

VINCENT'S NEWS

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Did you know...

... this is the last issue of Vincent's News for 2022.

Enjoy your holidays!

We'll be back again in January.

- Daniel Squires

THROUGH MY EYES

I was attending Port Huron High School during the Oil Embargo of 1973-1974. Per the U.S Office of the Historian:

"During the 1973 Arab-Israeli War, Arab members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) imposed an embargo against the United States in retaliation for the U.S. decision to re-supply the Israeli military and to gain leverage in the post-war peace negotiations."

As a result, the price of a barrel of oil quadrupled and the resulting inflation pushed our economy toward recession. I remember the long lines of cars at gas stations waiting to refuel. Because of our dependence on foreign oil our

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Are You Prepared for a Water Emergency From a Broken Pipe? Part 1

Recently, I was wrapping up for the day and preparing to go home when an urgent call came in from a panicked customer. A pipe had broken in her bathroom and was flooding her home. She lived alone and could someone please come and stop the water?

The main water shut-off was in the crawlspace, and the customer was physically unable to go under her house to shut it off. All our

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



Here is Rickie inspecting a water main shutoff in a tight crawlspace. Do you know where your shutoff is and will it work in an emergency?

techs were either still tied up on jobs or already done for the day and home. An emergency like this - with water pouring into the house - can't wait, so I jumped in my car with a helper that was still around to go help her out and shut off the water.

When we arrived, we found the crawlspace opening in the back of the house. Fortunately, we were able to easily open the access

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Water Emergency - Pt 1... (Continued from Pg.1)

panel. Like most crawlspaces this one was dirt and the water from the leak had already made this one a muddy mess with puddles in some areas. Then there are the obstacles to navigate like the HVAC ductwork and sewer drain lines that if you can't get around, you must crawl over or under. And then there are all the cobwebs and spiders to deal with - and this crawlspace had a lot! (Thank goodness, there weren't bats or snakes!)

We couldn't see the shut-off from the opening, so we split up, with my helper going around the furnace (fortunately up on blocks!) one way while I took the other toward the actual leak. I struck out, but my helper found the shut-off on the opposite side of the house and he was able to shut it off and stop the flood.

Time is of the essence to limit damage from a water line break. The flow rate for a 1/2 inch water line is 14 to 21 gallons per minute depending on the water pressure. A water break doesn't take long to cause serious damage -

especially if it's in a finished area. In a typical year, insurance companies payout \$2.5 billion for water damage and mold claims. Further, 37% of U.S.

homeowners - over one out of three - have suffered losses from water damage.

(<https://www.waterdamagedefense.com/pages/water-damage-by-the-numbers>).

How to Prepare for a Water Emergency

1. Know where your main water shut off is - and that you can easily get to it in an emergency. If it is in a basement, you should have a clear, clutter free path to it. If it is in a crawlspace, make certain you know how to find it - remember every minute counts.

2. Make certain you can shut it off. A surprising number of shut-off valves are inoperable from non-use or corrosion. And even if they are operable, some types of valves can be difficult to shut. This is compounded for people with arthritis or little hand

strength. In this case, replace the valve with ball valve. This is a full-flow valve with a lever handle that only requires a quarter turn to operate.

3. Everyone in the house that is able should practice going to the shut off and physically operating it. This can be invaluable in an emergency.

You need to plan for an emergency. It may be that the above 3 steps are all you need. Alternatively, they may expose that you have a problem that needs to be addressed. In Part 2 - January 2023 - I will explore electronic shut-off solutions: manual, remote control and even water flow sensing units that can detect leaks and automatically shut-off the water (essential for when you are out of the home.)

In the meantime, on any service or maintenance call, ask our tech and he will help you locate and test your main shut-off and give you advice.

- Daniel Squires

What Our Clients Are Saying...

"Another excellent service call that went above and beyond. This is what one should expect, but few businesses provide."

- Dave Fry, China MI

Through My Eyes (Continued from Pg. 1)

national and economic security were put at tremendous risk.

Our NATO allies are currently at risk due to dependence on natural gas supplied by Russia. Russian President Vladimir Putin is using natural gas as a lever to force them to end their support of Ukraine. Currently both pipelines from Russia that supply gas to Europe are shutdown.

Without Russian supplied gas, Germany faces a real crisis this winter of not having enough energy to keep its citizens warm and its factories running. In response to this threat, they are scrambling to return 'moth-balled' coal fired power plants to service and rethinking plans to retire nuclear power plants. It needs more reliable energy to supply its needs than the wind and solar power it has come to rely on can provide.

What About Batteries?

Last month I promised to share why I believe batteries are NOT the solution to the 'intermittency problem' of wind and solar power. The 'all renewable' power future being promised depends mainly on power from wind and solar. I need to be convinced that we can overcome the lack of reliability from a power source that depends on the sun shining and the wind blowing.

In October I recounted the February 2021 winter storm in Houston, when for 5 days there was no sunlight for solar panels to capture and snow-and-ice-covered wind turbines couldn't spin. 10 million Texans lost power for days in that storm resulting in over 246 deaths and over \$195 billion in economic damage. *(Of course, in Michigan we would never have to worry about a similar situation because we NEVER get snowstorms, and it would NEVER get that cold in Michigan...!)*

Batteries might have helped in the Texas

situation – but how about for the 'all-renewable energy' future being pursued? Mark Mills, Senior Fellow at the Manhattan Institute highlighted the problem:

“Consider the world’s biggest battery factory - the one Tesla built in Nevada. It would take 500 years for that factory to make enough batteries to store just one day's worth of America's electricity needs. This helps explain why wind and solar currently still supply less than 3% of the world's energy after 20 years and billions of dollars of subsidies.”

Then there is problem of the raw materials needed for these batteries. China is today the single largest source of most of our critical energy materials and the U.S. is dependent on imports for 100% of 17 critical minerals. Do we want to give China more political and economic leverage?

And this is back to where I began this column: we saw the risk of being energy dependent on OPEC. Our European allies now regret their dependence on Russian natural gas. Are we willing to put ourselves in a situation where we could again be held hostage for our energy needs and threaten our national and economic security?

Much closer to home - I feel more secure heating my house with a reliable energy source. Natural gas may be a fossil fuel, but it's dependable. There is a place for wind and solar – but I believe that is alongside rather than as a replacement for reliable energy sources that work even when the sun doesn't shine, and winds don't blow.

Reliability is important in life, and for my final thought in this column for 2022, I want to assure you that we will be there to help you with all of your heating, cooling, and plumbing needs when you need service!

- Daniel Squires

Year End Holiday Theme

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VHPinc.com/gallery

F	C	O	E	R	N	J	S	F	Q	S	Q	A	S	X	C	Y	F	Z	P	H	S	AuldLangSyne
S	A	S	E	F	F	S	A	O	I	W	R	N	G	O	G	R	Y	V	E	D	R	Caroling
A	M	M	G	R	E	H	M	O	O	G	O	E	T	Z	U	S	T	F	I	G	A	Christmas Decorations
N	R	B	I	I	S	M	T	T	V	I	Z	A	V	I	B	T	X	D	V	Z	E	EggNog
T	Q	E	T	L	H	A	S	B	T	Y	J	N	T	O	X	S	T	G	G	N	Y	Family Football
A	A	R	I	Z	Y	F	I	A	F	K	H	C	N	N	T	S	T	F	Q	P	W	FruitCake
O	A	W	O	N	X	I	R	L	B	H	A	G	N	I	F	F	U	T	S	D	E	Gifts
P	H	R	W	K	D	O	H	L	T	K	Q	S	B	M	D	X	E	W	L	I	N	Leftovers
X	H	E	C	N	C	E	C	G	E	U	N	H	K	F	K	A	E	L	D	I	F	NewYears Parties
Y	I	A	E	E	H	R	E	M	N	O	T	G	G	B	B	B	W	K	U	M	X	PumpkinPie
D	Y	T	D	S	E	T	Y	R	W	I	P	U	M	P	K	I	N	P	I	E	A	Reindeer
N	I	H	Z	Y	P	U	T	E	E	V	L	D	R	U	S	H	M	R	D	T	H	Santa
E	N	Y	S	G	N	A	L	D	L	U	A	O	A	K	R	R	O	I	N	W	V	Snow
Q	E	G	G	N	O	G	A	J	W	S	S	O	R	E	E	Q	I	O	I	O	P	Stuffing
T	H	A	N	K	S	G	I	V	I	N	G	G	L	A	O	Y	G	J	D	Q	A	Thanksgiving
C	A	X	M	U	H	X	X	B	E	A	V	N	N	S	C	J	L	X	J	V	E	Turkey Wreath

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Humor Section



Two young boys are spending the night at their grandparents the week before Christmas.

At bedtime, the boys kneel beside their beds to say their prayers. The youngest one begins and shouts his prayers.

"I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE..." "I PRAY FOR A NEW NINTENDO..." "I PRAY FOR A NEW STEREO..."

The older brother leans over and nudges his brother. He says, "Why are you shouting your prayers? God isn't deaf."

"No, but Grandma is!"

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LASTS AND LASTS AND LASTS.[®]

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YEAR END BONUS INCENTIVE!

Beginning OCTOBER 1 Until NOVEMBER 30, Get a \$200 Bonus Rebate From SEMCO On Top Of the Current Money-Saving Incentives!

SEMCO Energy Gas Company Energy Efficiency Rebates -

Take advantage of these rebates from now until DECEMBER 31:

<u>Gas Furnace</u>	- AFUE efficiency rating of 94% or higher:	\$80 Rebate	\$280
	- AFUE efficiency rating of 96% or higher:	\$400 Rebate *	\$600
	- AFUE efficiency rating of 98% or higher:	\$500 Rebate	\$700
<u>Gas Boiler</u>	- AFUE efficiency rating of 92% or higher:	\$720 Rebate **	\$920
<u>Combi Boiler</u>	- AFUE efficiency rating of 95% or higher:	\$300 Rebate ***	\$500
<u>Thermostat</u>	- Upgrade from Standard to Programmable	\$20 Rebate	
	- Upgrade to a Wi-Fi thermostat	\$100 Rebate	

* Most common

** Boiler Rebate requires boiler reset control

*** Not combinable with Gas Boiler Rebate

VHP Club Members - 'Loyalty Pays' Cashier's Certificates:

How many VHP Club \$40 'Loyalty Pays' Cashier's Certificates have you collected for each year you have been a member? Now might be a good time to cash them in to replace your old furnace or boiler. (If you don't remember where they are or have lost them, don't worry - we'll calculate the number of certificates you have going back up to 10 years from our records @ \$40 for every year.)

Exclusive Vincent's News Bonus Incentive

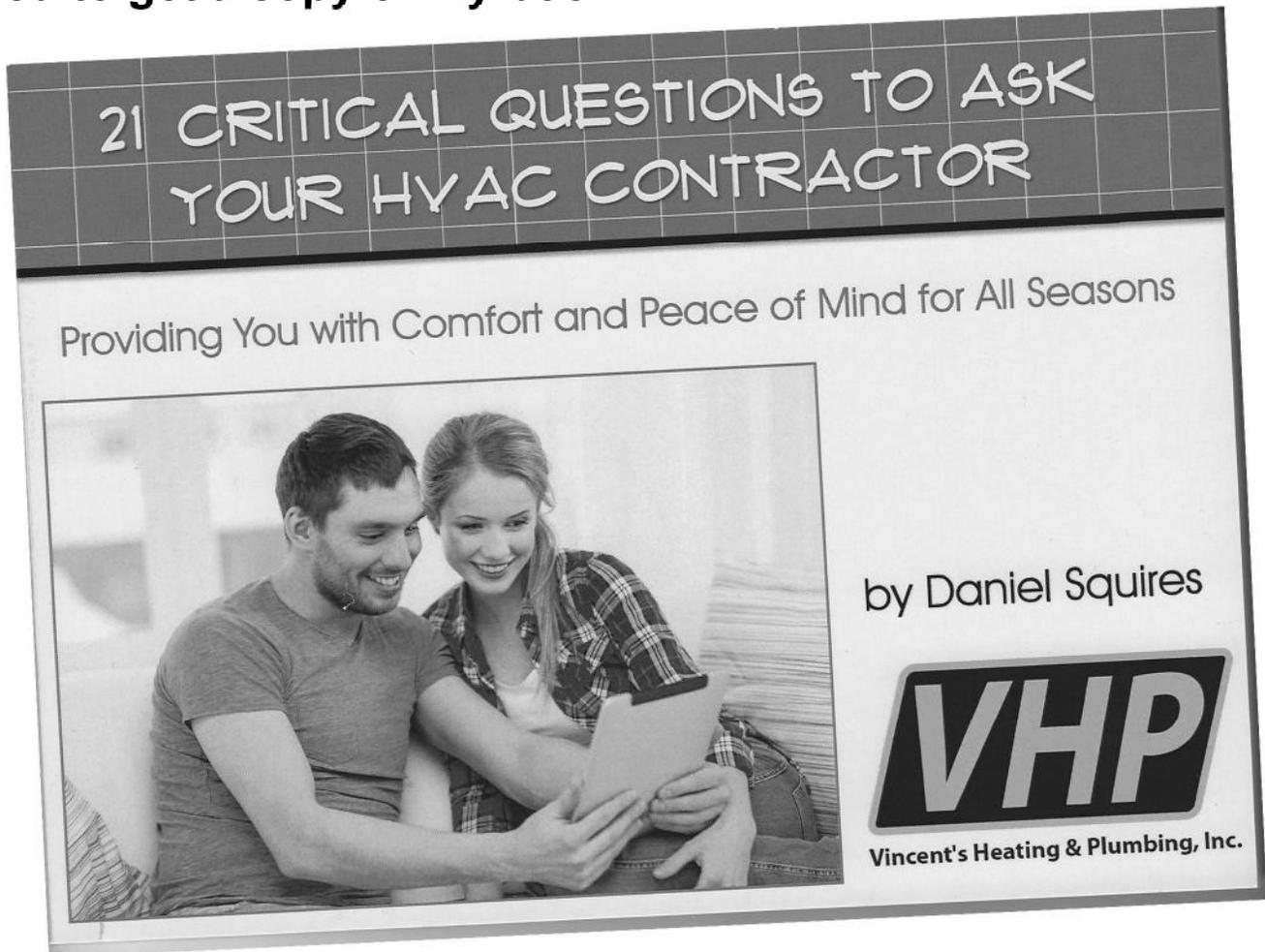
**Upgrade Your Furnace or Boiler With a 90%+ Model
& Get a Free NSI3000 Low Level CO Monitor**

...a \$199 value! Nov./Dec. Promotion - Expires 12/31/2022

\$200 BONUS ONLY UNTIL 11/30/2021

...TURN OVER FOR A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY.....

Before you replace your furnace & A/C or your boiler, you need to get a copy of my book...



This book is jam-packed with tips and explanations that every homeowner should know before investing in a new furnace & air conditioning system or a new boiler. For instance...

- The section on '*Dirty Little Tricks and Secrets*' exposes the shortcuts and 'corner-cutting' that dishonest contractors use that you need to know to avoid being taken advantage of - all things that you don't need to worry about when you choose us!
- We give you a check-list of the things to look for and the important questions you should ask so you get the right system for you.
- It explains how we make exploring a replacement system easy, without any high-pressure sales tactics - when you schedule an appointment, we send a technician who can fairly evaluate your needs - not a professional salesman who needs to make a sale!

You can get a free copy of my book by scheduling an appointment to have a technician give you a free evaluation of your system and go over your replacement options. We'll mail you a packet that includes the book and a personalized copy of the most important guarantee you need - our "One Year No Fine Print - No Hidden Conditions" 100% Satisfaction Guarantee. - Daniel Squires

Call (810) 985-7103 to set up a visit and we'll mail your packet with the book!

THIS IS YOUR "FINAL CALL" FROM VINCENT'S NEWS!

Why Air Conditioner Prices Will Take A Huge Jump In 2023

...in addition to the inflation we are already experiencing!

There are many factors that will contribute to higher AC prices in 2023 - *on top of the inflation that we are already experiencing!* - due to the Dept of Energy's mandate for higher energy efficiency standards. This page highlights some of those factors, starting with the need for manufacturers to use higher cost components - compressors, motors & TXV valves - to achieve better performance.

Higher Cost Performance Components



More Commodities Consumed by Larger Units



One way to achieve higher efficiency is to add more heat transfer surface area. This explains why the inside coils are taller and the outside condensers need to be physically larger. This requires more copper, aluminum, and steel adding to the cost.

Increasing surface area to improve heat transfer means larger AC units. This means more raw materials to add to the cost.

Increased handling, storage & freight costs are also a factor 

TIME IS RUNNING OUT SAVINGS!

Here are additional incentives to help you save money by replacing your air conditioner this year to avoid the higher prices coming in 2023 as a result of the new US Department of Energy efficiency mandate.

Replace Your Air Conditioner OR Upgrade to a new 96% AFUE Gas Furnace

....& We'll Also Install A High Efficiency Air Cleaner FREE

OR

Upgrade Both Your Furnace & Air Conditioner

....& We'll Also Install A High Efficiency Air Cleaner FREE

PLUS Save Up To \$600 Off The Price Of An HVAC Duct Cleaning Package!

To take advantage of this offer call (810) 985-7103 and ask for the Vincent's News Time is Running Out Savings. We'll arrange for a tech to come & evaluate your system and give you replacement options.

Expires Dec 31, 2022

Effect of AC chassis size (footprint) on carry quantity



Larger AC Units as a Result of the 2023 Mandate will Increase Handling, Storage, & Freight Costs

- Today: 70% of AC condensers have a 26" or 29" chassis (footprint) .
- In 2023, 60% will increase to a 35" chassis.
- This will increase the need for warehouse space to store the products and manpower needed to move them.
- As the photo montage above reveals, moving AC units with a 35" chassis will require 3 times as many trips compared to moving 26" units. This also means that labor cost for handling is 3 times higher than that of smaller units.
- Shipping costs will also increase as more trucks (and drivers) will be needed to deliver these larger units because they take up more cargo space - and this at a time of rising fuel prices and a driver shortage.

Freight Impact:

Est. 14% increase in # of truck shipments to deliver same quantities

Comparison between AC condenser chassis sizes in a truck cross section



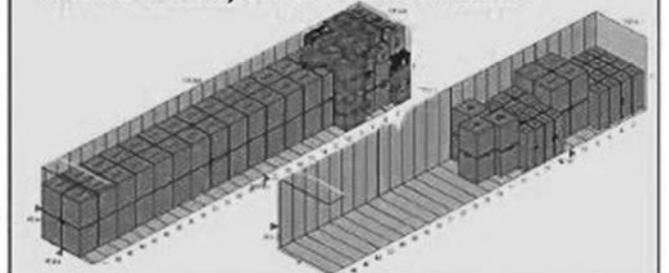
Example of how the new larger AC condensers will impact shipping

Load with Current Models

Fits on a single trailer,
95% FP, 62% LC



Same Load, with 2023 Models



The bottom line: If you have an older air conditioner, seriously consider replacing it now.