



**Upcoming Events**

May 13, 2010  
Health Care Reform Webinar.  
[Register Here](#)

May 18 – 21, 2010  
Overhead Electric Workshop.  
[Register/more information: Here](#)

May 26 – 27, 2010  
Water Distribution/Leak Detection Workshops. [Register/more information: Here](#)



**Gas Plastic Pipe Joining & Operator Qualification Workshop, May 5 & 6**



**BALON.**

Thanks to Bob Lemorie and Christine Volk of IAMU associate member Balon Corp. for supplying a ribeye steak dinner at the workshop.



Fusion qualification, leak detection with IAMU's Safety & Training Field and Safe City facility, classroom activity and more were part of the May 5 & 6 workshop.

**Insurance reform webinar: Important info May 13**



Susie Pinckney of Benefit Resources of Iowa conducts the webinars.

◆ IAMU hosted the first of two free webinars on the topic of health care insurance reform May 6. The second will be held May 13 from 10 – 11:30 a.m. Susie Pinckney of IAMU associate member Benefit Resources of Iowa is the presenter. Plan now to share in this essential information.

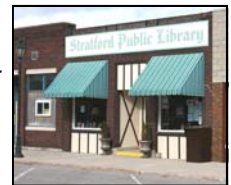


New rules for the "high risk pool" of workers (which will result in insuring more individuals) are scheduled to be enacted by June 23 of this year, with other changes for individuals to begin in 2014 – including the government mandate that all U.S. citizens have health care coverage. Employer health plan changes begin this year and continue through the coming years. The insurance exchange program, Medicaid expansion/CHIP, grandfathering of plans, small employer tax credits, rating guidelines, employer mandates and more are covered. To register, contact Sandy Longfellow, [slongfellow@iamu.org](mailto:slongfellow@iamu.org).

**IAMU Whole Town Energy Audit rolls into Stratford**



IAMU has begun a series of Whole Town Audits in selected member cities, made possible by an American Public Power Association Demonstration of Energy-Efficient Developments (DEED) grant. The IAMU Informer will profile communities involved, and will discuss energy efficiency events planned for the communities in connection with the audit program.



◆ This week's Whole Town Audit "Town of the Week" is Stratford (population 746), founded in 1880 and located in Hamilton and Webster Counties. Stratford is known for the annual Blue Grass Festival (July 9 – 11), frequent barbecues, "Shakespeare On The Loose," and a variety of other events.



Another special event will salute the Whole Town Energy Audit. It will be hosted by the Stratford Promotions Committee and will be held May 22 from 2 – 5 p.m. in the city park, featuring a carnival atmosphere and rides. City Clerk Rachel Cahill commented, "The City Council is really excited about the Energy Efficiency grant received by the City of Stratford. Because of this grant, the City is able to provide free Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs to Stratford citizens who have the coupon from the City of Stratford newsletter. The Stratford Carnival will also have a hands-on working electrical energy display provided by IAMU." The local Boy Scout Troop will also help.



The Public Library and business district in Stratford, an IAMU Whole Town Energy Audit member.

**Survey: Utilities must educate about remote control**



◆ A survey about consumer attitudes toward remote control of appliances by utilities shows power providers have much work to do in gaining consumer confidence and understanding. Results of the survey, performed by Accenture, revealed a large number of consumers are unwilling to allow utilities to remotely control home appliances as part of energy management plans unless there is a financial incentive for them in return.

"Understanding Consumer Preferences in Energy Efficiency," a global survey of 9,000 consumers in 17 countries, found that only 16% of the consumers asked said they would allow remote utility access to their appliances without an option to reverse the utility's actions and without any price discounts. However, 24% said they would give utilities that ability with a 10% discount in rates; and 35% said they would when offered a 20% discount. Additionally, although the survey results showed that 75% of consumers said they understood the actions they needed to take to optimize electricity consumption, only 28% said they were aware of and understood programs offered by utilities. A detailed summary of the survey can be found [here](#).