

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...

...Replacing a dirty, clogged filter with a clean one can lower your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5% to 15%? – source U.S. Department of Energy.

OWNER'S CORNER

THROUGH MY EYES

I'm amazed at the attention America pays to famous people. I think about this every time I'm in the grocery store checkout lane and I see all the gossip magazines. I'm further amazed that being a celebrity makes a person an 'expert'. I recall a TV spokesman for cough syrup in the 80's by an actor who declared his credentials to be "I'm not a doctor...but I play one on TV"! And then there are the Hollywood

'stars' that testify before congress. Really? I can only figure that the fascination with these people has something to do with the fact that typically a 'celebrity' becomes famous only after they are successful. We see all the glamor - but not the years of struggle and the high personal price they paid to



Here I am with Penn Jillette of the magic/comedy act Penn & Teller, although you may not recognize him because he has lost over 100 lbs.

achieve success. And with only this selective picture of reality, the lives of celebrity idols

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Understanding Power Surges and Brownouts

Every year power surges and brownouts in the electrical system damage heating and cooling equipment and result in expensive repair costs.

What is a power surge?

A power surge is a brief increase – a thousandth of a second - in your home's electrical system. It happens when the flow of electricity is interrupted, then started again and electricity surges

back- into the system. The power momentarily spikes, then returns to normal level. An example of this would be when an appliance like a refrigerator comes on and the lights dim for a moment - the surge is at the moment when the lights brighten again. Minor power surges can be a common occurrence in a home. Constant low-level surges

that occur in a house - like when motors stop or start - will cause internal circuitry to degrade until they eventually fail. Devices containing microprocessors are vulnerable because digital components are so sensitive that even a minor fluctuation in voltage can affect it.

A surge protection device can be used to protect your

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Power Surges (Continued from Page 1)

“...For brownouts, while there are no UPS (battery backup) devices for HVAC equipment, for cooling equipment there are protection devices that can temporarily interrupt power to protect air conditioning...”

equipment from power surges. Essentially a surge protector is a device that diverts excess voltage and current to the system ground without affecting the normal flow of electricity. Surge protectors will guard against the everyday power surges, but not direct lightning strikes.

In a lightning strike, the surge is too intense and can overwhelm a surge protector. A lightning strike will cause instant damage leaving circuits ‘fried’ and other parts melted. That is why it is a good idea to unplug electrical appliances and devices when lightning is a possibility. Fortunately, direct lightning strikes are rare and surge protectors can be an adequate safeguard for most power surges.

What is a brownout?

A brownout occurs when the supply of electricity is reduced. This is usually due to high system demand, storms, or other problems in the power grid. If your lights flicker or dim, this usually is an indication that a brownout has occurred.

What you may not see is the damage that has been done

to your electrical devices and appliances from this disruption in power.

Brownouts occur for many reasons beyond your control. For instance, system overloads can cause a brownout because the power plant is unable to keep up with demand. Brownouts can last anywhere from a few seconds to a few hours, depending on what caused the problem and how quickly full power can be restored.

A brownout is hard on motors because motors get excessively hot in low voltage conditions. The additional heat reduces motor life. This is true for the blower motor and inducer motor in your furnace and for compressors in air conditioners. If you notice a brownout you should immediately turn off your heating & cooling equipment and other expensive electric devices to save them from damage. There are two common methods to protect electronic equipment from brownouts:

1) Install a device that will automatically shut off power

when a brownout is detected.

2) Connect the equipment to an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) - like a battery backup. UPS devices are commonly available to protect computers to allow the computer enough time to save and power down.

What can you do to protect your heating and cooling equipment from power surges and brownouts?

A Surge Protector can be added to your heating and cooling equipment to protect against power surges. For brownouts, while there are no UPS (battery backup) devices for HVAC equipment, for cooling equipment there are protection devices that can temporarily interrupt power to protect air conditioning compressors. For heating equipment, while there are ways to temporarily interrupt power to a furnace or boiler for brownout protection, there is not a product currently available for that purpose. See the accompanying flyer for more information.

– Daniel Squires

THROUGH MY EYES (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

may seem preferable to the real world of hard work that we all know.

Penn Jillette of the magic/comedy act Penn & Teller qualifies as a celebrity. He spoke at a conference I attended recently. He, along with his partner, Teller, have had success in Las Vegas and Broadway shows, and on television, including being part of the 2012 season of Donald Trump's Celebrity Apprentice.

One of the things that sets Penn & Teller apart from other magic acts is that they often reveal the secret behind their tricks as part of their routine. Instead of spoiling the trick it actually creates a greater appreciation for the skill involved. The same thing is true when the high price paid to be a celebrity is revealed – the glamour is replaced with an appreciation

for the tremendous effort that it takes.

In Penn's somewhat autobiographical presentation, he revealed many of the struggles that he went through before he achieved his current fame and celebrity. And he sure took the glamor out of it. For instance, did you know that every-time that a magician does the 'eating fire' routine that they end up swallowing a little bit of fuel – and that it is poisonous and accumulates in their body? If that is what it takes to be famous I will remain unknown, thank you very much.

The reality is that there are no short cuts to success and hard work and persistence are needed to achieve it. And that is the message that needs to be heard today to inspire us to take advantage of the opportunities that we have.

Another thing about Penn is that he seemed like a pretty humble person and didn't have the attitude one might associate with celebrity. I can relate with his humility. Hard work and persistence are only two of the ingredients of success – you also need the help of good people. For Penn it has been his partner, Teller. For me, that is the terrific team of people that make up the staff of Vincent's Heating & Plumbing and the loyal clients like you that give us the opportunity to serve. The last thing that Penn impressed me with is his will power. When his doctor told him if he lost weight he would get off his blood pressure medicine he did just that – he lost 100 pounds in 100 days. Now that is a real magic trick.

– Daniel Squires

"...For me, that is the terrific team of people that make up the staff of Vincent's Heating & Plumbing and the loyal clients like you that give us the opportunity to serve."

WHAT OUR CLIENTS ARE SAYING:

The entire group at Vincent's Plumbing and Heating is great to work with. They are very accommodating and professional. Other companies could benefit from a few lessons.

Debbie, Marysville

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Magic Word Search

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

Magician
Dove Pan
Misdirection
Magician's Wax
Blind Cut
Riffle Shuffle
Sleight of Hand
False Shuffle
Psychokinesis
Mercury Fold

Humor Section



From Standup Comedian Steven Wright

If you think nobody cares about you, try missing a couple of payments.

I intend to live forever. So far, so good.

It doesn't make a difference what temperature a room is, it's always room temperature.

Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

There was a power outage at a department store yesterday. Twenty people were trapped on the escalators.