

# VINCENT'S NEWS

The 'Van-Go' Gallery



*OWNER'S CORNER*

**61 Years of Excellence!**

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## Did you know...

**...Vincent's Heating & Plumbing has resumed full services per Governor Whitmer's May 1 Executive Order? We have resumed VHP Club visits – thank you for your patience!**

## THROUGH MY EYES

I typically put Vincent's News together in the middle of the month. This provides two weeks for printing, inserting, and mailing so that it arrives close to the first of the month. For most issues this two-week delay is no problem. However, these days with the rapid pace of change having to do with the Coronavirus and the 'stay at home' order, two-week-old news can

be obsolete. That happened with the May issue. I had included information about what services we could not offer. Fortunately, much of that information became obsolete on May 1 when Governor Whitmer issued Executive Order 2020-70 that allowed us to resume full services on May 7 subject to enhanced 'social distancing'. Since we

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



If you are wondering, Michael is behind the mask in our recent billboards. We're still ready to serve you in this Coronavirus situation.

had already voluntarily implemented more safety protocols than this new

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## A Guide to Effective Air Filtration Solutions to Keep You and Your HVAC Equipment Safe

One of the IAQ (indoor air quality) topics we explored last month was the importance of good filtration in your HVAC system.

The biggest mistake that people make is going to one of the big box stores and buying a replacement for their 1" wide filter with one that has a high MERV rating and promises to capture viruses and germs. The reason this is a mistake is because your furnace is

not made to handle the reduced air flow that these filters cause. Restricting air flow will damage your furnace – leading to more repairs and shortened equipment life - and diminish heating and cooling performance - leading to higher gas and electric bills and areas of discomfort in your home. It's important to realize that the intended purpose of a furnace filter is to protect the HVAC equipment from dust and

debris. That filters can help clean the air in our homes is a nice side-benefit. But the last thing that we want to do is damage our HVAC equipment by getting this backwards and putting the 'cart before the horse' in how we choose a filter. As I shared last month, the secret to getting good air flow with a high MERV rated filter is having enough surface

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## Air Filtration Solutions (Continued from Pg.1)

area to offset the added restriction. For example, an Aprilaire media filter has over 28 square feet of surface area versus roughly 4 square feet for a pleated 1" filter. Greater surface area relieves congestion for the air to get through it.

Another solution is a polarized media filter, like the PureAirX (PureAirX.com). This relies on a different strategy to boost filter performance while not restricting equipment air flow. Instead of relying on finer material to filter out particles, polarized media uses an electric charge to magnetically attract and capture particles. Using this technology, a polarized media filter can capture 97% of all particles down to 0.3 microns in size allowing it to achieve performance equivalent to a MERV 16 filter with very little air flow restriction!

Do not confuse a polarized media filter with an electrostatic filter. Electrostatic filters try to accomplish the same purpose using static electricity. However, the way it creates the static charge is by restricting air flow to

create friction – similar to how the friction of rubbing a balloon on a sweater creates a static charge that causes it to stick to the sweater. Instead, a polarized media filter uses low voltage from the furnace – about the amount of energy for a 40-watt light bulb - to create the magnetic attraction to attract the particles.

A big advantage of a PureAirX polarized media filter is that it can fit in a standard 1" furnace filter slot. Plus, its activated-carbon center screen is effective in removing cigarette smoke, pollen, dust, odors, and other contaminants.

So which filtration system is better – the Aprilaire media filter using its greater surface area to trap the particle or the PureAirX system that uses electricity to polarize and magnetically attract the particles? It depends. They both have their strengths. Sometimes it comes down to the amount of space available and then the advantage goes to a polarized media filter.

Steve Moon, an HVAC contractor friend in Maryland (MoonAirInc.com), is a die-hard fan of the PureAirX polarized media filter and the germicidal UV air purifier they make. He told me that he had suffered through 28 surgeries in 22 years for sinus related problems and infections and has had zero problems since he put their products in his home.

Whichever filtration system you choose, realize that it is an important investment into your health – and possibly your safety. Not all products are made equal and just because you can find something 'cheap' on the web or at a 'big box' store does not mean it will give you – and your HVAC equipment - the protection that is needed. For more information on the PureAirX products visit [PureAirX.com](http://PureAirX.com) or call us.

- Daniel Squires

### What Our Clients Are Saying...

"Carol and Nancy are real, down to earth people who have made my day on more than one occasion. The techs are terrific. I have been with Vincent's for 8 or 9 years and think everyone is great. "

*Peter B.— Saint Clair*

## Through My Eyes (Continued from Pg.1)

order required back in March for our 'essential' and 'urgent' services, the new guidelines only served to validate what we were already doing.

Something else happened early in May that caught my attention. On May 6, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo had a press conference in which he announced findings from a study that he found "shocking". In trying to find out how the COVID-19 infections continued to occur even under a state 'lockdown', he commissioned a study of 1,000 COVID-19 patients from 100 New York hospitals to determine how they became infected. The statistic that shocked him was that 66% of the new admissions were from people who had largely been sheltering at home. Cuomo said state health officials had thought a high percentage of people who were hospitalized would be essential employees, like health care workers or city staff, who are still going to work. Instead, nearly 84% of the hospitalized cases were people who were not commuting to work through car services, personal cars, public transit, or walking. Further, a majority of those people were either retired or unemployed. Overall, some 73% of the admissions were people over age 51.

Said Cuomo, "This is a surprise: overwhelmingly, the people were at home. We thought maybe they were taking public transportation, and we've taken special precautions on public transportation, but actually no, because these people were literally at home."

So how do people who are doing what they have been asked to do – stay home – get infected? Cuomo's revelation prompted a morning television news anchor to quip, "Are our homes petri dishes?" What do you think? I believe that when we get in our homes, we assume we are safe and let our guard down. But can we assume we are safe when it comes to the air we breathe in our homes?

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the answer is 'no', as it advises that indoor air is two to ten times more polluted than outdoor air. Indoor air pollution consists of particulate matter (dust and dirt), volatile organic compounds ('VOC's' - like gases and chemicals), and biologicals (like germs and viruses). Somehow, the overwhelming majority of people infected by the COVID-19 virus in this New York study were infected in their homes.

(Another study puts the 'infected in their home' number closer to 80%: Google "Indoor

transmission of SARS-CoV-2" and read the article from MedRxiv.org)

One thing that I suspect will come out of the pandemic is a new awareness of the importance of making the air in our homes safe – especially if the virus does not go away as most expect.

Since the 1970's our national focus has been on making our homes more energy efficient – to the point where we have made our homes so tight that they can't 'breathe' and instead trap and, in some cases, create indoor air pollution that can make us sick. I believe the pandemic will force us to reevaluate our priorities and focus on making certain that we are safe in our homes.

According to Governor Cuomo: "Much of this comes down to what you do to protect yourself. Everything is closed down, government has done everything it could, society has done everything it could. Now it's up to you."

Fortunately, unlike a vaccine for COVID-19, we do not have to wait because the means to make the air in our homes safer already exist. For more information refer to the April and May issues of Vincent's News and the nearby article. *Daniel Squires*

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# Word Search: Getting Ready for Summer

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## Humor Section



*The Most Reasons to be Your Best Choice*

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A young executive was leaving the office late one evening when he found the CEO standing in front of a shredder with a piece of paper in his hand. "Listen," said the CEO, "this is a very sensitive and important document, and my secretary has gone home for the night. Can you make this thing work for me?"

"Certainly," the young executive replied. He turned on the machine, inserted the paper, and pressed the start button.

"Excellent!" said the CEO as his paper disappeared inside the machine. "I just need one copy."