



Volume 1, Issue 2
June 23, 2008

Upcoming Events

June 26 — 27:

Safety Workshop

Register, more info:

http://www.iamu.org/calendar/view_event.asp?CalendarID=243

July 30:

**Gas Steel Pipe Distribution
Maintenance Workshop**

Sept. 16 — 19:

Underground Elec. Workshop

Sept. 30 — Oct. 2:

**IAMU Fall Conference
Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny and
IAMU Training & Office Complex**

Nov. 18 — 20:

**Water/Wastewater Operators'
Training Workshop**

"We bring investment money and political capital to the table. We're part of the solution to needed infrastructure in the Midwest."

— Anne Kimber, IAMU



The IAMU *Informer* is a new and improved source for timely news and information affecting IAMU and its members, distributed electronically each week. Questions? Comments? Contact John Burnett, *Informer* editor: jburnett@iamu.org.

IAMU Fall Conference September 30 — October 2

◆ IAMU members are invited to be part of a unique IAMU event coming this fall – the 2008 IAMU Fall Conference, September 30 – October 2.

This conference – the format of which will be a first in the history of IAMU – will combine the educational and informational benefits of an annual conference with fun and entertainment in the form of special activities at IAMU's Training & Office Complex. Time will be split between the all-new Courtyard by Marriott Hotel in Ankeny (set to open in July 2008) and IAMU's facilities nearby.

A golf tournament to benefit IAMU's MuniPAC program will kick off the conference September 30. For those not wishing to golf, educational sessions covering the topics of open meetings/open records, adapting to change and energy efficiency will be held at IAMU. These will be of special interest to city clerks and individuals in related positions.

An Oktoberfest at IAMU's Training & Office Complex will be held in the late afternoon and early evening of September 30, including a lineperson's rodeo, Safe City ribbon cutting, demonstrations and displays, contests, food and drink and live music provided by an authentic German band.

Wednesday, October 1 and the morning of October 2 will see general and concurrent sessions covering a wide range of topics, held at the host hotel. The conference will wrap up with sessions and demonstrations at IAMU.

A detailed conference agenda and registration materials will be available soon. Check the IAMU *Informer* and the IAMU website, www.iamu.org, for more information.



IAMU included in APPA transmission story

◆ An article in the June edition of the American Public Power Association's *Public Power* magazine asks the question "Whose Grid is it Anyway?" The article discusses the value of municipal investment in transmission infrastructure. Efforts of Missouri River Energy Services and IAMU/MMTG to gain ownership rights are featured in the article.



IAMU's Anne Kimber noted the association's concern with future transmission costs. "We knew rates would increase, and we wanted to find hedges for those costs," said Kimber. Owning as much transmission as we used was the only way we saw to head off those costs." Kimber described the struggle that began in 1992 to win investment rights and the agreement reached with MidAmerican Energy in 2005: "The agreement was a huge breakthrough for us," said Kimber. Relations tended to be adversarial at the beginning she admits. But gradually, each party earned the other's respect. "We bring investment money and political capital to the table. We're part of the solution to needed infrastructure in the Midwest." Follow this link to the IAMU website front page to view full article (look under "Hot News"): <http://www.iamu.org/>



Siding is now being added to IAMU's Safe City structures, as work will continue through the summer.



IAMU also thanks Jeff Schultz, Gas Superintendent of Osage Municipal Utilities, who has recently spent time assisting with Safe City construction.

DOT Flood photos

The Iowa Department of Transportation has posted a large gallery of Iowa flooding and flood damage to roads, railroads and more on the agency's website. View it by following this link:

<http://iowadot.gov/> (go to "Flood Safety" from the pull-down menu)



Starting new energy efficiency programs? See what resources and strategies

ENERGY STAR and the American Public Power Association have available during an APPA webinar on July 8, starting at 1 p.m. Central Time.

Contact JP Blackford of APPA at jblackford@appanet.org or 202-467-2956 for more information.

Manilla Municipal Utilities gives support to Safe City

◆ Manilla Municipal Utilities has donated a total of \$500 to IAMU's Safe City facility. The Manilla Municipal Gas Department and the Manilla Municipal Service Department (electric and water), each contributed \$250. Bryan Gerritson, General Manager of Manilla Municipal Utilities, spearheaded the effort. IAMU extends its thanks to Manilla Municipal Utilities for helping to support World Class Training at IAMU.

Utility EE filing requirement and the July 1 deadline

◆ Electric and gas utilities, note: Senate File 2386, passed during the 2008 session of the Iowa Legislature, requires that municipal electric and gas utilities begin their energy efficiency assessments of potential by July 1, 2008.



Your utility does not need to send verification that you have begun this assessment to the Iowa Utilities Board. IAMU will notify the IUB of its own and any other energy efficiency assessment efforts which have commenced prior to July 1. This notification and IAMU's assessment satisfies the July 1, 2008 starting requirement for all member gas and electric utilities.

Cedar Falls, Vinton among utilities in flood recovery

◆ Two of IAMU's members hardest hit in the recent flooding were the Vinton Municipal Electric Utility and Cedar Falls Utilities.



As recovery efforts for both utilities continue, Vinton residents are still receiving their electricity via portable diesel generation, as of this writing – however, General Manager Rick Ohrt said officials were hopeful they can reconnect to the power grid the weekend of June 21-22. Most of the city's electric generation equipment is a total loss, but all electric customers who were able to receive electricity have been connected, with only about 100 homes unable to receive electricity due to the flooding. Residents have been asked to conserve electricity use, however, in an attempt to hold down the costs of operating portable diesel-fueled generators. Utility switchgear is being replaced, in anticipation of being able to reconnect with the more economical power from the grid.

At Cedar Falls Utilities (CFU), contrary to early reports, the city's electric generation plant did go down as a result of flooding – however, as CFU brings in a good deal of its electricity from sources outside the city, no widespread power outages occurred. A good number of homes did lose electricity due to flooding entering the homes. About 150 city blocks in Cedar Falls received serious flooding. Betty Zeman of CFU said, "The expectation is it will be three to six months before we can run the plant," and added that last year the plant contributed about 23% of generation needs to Cedar Falls, and also provides generation which is at times sold to the wholesale market. The plant is operated as an intermediate unit when other generation sources are not available, which is economical for residents. Zeman said it is estimated a total of \$3 — \$4 million in economic benefit per year is contributed by the plant, and having to operate without it will be a major economic disadvantage. The city's gas and water service was not interrupted, and the broadband service had only one interruption, lasting about five hours.

CFU's offices also sustained serious flood damage, and operations continue to be carried out in temporary quarters. Ironically, CFU recently installed flood control systems, with assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Unfortunately, the record flood waters that struck CFU were higher than the level of the flood wall. "Everything worked like it was supposed to – but the water was just too high. Nothing came through the wall, but it just went right over the top," Zeman said.

The IAMU *Informer* is an electronic publication of the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities.

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