

# 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."*

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**OWNER'S CORNER**

### THROUGH MY EYES

Many thanks to all the participants in this year's Winter Drawing. The winners (pictured nearby) were: 1st place: Sandra Miller of Fort Gratiot, 2nd place: Nancy Streeter-Grant of Port Huron, and 3rd place: Margaret Gardner of Kimball.



**Sandra Miller—First Place Winner of this year's Drawing with her new NSI 3000 Low Level CO Monitor**

This month, this column is going to be "Through YOUR Eyes" as I share some of the enthusiastic and kind comments that were included with the Drawing Entry forms: *See Page 3*

### Did You Know...

**...That you still have until the end of May to take advantage of our annual Plumbing and Home Safety Inspection? Take advantage of savings to have your plumbing and home safety related tasks taken care of by a professional. Call for details.**

### Consumer Beware: Some Popular Energy Saving Advice Can Backfire and End Up Costing You More - Part 1

A classic theme of science fiction stories is one in which a scientific advancement goes wrong and becomes a disaster - like in the Jurassic Park movie series. The new technology is overcome by unintended consequences that create greater problems than those that are solved.

I think the same thing about new drugs when I see a television ad

promoting them. First you hear about all the wonderful benefits of the new medicine and then you have 45 seconds of warnings about all the dire side effects. "The good news is your condition may be relieved; the bad news is you may grow a third eye where your nose used to be!"

There are similar unintended consequences that occur

in homes due to energy saving measures. In some instances well intentioned efforts achieve the opposite result and more energy is used after the measure than before. For example...

#### **The Unintended Consequence of Air Duct Sealing**

Air Duct Sealing is a popular energy saving

*Continued Page 2*

## Energy Savings (Continued from Page 1)

“...Air duct sealing fixes the leaks, which should lower the amount of energy needed - and it can - except if the ductwork is inadequate or poorly designed. This, unfortunately, is typical in the U.S...”

measure today. It is promoted by the U.S. government on such websites as [EnergyStar.gov](http://EnergyStar.gov). In fact sometimes there are utility rebates and tax credits to seal air ducts. The reason for air duct sealing is that if your house is typical about 20% to 30% of the air being circulated by your furnace through your homes ductwork is lost due to leaks, holes and poorly connected ducts. This can result in higher utility bills and lost comfort. Air duct sealing fixes the leaks, which should lower the amount of energy needed - and it can - except if the ductwork is inadequate or poorly designed. This, unfortunately, is typical in the U.S.

Here is the problem: if the ductwork is undersized on the return side - there is not enough ductwork for the air returning to the furnace to be heated or cooled - just sealing the leaks and holes in the ductwork without fixing the ductwork design flaws will make a bad situation

worse. The same thing is true for inadequate supply ductwork for heated or cooled air being delivered to your registers. In either scenario the intended airflow is decreased.

Here is why: in this situation on the return side the holes and leaks actually help provide air the furnace or air conditioning needs to function. Sealing these leaks will 'starve' your system for air and thereby reduce performance and make the system run longer and in turn use more energy. On the supply side sealing inadequate ductwork acts as a bottleneck and has the same result. In both cases it also makes your system work harder and puts more wear and tear on your equipment.

This is not to say that sealing your air ducts does not provide benefits. Leaky return ducts in crawl spaces and other unclean and unconditioned areas can

suck in contaminants such as mold or insulation - causing dust and poor indoor air quality. Leaky supply ducts waste the heated or cooled air intended for elsewhere. Fixing these problems are good - but it may not have the intended energy savings if the only issue that is addressed is duct sealing without considering other important factors.

So is air duct sealing a good idea? Absolutely - but you need to have your ductwork checked first to make sure it is adequate and correct it if it isn't. Then have your air ducts sealed. In fact, duct corrections with sealing will make your home more comfortable and can use up to 40% less energy to heat or cool your house. Next month I will begin to address how you can reclaim some of this lost energy the right way. -

*Daniel Squires*

### Read What Our Clients Are Saying...

*Many, many thanks for the great quality workmanship of all the techs I've had these years.*

*Mary—Port Huron*

## Contest Winners



**Nancy Streeter-Grant— Second Place Winner of this year's Drawing with her new Bio-Clean.**



**Margaret Gardner—Third Place Winner of this year's Drawing with her new RootX**

## Through Your Eyes

"We have been VP club members since 2003. Thanks for the great service over the years. The news keeps us informed of current events. May we enjoy many more years of the same."

"Technicians are very courteous & I would recommend to anyone."

"Any news helpful to home owners on keeping the heart of the home beating in the right rhythm is a Good thing."

"I enjoy reading all the informative articles & the humor. I also enjoy reading other customers responses and their kind remarks about your employees. I enjoy your professional expertise."

"I have been with Vincent's for quite a number of years. I have been on your service plan as well. I enjoy the Vincent News very much. & learned many things. I also enjoy the humor & word search. Thank you."

"Very informative on all the offers & services you provide in which my wife and I are very grateful to be part of. Keep up the great work. Your staff is awesome!"

"Technicians are very courteous & I would recommend to anyone."

"I always look forward to reading the next issue of Vincent's News. It's always informative and professionally done with personalization & a bit of humor."

"I really enjoy reading the information provided. Also, I like the word finds."

"We enjoy reading the newsletters. They are very full of good information of what's going on and things we need to look for with our appliances."

"I like your newsletter. It is very informative as well as fun."

"Always interesting - the personal and technical items"

"...Technicians are very courteous & I would recommend to anyone."

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## Word Search: Sci-Fi

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

Spaceship  
UFO  
Light Speed  
Robot  
Planet of the Apes  
Star Trek  
Godzilla  
Mad Scientist  
The Matrix  
Cyborg

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Best Choice*

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## Alien Humor



*What do you get when you cross a weeping willow and an UFO?*

*A crying saucer.*

*What did the alien say to the garden?*

*Take me to your weeder!*

*What is an aliens favorite key on a computer?*

*The space bar.*

source: <http://www.jokes4us.com/peoplejokes/alienjokes.html>