusion.

Furnace Safeties: An important feature of a furnace

is the safety devices that are built in. One example is a high-limit switch. These prevent the furnace from getting too hot during normal operation or in the case of a furnace blower (fan) failure. The purpose of this safety is to prevent the furnace from overheating and causing a fire.

Another example is a pilot 'proving' safety device. This makes sure there is a pilot flame before allowing the

main gas valve to open. If the standing pilot blows out or if hot surface igniter fails, the last thing you would want if for unlit gas to fill up the furnace - or basement or house. This would be a recipe for disaster with the potential for a gas explosion should the gas ignite from a different source.

Continued Page 2

Continued From Page 1:

How to Make Sure Your Furnace Is Safe P.3

While these safeties are very reliable, as with any mechanical product they can fail. Making certain furnace safeties are functioning should be done annually as part of routine maintenance. This is part of our Combustion Optimization & Safety Inspection that VHP Club members have done every year.

Furnace Exhaust: The chimney and vent should be inspected for blockages or any breaches or disconnected pipes. Birds and squirrels can build nests that can block the exhaust. Vent pipes can rust out or become disconnected. It is important to include checking for this on a regular basis.

Electric & Gas Safety: A furnace or boiler should also be inspected for any signs of poor electrical connections

and worn or frayed wiring.

This is not only for safety reasons but also to make certain that the furnace won't fail in the middle of winter.

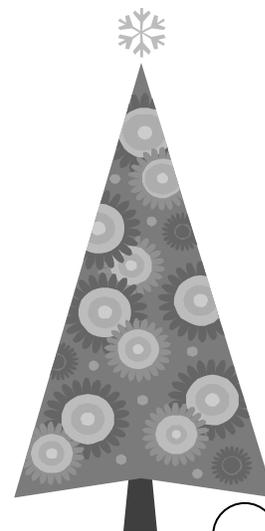
Likewise, it is important to make certain there are no gas leaks in the piping to the furnace or in the tubing inside the burner compartment.

It is also important that the burners and pilot are in correct alignment and that 'critters' like earwigs or spiders have not created a blockage that could divert or block the gas.

This can cause problems – one example of which is 'delayed ignition'. With delayed ignition a gas pocket builds up before igniting causing a loud booming sound that can be pretty scary at the least. A furnace should be checked for electric & gas safety annually.

Common Sense: This includes making sure that

nothing flammable is left by or touching the furnace or boiler. This includes paint, gasoline, and paper products. A furnace that is or has been flooded also poses safety risks. You may be able to get an electrical control that has gotten wet to run again, but it may not be safe. (We have more information on flooded equipment on our website at www.VHPinc.com.) You'll be glad to know that our Combustion Optimization & Safety Inspection includes all of these inspections and more.



"...Furnace Exhaust: The chimney and vent should be inspected for blockages or any breaches or disconnected pipes."

A LETTER FROM A VINCENT'S CLIENT

I am a recent widow and [they] taught me helpful things about my furnace an my central air conditioning unit. Very polite an honest about other ways of saving money with several service programs to choose from.

Kathleen, Port Huron

THROUGH MY EYES (CONT' D FROM PAGE 1)

have a wedding sandwiched between all the Christmas and New Year festivities.

Back then we were naïve to all the logistics that it takes to put on a wedding – but we sure understand them now!

I'm nostalgic. 35 years ago at the end of 1979 I was still in a service truck as a plumber and heating technician for Vincent's Heating & Plumbing – just a few months away from taking and passing the test to obtain my Michigan Journeyman plumbing license.

But 1980 was also in a period of economic recession. In those early years of marriage I would be laid off in January until things picked up in mid-summer. They were hard times as my unemployment check and Karen's wages and tips from working as a waitress only went so far with credit cards making up the difference. And then we would scramble to dig ourselves out of debt once things got busy again - only to go through the same cycle all over again the following year. Those years were a catalyst

for both of us to change direction. Not satisfied with sitting home we both went back to school: Karen to become a registered nurse and me to earn my Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Walsh College in Troy while I continued to work as a service tech.

That period was also when the seed was planted that eventually grew into our VHP Club maintenance program. During those rough economic years I experienced first-hand how tough the cycle of employment/ unemployment was on a family. I determined that if I ever got the chance that I would change things.

To make a long story short, I got that chance. And today our VHP Club is the tree that grew from the seed that was planted back then. It is a true win-win program. You win as a client because of the many VHP Club benefits including keeping your heating, cooling and plumbing

operating efficiently and safely – all at a steep discount. Our technicians win because instead of being laid off during the months when service demand is down they are maintaining your equipment. And I win because I get the satisfaction of providing value for you and our other clients and by taking care of our people. And it's a great feeling to have been able to see a dream come to fruition.

It's been a good year and a wonderful 35 years. Here's to 2015!

P.S. This is a combined December & January issue. We'll be back in February – after a much needed rest!

"...During those rough economic years I experienced first-hand how tough the cycle of employment/ unemployment was on a family."



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Anniversary Word Search

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

Anniversary
 Celebration
 Marriage
 Jewelry
 Gold
 Silver
 Dinner
 Flowers
 Pearl
 Diamond

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Humor Section



Wedding humor

A groom pulls the minister aside at the wedding rehearsal, hands him \$100 bill and says "Here's \$100 for you to change the wedding vows. When you get to the part where I'm supposed to promise to 'forsake all others, be faithful to her forever' and so on - just leave that part out."

On the wedding day, they get to the vows and the minister turns to the groom and says: "Will you promise to prostrate yourself before her, obey her every command and wish, serve her breakfast in bed every morning of your life and swear eternally before God and your lovely wife that you will not ever even look at another woman, as long as you both shall live?"

The groom gulps, looks around, and says, "Yes" in a tiny voice. He leans toward the minister and whispers, "Hey, I thought we had a deal!"

The minister slips him the \$100 bill and whispers back, "She made me a better offer."

Quote:

Proverbs 18:22 He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the LORD.