

# 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."*

OWNER'S CORNER

## THROUGH MY EYES

**60 Years of Excellence!**

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**Did you know...  
...that the most important reason to have your heating and cooling equipment serviced annually is to make certain it is safe to operate?  
See nearby article.**

On June 29 I did something that I have never done in my life – I participated in a 5K run. Okay – in all fairness, for my part, the emphasis is on the word ‘participated’ rather than on the word ‘run’. I’m not and have never been a runner. It’s not in my genes. I’m 6’4” tall and definitely not built for speed. And were I to run, I think the kindest adjective that someone could use to describe my effort would be ‘lumbering’. So how I participated

was that I walked the course. And I had a lot of fun – as did everyone else from Vincent’s that was there.

The run was the “Artful Dodger” race that the St. Clair Art Association puts on in conjunction with it’s annual St. Clair Art Fair. Fortunately for Vincent’s Heating & Plumbing, we do have



**‘Team Vincent’s Heating & Plumbing’ finished in 1st place in the St Clair Art Association “Artful Dodger” 5k Run team competition.**

some runners on our team, foremost of whom is our tech, Marvin Schmitz. He and his talented wife, Brandi, are serious runners and Brandi is one of the organizers of the event.

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## Nightmare Story Prompts Discussion of Electrical Safety

On an air conditioner we serviced recently for a new client, our technician discovered that the cartridge fuses to the air conditioner had been replaced with pieces of copper tubing. This

is a very bad idea – and in a moment I will explain why this story made me shudder. But first, a discussion of why this is so unsafe.

The purpose of a fuse is to protect both the circuit and the device that it serves

from overheating and causing a meltdown and/or fire. A fuse is a simple device that only has one purpose: to melt or break when the amperage exceeds the desired limit.

*Continued Page 2*

## Electrical Safety (Continued from Page 1)



'Sabotaged' air conditioner 'disconnect' described in article with an actual cartridge fuse shown.

Replacing the cartridge fuses with copper tubing – or in the case of 'screw-in' type fuses with a copper penny – removes that protection.

In this situation, the air conditioner wasn't working and the person apparently diagnosed the problem as bad or blown fuses – and this was a mistake. Here's why: 99% of the time a bad or blown fuse is actually the symptom of the problem – not the problem itself.

Instead, the first question that needs to be asked when the fuse is blown is 'what caused it to blow?' Typically, there is a 'short-circuit' – or one that is developing– that

causes a fuse to blow – in either the wiring, one of the switches or in a motor.

Another thing to remember is that air conditioners do not operate on 110 volts – they require 220 volts. So 'poking around' an air conditioner's electrical circuits is probably something that you should let us take care of for you.

However, if you are experienced and confident with electricity, in the situation of a blown fuse, you might try replacing the cartridge fuses – assuming you match the amperage. If the reason the fuse blew was a short-circuit downstream – which it typically is - it will just blow the new fuses.

What you don't want to do is replace them with copper tubing. Here is what happened on this job – and why it is so unsafe:

There was a short-circuit in the system, and so when the sabotaged air conditioner 'disconnect' was plugged in, electricity flowed unstoppped until something else gave.

Here, it was a wire terminal inside the air conditioner condenser that actually got so hot that it melted down and broke. Except in this case, the live wire was blown off the terminal and was left hanging - live! Fortunately, it did not 'ground' to something else and no one was hurt.

When our tech got there, the first thing he is trained to do is to pull the air conditioner disconnect – which he did. Therefore, he was protected from being electrocuted. He had no idea what had happened, and his training saved him.

Electricity is easy to take for granted – but it shouldn't be. Electric safety is part of the reason that we include a safety component of our air conditioning and heating maintenance service. It is also why we agree with your equipment manufacturer that you should have your heating & cooling equipment serviced annually.

- Daniel Squires

## Through My Eyes (Continued from Page 1)

She is also an artist and designed the ceramic medals.

After last year's race, Marvin planted the seed that I should consider being a corporate sponsor of a team. Long story short, I warmed up to the idea, and eventually "Team Vincent's Heating & Plumbing" formed from members of the Vincent's Heating & Plumbing crew and family members.

So of course, since I'm part of the team, I had to be there myself and I breathed a sigh of relief that Marvin said that it would be perfectly okay for me to walk. We actually had 17 people from our group that wanted participate on the team and I had shirts made for everybody.

When we got there, it was very impressive. There were over 250 people signed up compared to 70 or so last year. So kudos to

Brandi and Marvin and the others that got involved to build the event and make it such a success.

The morning started with Yoga to warm up. From this I learned that I am also deficient in the flexibility category. And finally, the 'race'.

I'm happy to report that Team Vincent's Heating & Plumbing finished in first place as a sponsored team and we had many individuals that placed. Congratulations to Nathan, who finished 2nd overall, and Kristy, who finished 3rd overall, with Jeyson, Ben, and Taylor not far behind to round out our top five finishers. Tom and his daughters Katie and Allison also finished in the top three in their age categories. Michael and his son Caleb also helped us out, as did Tom's wife Dollie, my wife

Karen, Patty, and Jeyson's wife, Hayley.

There's a lot to be said for just showing up – in business and in life. I learned this again when they called my name for the 3rd place finish in my age bracket – although I would have been perfectly content not to hear my finish time of 56 minutes and 27 seconds blasted over the loud speaker when they called me up during the award ceremony. How could I have known there were only 3 people signed up in my bracket? It was all in good fun for a good cause and everybody said they had a great time.

We finished over 2 minutes faster than the next highest corporate team – in spite of my 'contribution'. Marvin tells me that now we are obligated to come back next year to defend our title. Bring it on!

## What Our Clients Are Saying...

Tons of work to do with a new furnace and hot water heater and water shut off valve. They did it all pleasantly and kindly explained exactly what they were doing. When they cleaned up and were gone, we couldn't help saying, "There's an example. The people from Vincent know what they are doing and are really kind to explain it as they work." Nice to have someone you can trust when you have a heating or plumbing problem.

*Bates— Fort Gratiot*

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# Word Search: International Bacon Day

## August 31st (Saturday before Labor Day)

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

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Canadian  
Pork  
Turkey  
Smoked  
Pancetta  
Breakfast  
Slab  
Skillet  
Bacon Bits

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## Humor Section



A little pig walks into a bar and asks the bartender for a beer.

He drinks it and asks where the toilet is.

The bartender tells him and off walks the little pig.

Another little pig walks in and asks for a beer.

A little bit later, he too asks where the toilet is.

Again, the bartender gives him directions and off walks the little pig.

Then a third little pig walks in and asks for a beer.

The bartender asks, "Don't you want to know where the toilet is?"

The pig replies, "Naah. I'm the little pig that went wee wee wee all the way home".

source: <http://laffgaff.com/pig-jokes-and-puns/>