

# 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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**Did you know...**

... offers a Plumbing and Home Safety Inspection February through May that makes sure your furnace, dryer, and plumbing are safe at offseason savings?

OWNER'S CORNER

## THROUGH MY EYES

Snow! Cold!...and more snow and more cold. As the deep freeze of 2014 continues I wonder where I will put more snow that I know will come before winter ends. The snow piles are deep and especially so at the end of driveways. Too many times I have nicely cleared my drive only to see a wall of ice and snow appear when the city snow plow goes by and has found a convenient (!) clear spot to put the snow

from the road. The big topic this year continues to be the weather. I remember long winters, I remember snowy winters, and I remember cold winters. But I don't recall a winter that has been all three: so much snow with such cold temperatures for such a sustained period of time. Of course, I am writing this in mid-



All dressed up and "snow"-where to go. The plow filled my parking spot with a snow mound.

February and as you read this it may have changed. Growing up I remember reading articles in Popular Science about the return of an Ice Age. That was the accepted *(Continued on next page)*

## Home Heating Fires

Though the threat of a fire may seem unlikely, a heating related fire is a major threat in the winter and can cost a lot of money if the proper precautions are not

taken. Half of all heating fires will occur from January through March according to a study done by the National Fire Incident Reporting System

(NFIRS). This is why we emphasize fire safety throughout the winter months: when the danger of a home heating fire is the greatest. *(continued page 3)*

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## THROUGH MY EYES (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

*“I was surprised to hear the number of people who called and said they couldn't reach the heating company they normally use and were happy we answered.”*

science then. That all changed a few years later with “man-made global warming” as the new scientific theory. Then after a few more years without an increase in temperature the term “man-made global warming” was dropped for the all-encompassing “man-made climate change”. Hmm... this has certainly made this a ‘one-size fits all’ situations theory – whether it warms up, stays the same, or gets cold the same theory applies? If I was a meteorologist I think I would come up with such way to give a weather

forecast because then my prediction would never be wrong! Well, I don't know about ‘man-made climate change’ but as a life-long Michigan resident I do know about Michigan climate change. And before long I can guarantee that even this cold and snow will pass and we will have spring, followed by summer heat. Thankfully. But I have to stop for moment to recognize that for all the inconvenience that the cold and snow pose, there are moments that I have seen breath-taking frozen vistas of stunning

beauty. Some of the ice draped trees are spectacular. It's amazing to look at the St Clair River and see it frozen over except where the coast guard has cleared a narrow path. And this morning on the way to church as I drove down the hill to cross the Wadhams Bridge it was as pretty as a postcard to see the snow covered trees and frozen river. I guess the take-away is to look for the best in every situation. Life is too short to focus on the negative.

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## A LETTER FROM A VINCENT'S CLIENT

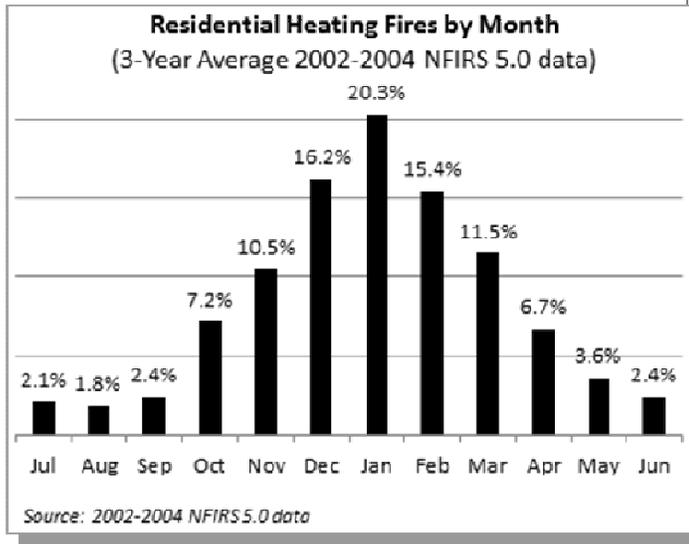
*Just a note to thank you for your concern for our problem with the proper operation of our new furnace. Your technician explained each step of the correction as*

*he worked. We could feel the difference in each room. I am sure you must be proud of your skilled technicians. All that have served us have been*

*friendly and with a professional attitude. I will continue to tell others of "Vincent's" service.*  
  
*L.M, Port Huron*

# HEATING FIRES (CONTINUED)

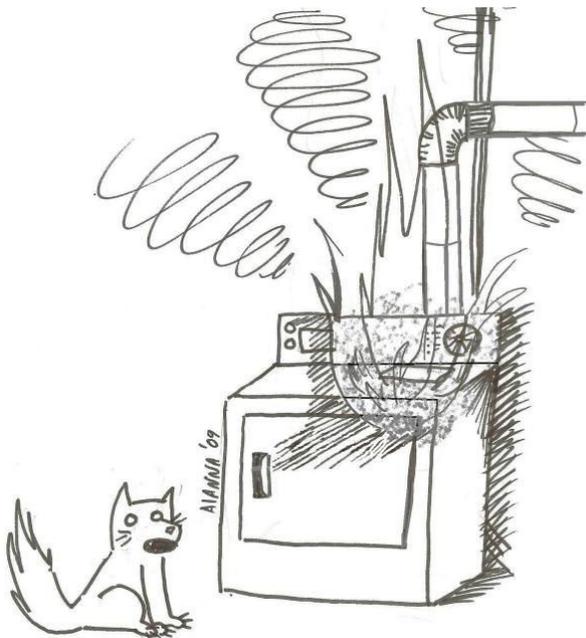
Just how dangerous is the threat of a heating fire? Actually, heating equipment related fires are more common than you might think. Heating equipment is the second leading cause of residential building fires after cooking. In fact, according to the National Fire Protection Association there were 57,100 fires in homes that were caused by heating



equipment in 2010 alone. These heating related fires were responsible for almost 500 deaths, over 1,500 injuries, and over \$1 billion in property damage that year. There are plenty of

home fires in the Blue Water area as well. A brief search on the Times Herald website for "Fire" reveals that even within the last month there have been a number of fires in the area. So what can be done to prevent heating equipment fires in the home? Fortunately there are a number of things that can be done to prevent this from happening.

"...I am so pleased with your company's installation of my new boiler system and boiler-mate..."



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# Winter Word Search

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

**Arctic Blast**  
**Snowman**  
**Plow**  
**Freeze**

**Frost**  
**Bitter Cold**  
**Icicle**

**Snowman**  
**Subzero**  
**Lake Effect**

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## 5 Easy Tips to Prevent Heating Fires

- 1) If you use a space heater, make sure that it has an automatic tip-over shutoff in case it gets knocked over.
- 2) Make sure to regularly clean lint from clothes dryer and dryer line.
- 3) Many furnace and chimney fires are a result of buildup of tar and other substances. Take care to have your chimney and furnace cleaned once a year to get rid of anything flammable.
- 4) Make sure furnaces and other heating equipment have been properly installed in your home
- 5) Get on VHP's Plumbing and Home Safety plan.