

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

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The first week of January I was privileged to award Hunter Hospitality House a check for \$1,000. It was the grand prize winner in our inaugural VHP Gives Back contest just ended. Youth for Christ East Michigan was awarded \$500 for finishing second, and The Harbor received \$250 for third place. VHP Gives Back is our way of giving back to the community in a fun way that helps promote

the community groups involved and provides a friendly competition for group supporters to rally around. Supporters can vote once-per-day online at www.VHPinc.com/GivesBack. Over the three months this last contest ran, 3,465 supporters cast 12,552 total votes in an exciting down-to-the-wire



Here I am awarding the \$1,000 VHP Gives Back Grand Prize to Garrett Willard of Hunter Hospitality House. - Daniel Squires

Did you know...

...that our 4th Annual Vincent's News Drawing has great prizes again this year? After the top 3 prize winners have been picked, 10 more people will be selected to receive a Bonus Prize: a free Combustion Optimization & Safety Inspection for their gas furnace or boiler. See the cream colored insert for details.

contest. Hunter Hospitality House only managed in the last few days to pull away from second place finisher
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7 Things You Should Do For Extremely Cold Weather

1) Should Do – Make sure there are no crawlspace openings that are uncovered. Make certain that any crawlspace doors or hatches are secure with no place for bitter cold wind to penetrate and freeze pipes. If you are in a manufactured home when you have any work done on your water lines make certain that whoever is doing it restores any removed insulation before they complete their task.

Exposed plumbing is prone to freezing.

2) Should Do – Play it safe with kitchen sinks and vanity sinks on exterior walls by leaving under sink cupboard or vanity doors open. This allows the heat from the room to keep your pipes warm to prevent them from freezing. If you have had these pipes freeze before, leaving your faucet running with a small stream can also help to prevent it from freezing again.

3) Should Do – If you have a

boiler system with zones, you want to keep heat circulating in all zones in extreme cold. The baseboard radiation is mounted to exterior walls and leaving the thermostat off – or even down – can lead to frozen and possibly split piping and baseboard. If this happens your entire system could end up shut down in order to stop water damage from a flooding broken pipe. Better to pay for a little more heat than
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7 Things You Should Do... (Continued from Page 1)

for an expensive emergency repair. (I will cover the pros and cons of antifreeze in a future article.)

4) Should Do – Realize that your furnace or boiler is at its maximum design capacity in extremely cold temperatures. The BTU heating capacity of your furnace was ‘sized’ to keep your house 70° F on the inside when it is zero outside. Therefore, it may struggle to keep up when the temperature drops below zero. In extreme cold conditions I field a lot of phone calls from people that question why the temperature in their house is less than what their thermostat is set for. I tell them that there is probably nothing wrong with their furnace, but that it probably has reached the limits of the heat it can make. My recommendation is to put on wool socks, long underwear, and a sweater and wait for the return of ‘normal’ winter temperatures. :)

5) Should Do – Realize that your furnace is probably going to be running almost non-stop in extreme cold temperatures. Continuing from the explanation

begun in 4 above, time is a factor in how furnace or boiler heating capacity is measured. An 80,000 BTU furnace means that the maximum amount of heat it can make in an hour is 80,000 BTU’s. So, if your house needs all 80,000 BTU’s in one hour’s time to keep your house 70° F on the inside when it is zero outside, it will need to run without shutting off to accomplish that. It also means that when it is 35° F out (roughly half the heat load) your furnace will only need half the BTU capacity – or 40,000 BTU’s in an hour. Therefore, it will only need to run for about ½ hour when it is 35° F out to keep your house 70° F on the inside. And so on. That is why a furnace doesn’t run as long in normal winter weather.

6) Should Do – Have your heating system checked over once a year. The more a furnace runs – as it will in extreme cold – the greater the wear and tear on it. As a result, furnace parts will wear out more quickly and fail, causing a no heat call. Because so many people neglect their furnace or boiler we get more no-heat emergency calls on extremely cold days than on

typical winter days with less extreme temperatures. When your furnace is checked on a preventive maintenance call we can catch potential problems and fix them in advance before it fails – like in extreme cold - which is always more expensive.

7) Should Do – Have a priority service plan. As a VHP Club member you are entitled to PRIORITY SERVICE. During the recent extreme freezing weather, we had so many calls that it didn’t take long for our schedule to be booked solid and many people needing emergency service asked to be placed on a waiting list. In fact, many who ‘called around’ to other companies would end up calling back because other companies were either booked out as we were or they wouldn’t return their phone call. In contrast, our VHP Club members went to the front of the line when they called. We take care of our VHP Club members first. To learn more about our preventive maintenance or how to become a priority service VHP Club member give us a call at 810-985-7103.

– Daniel Squires



Is Dry Air In Your Home Making You More Likely To Catch a Virus?

Breathing dry air in your home will ‘thin out’ the protective mucous lining your sinuses. This makes it easier for flu and cold viruses to penetrate your body’s natural defenses. Protect your health by making sure the air in your house isn’t too dry with a whole house humidifier. See the yellow insert for more information.

Through My Eyes (Continued from Page 1)

Youth for Christ East Michigan You can see the complete results on our website.

It is impressive that so many people rallied behind these groups. The reason is because of all the good work that these organizations do. That explains why each organization has so many fans and supporters.

Hunter Hospitality House helps people that have a hospital-related medical need by providing free lodging. This is for people with loved ones in the hospital that need a place to rest by the hospital or for people having medical treatments in the hospital that need to stay nearby. Relying totally on donations, this independent local operation has opened up two homes in Port Huron next to both McLaren Hospital and Lake Huron Medical Center. In 2017, Hunter Hospitality House was able to bless close to 100 people and families as they faced circumstances that are both emotionally and financially draining.

The Harbor and Youth for Christ East Michigan both work with young people, although from different sides of the street, so to speak. The Harbor provides shelter for homeless youth, while Youth for Christ East Michigan

focuses on the spiritual needs of young people and teens. The need is great as The Harbor provided help for around 100 young people in 2017 that were in desperate situations with no where else to go. Many of these youths were in families made homeless due to opioid addiction of one or both parents.

Youth for Christ East Michigan provides hope and a 'safe place' for kids. They work with kids in the majority of our middle- and high schools in St Clair County. I was not aware that there is so much anxiety, depression and hopelessness that plague our kids today. What are they anxious about? I learned they are concerned about personal safety for a variety of factors, like the violent world they see on the news and from bullying in the schools – both physically and through social media. They are anxious about their future with what they perceive as bleak prospects. Of 31 kids Youth for Christ sent to camp for a week, 21 were from families in which one or both parents were addicted to heroin. Youth for Christ volunteers provide an oasis for kids to talk safely and to hear a message of God's love for them that many have never heard.

To me, learning about these organizations and experiencing the VHP Gives Back contest has been uplifting for two reasons. First, to see the great compassion and willingness to serve others that were on display in all three groups. Second, to see how many people in our community have embraced these causes and are interested to support them in this contest. I'm glad to have been involved with all three groups in VHP Gives Back. I enjoyed running into people in the community that would bring up VHP Gives Back. Some told how they faithfully voted every day and how they asked their friends to vote.

It was a good experience, and now we are doing it all over again. Round two features an entirely new slate of contestants. If you didn't get involved before, check it out at www.VHPinc.com/GivesBack. The three new groups are Blue Water Hospice, ARC of St Clair County, and Operation Transformation. You can learn about what they do in a short video www.VHPinc.com/GivesBack – and then cast a vote!

– Daniel Squires

What Our Clients Are Saying...

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Mike & Helen McCartan, Saint Clair

Vincent's Heating & Plumbing

2650 Oak St.
Port Huron, MI 48060

Daniel Squires, Company President

Phone: 810-985-7103
E-mail: sales@vhpinc.com
Website: www.vhpinc.com

Word Search: Bad Weather

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

Blizzard
Freezing Rain
Hail
Subzero
Black Ice
Salt Truck
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Humor Section

*The Most Reasons to be
Your Best Choice*

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Q: Why did the man hide his money in the freezer?

A: Because he wanted cold hard cash.

Q: What did one Emperor Penguin say to the other?

A: Nothing, he just gave him the cold shoulder.

Q: Why did the bride refuse to get married in an igloo?

A: She got cold feet.

Q: If the sun shines while it's snowing, what should you look for?

A: Snowbows.

source: <http://www.jokes4us.com/miscellaneousjokes/weatherjokes/coldjokes.html>