

# VINCENT'S NEWS

## The 'Van-Go' Gallery



*OWNER'S CORNER*

**61 Years of Excellence!**

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## Did you know...

...that excessive dust can be an indicator of a dangerous condition in your home?

Particle pollution can cause serious health problems. You can learn more about this in my free Special Report - "Protecting Yourself from Airborne Risks in Your Home".

For a free copy visit [VHPinc.com](http://VHPinc.com) or give us a call.

## THROUGH MY EYES

2020 will rank with all the unforgettable moments in our shared history: the assassination of JFK (if you are old enough), the Challenger shuttle disaster, the fall of the Berlin Wall, 9/11, and now the Pandemic of 2020. I remember hearing that the generation that lived

through the Great Depression of the 1930's was profoundly changed by that event. I better understand that now, because I believe that we all have COVID scars on our psyche that will remain with us.

Looking back, living through 2020 was hard with all the uncertainty.

*Continued Page 3*

*"Wherever you see a 'Vincent's Van Go' you know the*



The 2020 Youth For Christ 'Ray Squires Award' for a business was presented by Jana Simpson to Daniel Squires in a socially-distant, outdoor ceremony. Looking on are David Squires and some of our clerical staff.

## Five Things You Need to Consider Before Putting Anti-Freeze in Your Hot Water Heating System

Having your hot water heating system freeze while you are away from home is a nightmare. The resulting damage to both the boiler and the distribution system - including the radiators or baseboard - can be expensive to repair. Adding anti-freeze to the system can protect it from freeze damage, but there are important things to consider:

### Reduced Heating Capacity & Efficiency:

Adding propylene glycol to a boiler system will decrease heating capacity and efficiency. A 20% mixture will

reduce the heating capacity to 97%. At a 50% concentration, capacity drops to 90%, and your 80% efficient boiler just dropped to a little over 70% efficiency. Your gas bill will be higher, and your system won't perform as well.

### Expansion Tank & Circulator Pump:

Adding anti-freeze may require upgrading your expansion tank to a larger one. Also, due to reduced heating capacity, a 50% mixture will require 110% of normal pumping capacity, which may require a larger pump.

### Maintenance:

Antifreeze will eventually breakdown and may cause damage to your system. The pH needs to be checked yearly, as does the strength of the antifreeze to make certain it is still protecting your system. This is another reason to have annual maintenance on your heating system.

### Type of Antifreeze:

Only use non-toxic antifreeze specifically made for boilers - typically inhibited propylene glycol. Do

*Continued Page 2*

## Antifreeze in a Boiler (Continued from Pg.1)

not use automotive glycol – ‘ethylene glycol’ – which is toxic to humans and animals.

### Protecting Your Water System:

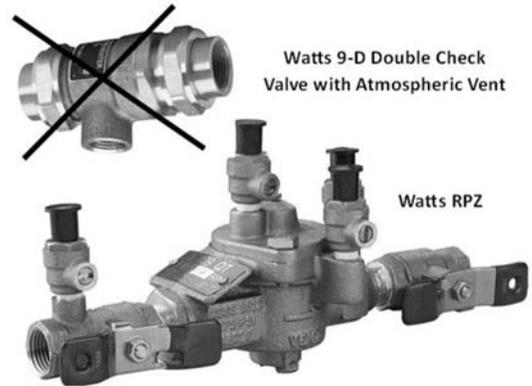
Boilers are attached to your water system, and so special measures must be taken when adding antifreeze - even if it is considered ‘non-toxic’. Under the Michigan Plumbing Code (Section 608.16.4.1), when you add anti-freeze or chemicals to a boiler “the potable water supply shall be protected against backflow by a reduced pressure principle backflow prevention assembly” (RPZ). The purpose of this rule is to protect the drinking water in your house AND the neighborhood water system that your house connects to. The RPZ stops water contaminated with antifreeze from being pulled into your water supply by being siphoned or being pushed into it by backpressure.

All boilers have a type of backflow preventer on the water feed line to the boiler, such as the Watts 9-D pictured nearby. However, this is not an RPZ – it is a Dual Check-Valve with a vent, and it is not adequate protection to prevent your water system from becoming contaminated when antifreeze is added. When adding antifreeze

to the boiler you have two options: install a reduced pressure principle backflow device as described in the code section listed above or leave the boiler disconnected from the water system. One of these must be done to avoid the risk of contaminating the water supply.

Of these choices, permanently disconnecting the boiler from the water system has the least upfront expense. However, the boiler cannot automatically refill should a leak develop in the boiler system. Eventually, the boiler will shut off from lack of water due to the low-water cutoff. This is a safety device to prevent the boiler from being damaged by trying to heat with no water in it.

Leaving the boiler connected to the water system avoids this situation, however, you have the expense of installing the RPZ backflow. Further, if you have an irrigation system, you know that you are required to have periodic backflow device inspections. The same is true with an RPZ. Therefore, you



Boilers with antifreeze must protect the water supply with an RPZ Backflow Preventer. A Double Check Valve - common on boilers - is not allowable by law.

have to budget having this done every 3 years as required by Michigan law by a certified backflow tester.

Another way to protect your boiler and your home from freezing while you are away is to get a system that notifies you when the temperature falls below a certain level. This lets you get help before the system freezes. There are many options from a simple system that will make a call using a landline, to ones that are Wi-Fi based. In this latter category are Wi-Fi thermostats that allow you to remotely check the temperature and change the temp settings. These are all things that we can help you with.

- Daniel Squires

## What Our Clients Are Saying...

“Excellence in Customer Service! I have been using Vincent's Heating & Plumbing for all of my heating and plumbing needs for years, and without reservation I can say that they set the standard by which all others should be measured. Vincent's technicians are clean, courteous and respectful of both your home and your time. Explanations are clear, billing is transparent, and work is guaranteed.”

- Dan Damman, St Clair

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

This was caused initially by the lack of information about COVID, followed by misinformation and then contradictory information. At least now we have a little experiential knowledge of what we are dealing with – even though our knowledge base of COVID is still developing.

For me personally – and for my family - I choose to err on the side of caution. We decided to have a Christmas bonfire that we limited to the few people of our immediate family (which is still to happen as I write this). After we decided this, I discovered that Christmas bonfires are a tradition in some places. Who knew? Our reason was so we could all be together as a family while substantially reducing the risk of spreading infection by being outside.

To me, this decision was not a matter of whether I have the right to do something in my own home or not. One of my favorite movie quotes is from Jurassic Park, where Dr. Ian Malcom – played by Jeff Goldblum – says, "Your scientists were so preoccupied with whether or not they could that they didn't stop to think if they should." Regarding our Christmas get together, we focused on the 'should'.

I recently read an article that reinforced our decision.

According to New York state contact tracing data, restaurants and bars account for less than 2% of the virus spread in the state while household gatherings make up nearly 74%. Our numbers in Michigan may vary, but this is consistent with information from studies that I have been following throughout the pandemic.

I notice these kind of statistics, because of the business I am in. I am always looking out for reports regarding health issues concerning our homes - and especially regarding air. For over 30 years I have been aware of the damage to our health that indoor air pollution causes. EPA sounded the alarm about this in 1988, but with few exceptions, the problems have gotten worse. COVID has just added an extra, very dangerous layer to be concerned with.

Obviously, when someone is infected in their home, the virus must have been introduced somehow. But what if there are other factors in the home that compound the risk and make a person more likely to become infected - like the indoor air pollution EPA has been warning us about for years? What if our body's natural defenses are already spread thin fighting off the unhealthy 'stuff' that we breathe everyday in our homes? And to this add COVID?

As an HVAC professional, part of my mission is to make certain that the air you breathe is not endangering you. Since our job deals with the air in your home, we are in the perfect position to help you with these air-related issues and are trained to do so.

I have put together a special report **PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM AIRBORNE RISKS IN YOUR HOME** that is available free for people who are interested in their health and personal safety.

The natural tendency is to think of our home as a sanctuary where we can be safe. But is it? I want you to have the facts so you can know whether there is anything in your home to be concerned about. And if there is, then to know how to solve it to reduce and even eliminate these risks to your health and safety.

In the first part of my special report, I outline the big picture of the airborne risks in our homes and why you should be concerned. In the second part I drill down into the actual problem areas and how to solve them. And throughout the report I share tips and a lot of '*inside baseball*' about the things you need to know to stay safe from the airborne risks in your home. **To obtain a free copy, visit us online at [VHPinc.com](http://VHPinc.com) and follow the prompts or call and request a copy.** – Daniel Squires

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# College Bowl Game Bonanza

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**ATTENTION VHP CLUB MEMBERS:**

If your annual Club visit schedule has been affected by COVID I want to thank you for your patience and understanding!

- Daniel Squires

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## Humor Section



A guy goes ice fishing for the very first time.

All of a sudden, he hears a voice. "There are no fish under the ice!"

He ignores it and moves to another area, cuts a hole, and tosses his line in.

Again, he hears the booming voice: "There are no fish under the ice!"

He nervously looks up and asks, "Lord? Is that you?"

"No, this is the rink manager!"