

VINCENT'S NEWS

The 'Van-Go' Gallery



OWNER'S CORNER

65 Years of Excellence!



Best Residential HVAC Company
Best Plumbing Company

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Did you know...

...that SEMCO gas customers are eligible for a \$50 energy efficiency rebate for a furnace or boiler tune up? A tune up also provides peace of mind by making certain your HVAC equipment is operating safely. Call us for details.

THROUGH MY EYES

Did you know that you are more likely to get struck by lightning than to win a mega jackpot in the lottery? A few years ago, when the Powerball jackpot was approaching \$1 Billion for the first time, I heard that many times. It was all over the news, and I even heard other people repeating it. But do you think that knowing these impossible odds of winning the jackpot convinced people to stop buying Powerball tickets? No way. People eventually pushed the jackpot over \$1 Billion and there have been billion-dollar jackpots since then.

Continued Page 3

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



Here's Sean checking the water heater burners on a Plumbing & Water Heater Service. Making certain your water heater is operating safely is a key component of an annual maintenance visit. We also test the T & P Relief valve, perform an inspection of the internal tank components, and more.

How to Protect Yourself From Drinking Hazardous 'Forever Chemicals' That Are In Our Water Supply

There is a growing awareness of the risks to our health from PFAS, called 'forever chemicals' that are in our water system. The Sunday edition of the Port Huron Times Herald on September 8 featured a large front-page cover story that explored the topic.

The article detailed a 'hidden threat' in our water supplies from "a class of harmful pollutants often referred to as 'forever chemicals' because of their indestructible nature." And that "You won't taste, smell or notice any change to the

color of your water if per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, are present."

Two main sources of these chemicals are from fire-fighting foams and non-stick pans. I'm sure you've seen the non-stick surface on frying pans deteriorate over time and use, but if you're like me, you've never thought about where the flecks go after they peel off the pan. Now we know - they go into our water systems through our drains. But what we also didn't know is

Continued Page 2

Forever Chemicals... (Continued from Pg.1)

that they are 'forever' – they don't break down naturally. And now they permanently pollute our water.

This poses a danger as there are serious health risks to us from drinking these chemicals. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) "Exposure to PFAS has been linked to deadly cancers, impacts to the liver and heart, and immune and developmental damage to infants and children."

"Even in minuscule quantities – a few parts per trillion – long-term exposure to PFAS can increase cholesterol levels, damage the immune system, cause cancers and disrupt thyroid function, among other ailments, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention."

While the article focused on the danger of 'forever chemicals' in private well systems, people with water from public municipal water supplies have just as much risk. Per the Times Herald article the "risk of exposure for private well users is about the

same, statistically speaking, as their public supply counterparts, according to a 2023 study published by the U.S. Geological Survey."

The difference is that the federal Safe Drinking Water Act requires public water systems to test and monitor for PFAS but there are no testing requirements for private water systems like wells.

Michigan is a hot spot for PFAS contamination. To view an interactive map visit:

www.ewg.org/interactive-maps/pfas_contamination/.

But PFAS isn't the only contamination in our tap water. For a real eye-opener, visit this site:

www.ewg.org/tapwater/

Plug in your zip code and follow the prompts. If you do, you will also see the best recommendations for protecting your drinking water in your home.

The top choice is to install a reverse osmosis system at your kitchen sink to provide all of your drinking water. In



'PFAS-free' reverse osmosis water on tap!

addition to the other cancer-causing chemicals listed, reverse osmosis is able to eliminate up to 99% of PFAS.

Just imagine being able to protect you and your family from PFAS in your drinking water. By installing an RO system you can.

For more information on how you can protect your drinking water from 'forever chemicals' with a reverse osmosis drinking water system see the nearby insert.

– Daniel Squires

Note: all comments enclosed in "quotes and underlined" are from the 9/8/2024 Port Huron Times Herald front-page story "Testing for PFAS" by Houston Harwood.



What Our Clients Are Saying..

Austin was awesome!! He went above and beyond my expectations. He explained the issues that my sump pump was having and answered all my questions about how it works. He replaced it and raised it up so it would work better. He also sealed my vent on the roof so rainwater wouldn't leak on my furnace. Again, he was fantastic!!

- Keith Koch (pictured with Charlie), Fort Gratiot

Through My Eyes (Continued from Pg. 1)

What drives us to keep buying lottery tickets even though there's practically no chance of winning? In one episode of the TV medical drama "House", a patient was dealing with a diagnosis that had a particularly low chance of survival. They received advice that "*statistics don't matter to the individual.*" And it's true. Whether it's the lottery, a medical issue, being struck by lightning, or any other rare event, what happens to 99 people does not matter if you are the 1 other person.

Some rare events inside of homes that come to mind are sewer backups and flooding. Even though most people will never have to deal with these problems, we see these every month. Even more extraordinary things can happen too. Back in May, while surfing the news I found an article about two natural gas explosions that happened within days of each other in Jackson, Mississippi. Two homes were destroyed, and one person lost their life. This article stood out to me because these unfortunate events could have been avoided. The local gas company had known about the gas leaks but had marked both as not needing immediate action. A quick Google search will reveal that, while few, there are residential gas accidents every year nationwide.

The situations that end in tragedy like those described above are extremely rare, but gas leaks in homes are not. Most of the time, they won't cause a catastrophe. But since the potential exists, a gas leak is still a risk factor worth taking time to carefully consider - especially in an older home. As homes age, the bathrooms and kitchens will be updated, the furnace and roof will be replaced, but the pipes can remain untouched for decades.

Many people assume that pipes will last forever. Actually, the gas, sewer, and water pipes in your home all have a finite number of years before they wear out. Depending on the material, the life expectancy can be anywhere from 50-80 years. But any number of factors such as poor installation, humidity, or even small manufacturing defects can accelerate deterioration in your pipes. If your home is over 30 years old, it would be wise to have the pipes checked periodically for wear and tear.

If you have VHP's Enhanced Service Plan, the good news is that we are already checking most of this for you. One thing that separates us from other companies is that we aim to keep your entire mechanical area safe, not just maintain your furnace and AC.

When a technician from any company checks over your furnace, they have a to-do list. Technicians are so focused on this list it is hard for them to think about anything besides your equipment. That's why we've trained our technicians to go above and beyond. Our techs also check out the area around your furnace or boiler for safety. Our goal is more than just making sure your furnace is in working order. Our goal is to make sure that you and your family are safe for the coming year.

Home catastrophes are like winning the lottery: while the chance of either happening is low someone will inevitably take the prize. The good news is there's a way to make sure you don't win the lottery: don't buy a ticket. Likewise, you can avoid risks in your home's HVAC and plumbing systems by having them inspected to make certain they are operating safely by Vincent's Heating & Plumbing.

- Brendan Squires

Heating & Air Conditioning
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Vincent's Heating & Plumbing is proud to install Amana equipment, made in the USA.

Word Search - Football Season

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Past issues are available in PDF format online in the Van Go Gallery at:

VHPinc.com/gallery

After the July 2023 issue, the PDF format also has the Word Search solution

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The Most Reasons to be Your Best Choice

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Humor Section



*A quarterback named Johnny McGee,
Threw the ball with the strength of a flea.
He aimed for the goal,
But hit a flagpole,
Now he's coaching the chess team for free!*

Now that's good news!

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."

Ephesians 1:3

Did Something Get Flushed Down The Toilet & Cause A Backup?

Sewer Clearing
from **\$99**

Call (810) 442-8025



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The \$99 charge covers 1/2 of labor & sewer machine usage charge to clear a backed up external sewer line. There must be an accessible and serviceable cleanout fitting. Extra charges may apply. Call for details.

SAVE \$50 OFF
A FURNACE TUNE-UP

Plus Get A
FREE GAS LINE
LEAK INSPECTION



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Our technician, Jeyson, is shown using an extremely sensitive electronic leak detector that is able to pinpoint even hard to find leaks. When you have us do a gas line leak inspection, we will check the gas lines to all your appliances and all of your (accessible) joints and fittings. Over time, the pipe sealant used at connections and fittings can dry out and be the source of a leak. It's also especially important to check gas shut-offs which can be prone to leaks. Having your gas lines periodically inspected for leaks is important for the safety of you and your family. To take advantage of this offer **call us at 810-985-7103** and ask for the **TUNE-UP & GAS LINE LEAK INSPECTION PROMOTION**.

Expires November 30. No expiration for clients with our Enhanced Service Plan.

If you have our Enhanced Service Plan, you are already saving more than \$50 on your annual heating visit. Be sure to ask for a Free Gas Line Leak Inspection on your normal annual heating visit. TURN OVER FOR MORE GREAT OPPORTUNITIES...

Is The Air You Breathe In Your Home Making You Sick?

GET A FREE QUOTE To Have Your Air Ducts Cleaned.

Ask about our promotional offers.

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It's amazing the amount of filth that we find in air ducts. Check out our gallery of before and after photos from air ducts that we have cleaned at www.VHPinc.com/DuctCleaning. **WARNING:** the before pictures may be disturbing - especially when you consider that the customers in these homes had been breathing air that had been contaminated as it passed over the filth inside these air ducts - in some cases for years! Breathing dirty air can cause serious health problems for both the short and long-term.

In the photo, our duct cleaning specialist, is about to insert our **Roto-Brush Duct Cleaning** vacuum hose & brush into an air duct register opening. The brush scrubs the inside surface of an air duct as the vacuum immediately sucks it up the dirt and debris. He also uses a video monitor to keep track of the progress and to make certain that he thoroughly cleans the air ducts. We recommend having your air ducts cleaned every 3-5 years. Your air ducts should be checked on your annual furnace maintenance visit.

Upgrade your
HVAC system
with an Amana S-Series
heat pump
and get up to \$4,525
in tax credits & rebates.

Finance it as low as 7.49% APR
(based on your credit score and amount.)



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Upgrading your HVAC System to include an **Amana S-Series heat pump** provides greater comfort and cuts your heating and cooling bill. There are also federal tax credits and DTE & SEMCO energy efficiency rebates available to save even more.

To take advantage of this offer call us at 810-985-7103 and ask for **VHP's AMANA HEAT PUMP PROMOTION**. We'll send a technician who will provide a free evaluation of your current HVAC system. He'll also advise you on how to configure your new HVAC system to maximize the tax credits and rebates available and the package options available for you. And to make a great opportunity even better, affordable low APR financing is available - based upon your credit score. See reverse side...

Word Search Solution October 2024

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