

# VINCENT'S NEWS

The 'Van-Go' Gallery



OWNER'S CORNER

64 Years of Excellence!



Best Residential HVAC Company  
Best Plumbing Company

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Through My Eyes</i>	1
<i>How to Reduce - Part 1</i>	1
<i>Did You Know...</i>	1
<i>What Our Clients Say</i>	2
<i>Word Search</i>	4
<i>Humor</i>	4
<i>Now That's Good News!</i>	4

### Did you know...

...VHP has a 'handful' of air conditioners available at last years prices?

Take advantage of substantial savings until they're gone!

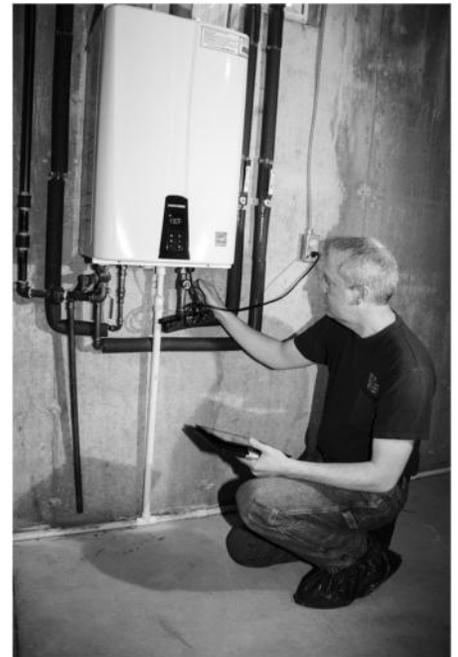
## THROUGH MY EYES

There's a lot of recent chatter about DTE Energy's new Time-of-Day rates. These began for all residential customers with smart meters on March 1. Now DTE can charge more for power at the times of the day when demand is higher. I've done a thorough analysis of my historical electric usage, and in this article, I'll share my conclusions regarding these new rates and the most important factor to keep your electric bill as low as you can.

For electric power, charging based on time of use has become popular across the U.S. as electric utilities struggle to reduce demand. Doing so is critical, because in our national rush toward 'net zero carbon emissions' the supply of critical power generation capacity provided by fossil fuels is being cut even as demand for electric

*Continued Page 3*

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



Pictured is Michael performing a post-installation inspection of an on-demand tankless water heater.

## How to Reduce the Amount of Electric Power Your HVAC System Uses - Part 1

As outlined above, the greatest impact you can have on your electric bill under the new rates is by reducing total consumption. However, there are still ways to save money by shifting WHEN you use power. Here is a big one:

Pre-cool or Pre-heat your home during non-peak times. The main goal of all the various rate plans is to decrease electric usage between 3pm until 7pm. HVAC systems are

the main driver of electric consumption during this time. In summer, this is the hottest time of the day. It's also when most people get home from work and need their AC to keep them cool. As a result, this is when electric demand peaks and it is also why DTE charges the highest rate during this time.

You can use your programmable thermostat to help you lower your electric cost by pre-cooling your

*Continued Page 2*

## How to Reduce...Pt. 1 (Continued from Pg.1)

home. You may have to experiment with the times and temperature settings to get it right, but here is the basic two-step strategy: first, program your thermostat to a cooler temperature a few hours BEFORE 3pm so you don't need as much cooling at 3pm.

Second, make certain to close your drapes or shut your shades in the afternoon to limit radiant heat gain from sunlight, especially on west-facing exposures enduring the hot afternoon sun.

This strategy allows you to 'bank' cooler temperatures paid for at a lower, non-peak rate. Then program your thermostat to return to your regular setting at 3pm – and 'coast' for as long as you are able on the cooler temperature you previously 'banked'.

Alternatively, to save even more, at 3pm program it for a few degrees higher than normal, and then return to your regular setting at 7pm when the peak rate is over. You may likely 'overshoot' the temperature that you normally prefer as your home uses up the pre-cooled air,

but if you can hold off until 7pm, that's when the lower rates return.

### Factors that can Sabotage your 'Pre-Cooling' Strategy

#### **1) Forgetting to close your drapes or window coverings:**

Solar heat gain from sunlight will heat up your home and defeat your pre-cool strategy. Set a daily reminder to close them.

#### **2) A poorly insulated home:**

The better insulated your home is and the better your windows are, the better a pre-cool strategy will work. Otherwise, on hotter days your AC may not be able to keep up.

Recommendation: upgrade the insulation in your home to reduce your home's cooling load. The new higher electric rates will accelerate your payback plus there are typically utility rebates to help cover the cost.

#### **3) A poorly maintained air conditioner:**

Make sure your AC system is performing at maximum efficiency. An annual maintenance visit is a must. Consider upgrading to our **Enhanced Service Plan** to

enjoy discounted pricing, priority pricing, extended service hours, and other important benefits..

#### **4) An underperforming AC system:**

If your air conditioner is old and worn out - or if you have a poor duct system with bad air flow - a pre-cooling strategy may not be a viable option for your home. This is because your AC system might not be able to 'bank' any cooler temperature beforehand or recover quickly enough afterward. Consider upgrading to a new AC unit. We have a handful of air conditioners remaining at last years prices. Give us a call to for great savings until they're gone!

Also, on an AC maintenance call, our technician can verify that your ductwork has enough airflow and if not, you should have it corrected.

You can employ a similar strategy during the heating season. Instead of pre-cooling your home, you can pre-heat it a few degrees before 3pm.

More on how to reduce HVAC costs next month - stay tuned!

- Daniel Squires

## What Our Clients Are Saying...

"Excellent service! Vincent's Heating & Plumbing employees are always courteous and they do a great job!"

- Mike Fisher, Memphis

# Through My Eyes (Continued from Pg.1)

power grows. Beyond natural growth in demand for electricity as the economy grows, the stated intent to shift from gasoline to electric powered vehicles and from natural gas furnaces to electric heat pumps will make an already daunting challenge even more difficult. As I have previously observed in this column, it's hard to comprehend how wind and solar renewables that currently only generate 2% of our total electric capacity will ever be able to replace the 80% capacity currently generated by coal and natural gas that is targeted for elimination.

But this is the path that we find ourselves on and, as a result, we all have a stake in reducing demand for electricity, which brings us to...

### DTE's Time-Of-Day Electric Rates

We have three rate plans to choose from that the Michigan Public Service Commission has given DTE approval for. The object of each of these plans is to 'incentivize' us to modify when we use electricity. Essentially, we save by shifting our usage from peak to non-peak hours. The more we can shift, the more we can save. The different plans reward us by how aggressive we intend to be in our efforts. (See chart below)

The default plan is the Time-Of-Day 3pm-7pm rate (TOD 3-7). It's not very aggressive and it offers little savings potential. At the other end of the spectrum is the Dynamic Peak plan, and it offers more potential savings for people willing to make the effort and modify when electricity is used. The final plan is the Time-Of-Day 11am-7pm rate (TOD 11-7), which may offer slightly better savings potential over the default rate, but

I would be concerned about the impact of the long 8-hour stretch mid-day from 11am-7pm.

I've been involved in the Dynamic Peak (most aggressive) rate for a couple of years, apparently from a pilot program that I approved. I had forgotten about it, and as a result I haven't been aggressive in shifting my usage. However, because I had the electric usage data for the last year, I was able to compare what I would have paid with the default TOD 3-7 plan, and I still saved over \$100. With a little bit of effort, I should save more. (I was not able to convert my usage to compare the TOD 11-7 plan.)

*(Although there is the risk of a higher rate on a Critical Peak day, in all of 2022 only one day was declared and my extra cost was about \$10.00.)*

But here is the biggest takeaway from my analysis: the time-of-day usage portion of the bill is only 25% of my total bill. The 'lions share' of my DTE electric bill isn't based on when I use electricity, but rather on the total amount I use.

The other 75% of my bill was comprised of charges listed as 'Power Supply Non Capacity Charge', 'Power Supply Cost Recovery', 'Distribution', and a few other smaller monthly charges - all of which - except for the service charge - are based on TOTAL ELECTRIC CONSUMPTION. You can find these on your bill.

So, the real secret to saving money on your electric bill is to focus on reducing your total consumption, rather than shifting when you use it. See the nearby article for details on strategies to reduce your electric bill.

- Daniel Squires

Time Periods	Dynamic Peak	Critical Peak	Time-of-Day 3p-7p	Time-of-Day 11a-7p
12:00 am to 07:00 am	\$0.11 per kWh	<i>(Critical Peak Rate is allowed up to 14 days per year)</i>	\$0.15 per kWh	\$0.12 per kWh
07:00 am to 11:00 am	\$0.16 per kWh			
11:00 am to 03:00 pm	\$0.23 per kWh	\$1.02 per kWh <i>(3pm - 7pm only)</i>	Jun-Sep: \$0.21 per kWh Oct-May: \$0.17 per kWh	Jun-Oct: \$0.22 per kWh Nov-May: \$0.20 per kWh
03:00 pm to 07:00 pm		<i>(advance notice is provided)</i>		\$0.15 per kWh
07:00 pm to 11:00 pm	\$0.16 per kWh			
11:00 pm to 12:00 am	\$0.11 per kWh			

## The 16 Original Major League Baseball Teams

U	K	G	H	H	W	U	L	B	Y	M	C	P	K	W	C	A	I	Q	I	<b>Athletics</b>
Y	R	P	E	R	O	K	R	A	G	W	I	D	E	R	D	G	J	F	S	<b>Braves</b>
A	I	K	R	S	L	A	N	I	D	R	A	C	S	G	D	B	Q	T	S	<b>Cardinals</b>
T	I	D	P	T	V	K	Y	Y	A	Z	Q	X	C	B	V	W	N	H	D	<b>Cubs</b>
E	V	Z	O	E	E	T	M	T	Z	L	P	A	N	Z	U	A	Q	G	J	<b>Dodgers</b>
C	G	U	S	E	Q	M	E	U	Q	A	H	I	S	W	I	C	B	W	B	<b>Giants</b>
U	A	T	S	I	E	S	A	W	A	T	I	V	R	G	Q	S	L	E	O	<b>Indians</b>
K	U	P	P	I	K	F	L	Y	S	H	L	Q	E	Z	N	D	W	H	W	<b>Orioles</b>
I	N	D	I	A	N	S	H	R	W	L	L	X	G	X	T	E	G	D	S	<b>Phillies</b>
W	G	O	I	Z	Q	Z	O	S	Z	E	I	N	D	J	O	R	H	W	N	<b>Pirates</b>
Z	H	G	R	R	X	T	S	O	J	T	E	E	O	P	Q	S	N	N	M	<b>Red Sox</b>
A	O	I	B	I	A	V	K	X	K	I	S	I	D	T	I	G	E	R	S	<b>Reds</b>
A	A	P	T	N	O	D	Q	B	N	C	T	V	R	A	R	W	F	F	U	<b>Senators</b>
N	H	V	E	E	O	L	L	Q	F	S	C	W	B	Y	J	P	I	I	F	<b>Tigers</b>
G	N	S	D	L	M	R	E	Z	N	H	X	S	U	A	B	Y	P	W	R	<b>White Sox</b>
V	E	Q	V	S	B	A	T	S	J	Y	M	J	N	E	Q	S	R	S	N	<b>Yankees</b>

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*The Most Reasons to be Your Best Choice*

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## Humor Section



[Conjunctivitis.com](http://Conjunctivitis.com) - now that's a site for sore eyes!

I don't trust stairs. They're always up to something.

Now that's good news!



# Why Are Neglected Water Heaters so Dangerous?

## The Top 4 Hidden Water Heater Risks Are:

- Tank ‘Ruptures’ Due to Failed Temperature & Pressure Relief Valves
- Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Due to Water Heater Venting Problems
- Scalding Due to Water Heater Temperatures That Are Too Hot
- The Potential for Legionella Growth from Temperatures Set Too Low

Next to your home’s heating system, your water heater poses the greatest potential lethal threat to you and your family’s safety in your home - yet it is typically ignored. Our **Plumbing & Water Heater Service** (formerly ‘Plumbing & Home Safety Service’) will make certain you and your family are not at risk from carbon monoxide poisoning, from your water heater exploding or rupturing due to a failed Temperature & Pressure Relief Valve, and more. This service is so comprehensive it takes 1-1/2 hours to perform everything.

### Here is a task list of the various safety & maintenance tasks we’ll take care of for you:

#### ALL WATER HEATERS:

- Per WATTS T & P relief valve inspection guidelines:

- Perform T & P valve annual safety check to prevent explosions.
- Verify T & P valve installed correctly and for safe discharge.
- Verify T & P valve is rated correctly for the tank.
- Remove T & P valve and visually inspect for corrosion and accumulation of sediment deposits to make sure it will work.

#### ATMOSPHERIC & POWER VENT GAS WATER HEATERS ONLY:

- Flush sediment from tank to reduce health risks & prolong tank life (*flushed until water is clear.*)
- Perform visual inspection of anode rod, dip tube and tank interior for signs of wear.
- Exhaust vent safety check to prevent CO leaking into house.
- Perform flame safety check to prevent gas explosions.
- Perform combustion testing with cleaning to ensure proper & safe performance.
- Perform safety inspection of all gas fittings to it for leaks.

#### TANKLESS GAS WATER HEATERS ONLY:

- Perform annual descaling flush.
- Perform safety inspection of all gas fittings to it for leaks.

#### ELECTRIC WATER HEATER ONLY:

- Flush sediment from tank to reduce health risks & prolong tank life (*flushed until water is clear*)
- Perform visual inspection of elements, anode rod, dip tube and tank interior for signs of wear.
- Remove access panels.
- Visually inspect all electrical connections.
- Visually inspect for signs of copper embrittlement.

#### PLUMBING INSPECTION

- Check all water line shut offs and emergency stops to verify they will function when needed.
- Identify location of main shutoff and make certain that it works.
- Examine drain lines & water lines for signs of leaking and concerns. (*1-1/2 hours is allotted for visit not including travel time*)

**VHP’s PLUMBING & WATER HEATER SERVICE** includes these features:

- Annual Descaling Flush for Tankless Water Heaters
- Visual Inspection of Tank Interior For Tank-Type Water Heaters
- Air Intake Cleaning of Gas Fired FVIR Water Heaters

**PLUS \*NEW FOR 2023\* WE WILL INCLUDE A FREE WATER ANALYSIS FOR WATER HARDNESS, IRON, CHLORINE, TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS, & pH!**

In addition to the extensive water heater safety and maintenance procedures, the plumbing technician will also inspect your home's plumbing system to make certain that all your plumbing fixtures, water lines and drain lines are in good order and that there are no problems developing.

- ***Were you aware that cast iron drains that were installed in homes built before the 70's are wearing out and starting to crack and leak as they reach the end of their useful life?***

This is the sort of potential problem that our plumbing technician can 'head off at the pass' so you can be aware of potential issues that are developing before they become major problems. Then there are the plumbing emergencies that come out of nowhere—would you be ready for one?

- ***Do you know where your main water shut-off is? - and - if you do know where it is - does it work?!?***

In addition to the plumbing inspection, we'll show you where the main water shut-off to your house is AND we'll test it to make certain that it will actually work when you need it. And for good measure we'll test ALL of your water line shut-offs and emergency stops to make certain that they will work.

- ***With a Plumbing & Water Heater Service visit you can KNOW:***

- √ ...that your water heater failsafe (the T&P Valve) that keeps it from becoming a bomb is working.
- √ ...that the gas to your water heater will shut off rather than dump gas in your home if it doesn't work.
- √ ...that your water heater isn't dumping poisonous exhaust gasses into your home.
- √ ...that there are no faulty electrical shorts or signs of burning on your water heater.
- √ ...that your water heater has gotten the required annual maintenance it needs.
- √ ...that your gas lines to the water heater aren't leaking.
- √ ...that a plumbing professional has looked over your home's plumbing.
- √ ...that you will be ready for a plumbing emergency

There are two ways you can have this peace of mind service:

- ***GOOD:*** Invest in a single Plumbing & Water Heater Service visit - only \$199  
*Your total cost for all the above benefits is only \$70 more than our normal \$129 service charge!*
- ***BEST:*** Make a Plumbing & Water Heater Service an annual visit & save 25%!  
*You can add this to your VHP Enhanced Service Plan and receive an annual Plumbing & Water Heater Service visit annually for only an extra \$12.45 per month - \$149.40 per year - save 25% starting today!*

**Call (810) 985-7103 to Schedule a Plumbing & Water Heater Service Visit**

- **Monday - Friday 7 a.m. until 6 p.m. Saturday 8 a.m. until 2 p.m.**

## **Vincent's Heating & Plumbing Inc.**

**2650 Oak St - Port Huron, MI 48060**

**(810) 985-7103 email: sales@VHPinc.com**

***"Wherever You See a Vincent Van Go You Know the Job Will Be a Work of Art!"***

As Recommended by the CDC (Center for Disease Control)

# THE SIMPLE 3-STEP FORMULA YOU CAN USE TO KEEP YOUR FAMILY SAFE FROM A FURNACE RELATED DANGERS & CARBON MONOXIDE RISKS

The CDC (Center for Disease Control) has issued this warning specifically about carbon monoxide:

“Each year, more than 400 Americans die from unintentional CO poisoning, more than 20,000 visit the emergency room and more than 4,000 are hospitalized due to CO poisoning. Fatality is highest among Americans 65 and older. Recommended Strategies to prevent CO poisoning from your home appliances include having your heating system, water heater and any other gas, oil, or coal burning appliances **serviced by a qualified technician every year and installing a battery-operated CO detector in your home.**”

And there in lies the ‘Simple 3-Step Formula’: 1) Have your heating system serviced by a qualified technician. 2) Do it every year. 3) Install a battery operated CO detector in your home. Simple. Now let me share how we can do this better with these 3 money saving packages:

Have one of our certified Carbon Monoxide & Combustion Analysts service your furnace or boiler. He’ll make certain it is operating safely and performing at maximum efficiency. Next, add an NSI3000 Low Level CO Monitor. Finally, to complete the 3-Step Formula, get our Enhanced Service Plan to make certain you will continue to have your heating system checked annually. Choose from these packages:

**To take advantage of these savings call today! (810) 985-7103**

<b>PACKAGE OPTION DETAILS</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>BETTER</b>	<b>BEST</b>
<b>Gas Furnace or Gas Boiler Maintenance</b> - <i>Combustion Optimization &amp; Safety Inspection</i> - <i>typically requires 1-1/2 hours to do everything</i> <b>Reg. Price \$199.20</b>	<b>Included</b>	<b>Included</b>	<b>Included</b>
<b>NSI3000 Low Level Carbon Monoxide Monitor*</b> - <i>5 year lifespan, protection as low as 5 ppm</i> - <i>while supplies last</i> <b>Reg. Price \$199.00</b>		<b>Included</b>	<b>Included</b>
<b>Enhanced Service Plan - 12 month coverage</b> - <i>includes next years Combustion Optimization &amp; Safety Inspection, priority service, discounts, &amp; more</i> <b>Reg. Price \$149.40</b>			<b>Included</b>
<b>Total Package Value</b>	<b>\$199.20</b>	<b>\$398.20</b>	<b>\$547.60</b>
<b>Less Package Discount &amp; SEMCO Rebate*</b>	<b>(\$100.20)</b>	<b>(\$199.20)</b>	<b>(\$298.60)</b>
<b>YOUR NET COST AFTER DISCOUNT &amp; REBATE</b>	<b>\$99.00</b>	<b>\$199.00</b>	<b>\$249.00</b>

**Please Note:** The SEMCO Rebates and the supply of NSI3000 Monitors are limited.

This promotion is available on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last.

\* The SEMCO REBATE requires signature of account holder & a copy of your SEMCO Invoice

Vincent’s Heating & Plumbing, Inc. 2650 Oak St, Port Huron sales@vhpinc.com

# THE BEST CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM PROTECTION FOR YOUR FAMILY IS NOT AVAILABLE AT A HOME IMPROVEMENT CENTER OR HARDWARE STORE

The typical store-bought alarm (*Kidde, First Alert, etc.*) from a hardware store will only sound the alarm after 70 ppm (parts-per-million) has been sensed for a period of 4 hours (*See actual packaging in store.*) You are safer sleeping in a public parking garage, which has a 25 ppm maximum allowable limit! Consider this compiled chart of carbon monoxide dangers below 70 ppm (*source - NCI*):

CO LEVEL	CARBON MONOXIDE RISK OBSERVED OR ALLOWABLE LIMIT
3-7 ppm	6% increase in the rate of admission in hospitals of non-elderly for asthma. (Sheppard-1999)
5-6 ppm	Significant risk of low birth rate if exposed during last trimester (Ritz & Yu - 1999)
10 ppm	Outdoor level of CO found associated with a significant increase in heart disease deaths and hospital admissions for congestive heart failure.
15 - 20 ppm	First level World Health Organization (WHO) lists as causing impaired performance, decrease in exercise time and vigilance.
<b>25 ppm</b>	<b>Maximum allowable in a parking garage (International Mechanical Code)</b>
27 ppm	21% increase in cardio respiratory complaints. (Kurt-1978)
35 ppm	US NIOSH recommended 8-hour maximum workplace exposure. EPA standard for outdoors for 1-hour and a maximum of 1-time per year.
50 ppm	US OSHA recommended 8-hour maximum workplace exposure.
<b>70 ppm</b>	<b>First alarm level for a <u>store bought</u> - UL 2034 approved - CO alarm.</b>

**The solution? The NSI 3000 Low-Level CO Monitor which detects Carbon Monoxide levels as low as 5 ppm!**

**The NSI 3000 Low-Level CO Monitor features include:**

- Continuous Scan™ mode lets you know monitor is checking for CO – 24/7
- Digital display shows CO levels of **5 p p m** or higher
- Low Alarm - **1 5 p p m** - audible & visual every 8 seconds
- High Alarm - **3 5 p p m** - audible & visual every 4 seconds
- Crisis Alarm - **7 0 + p p m** - audible & visual every 2 seconds

**See the reverse side for a special promotion when you bundle the NSI3000 with a furnace or boiler tune-up.**

**The NSI 3000 Low-Level CO Monitor is \$199.  
Turn this page to view two incredible  
package savings bundles!**

*\* NOTE: The NSI3000 Monitor is available while supplies last.*

**CALL (810) 985-7103** to set up a service call or maintenance visit for free delivery OR stop by the office to purchase.