Amana Society Bulletin

Vol. XCIV | Amana, Iowa, Thursday, September 18, 2025 | No. 29

AMANA CHURCH SOCIETY NEWS

The Early Service will be in the Middle Church Sunday, September 21, 2025 starting 8:30 A.M. with Sw. Kristie Yoder presiding.

Opening Hymn: "Wer is wohl wie Du?" No. 1075 vs 1-4 Seite 1051

Testimony: Metz, Amana May 12, 1846

Scripture: Hebrews 4:12-16

Psalm 139:1-18

Closing Hymn: "Christe, mein Leben, mein Hoffman" No. 106 Seite 99

The Late Service will start at 10:00 A.M. with the following hymns:

Opening Hymn: "If Jesus Walks with You," No. 63

Closing Hymn: "Christ, Thou my Life and Hope" No. 20

The Wednesday Evening Prayer Service (Nachtgebet) begins at 7:00 P.M. in Middle.

Visitors are welcome to join us in worship at all Amana Church Services. Childcare is available during Sunday's 10:00 A.M. Service.

The live link for the 10:00 A.M. service is --- https://www.facebook.com/theamanachurch

Links to services posted online may be found at: *https://amanachurch.com/category/podcast/*

OKTOBERFEST

Join us at the 60th celebration of Amana Colonies Oktoberfest on October 2nd through 5th! The theme for this year's parade on Saturday, October 4th at 10am is "Diamond Prost: Cheers to 60 years!" Leading the parade as Grand Marshal is Bill Leichsenring of Ox Yoke Inn who has contributed a lifetime of work to our community and is an outstanding member of it. To sign up for the parade, stop into the Visitors Center or email amanaparades@gmail.com. To sign up to be a volunteer at Oktoberfest, please email events@amanacolonies.com. We can't wait to see you there!

AMANA PACK 223 POPCORN SALES

It is that time of year again! The Amana Cub Scouts are selling popcorn around the colonies. Proceeds from popcorn sales ensure we can provide adequate equipment, programming and recognition for the members of our Pack. Scouts will be coming around selling door to door in the next several weeks. If you know a scout, please reach out to their families to learn how to order. Finally, feel free to email hacpack223@gmail.com, or call Aaron Schaefe (Pack Popcorn Kernel) at 319-310-7394 and he can help with your order as well.

Thank you for your support!

Pack 223 Scouts, Leaders and Parents

Lakeview Village

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- Wellness checks – Medication management
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Seasonal Associates needed!

Do you want to work in a friendly & fast paced environment with fun coworkers, while making extra money for the holidays? If so, the Amana Meat Shop is the place for you!

Customer Service Associates assist customers with their phone orders and perform data entry work. Basic computer knowledge is required & good typing, spelling and grammar skills are essential.

Flexible hours are available for both positions and snacks & meals are provided! Contact Laura Sue at 319-622-3953 or lswoods@amanas.net for more information.

AMANA NEWS AND NOTES

Upper South Amana Fire

Thursday, Sept, 11 at about 6 p.m., fire erupted in the garage beside the Kellenberger family home on 220th Trail, upper South Amana.

The Amana Fire Department responded to the call, as did the Iowa County Sheriffs Department and the Williamsburg Fire Department. The cause of the blaze is unknown. No injuries were reported.

The garage, belonging to Greg and Tammy Kellenberger, was significantly damaged. Thankfully, their home was not.

September 13, the Kellenbergers posted this on Facebook, "My family and I want to send a huge thank you to: Amana Fire Department, Iowa County Sheriff, Iowa County EMT, Williamsburg Fire Department and our amazing neighbors who reported the fire. Due to their quick thinking and actions, the fire was contained to our garage. Our family and home are intact. Thank you to all of our family and friends who have volunteered with the next painful steps to come. We are extremely grateful to have you all in our lives!"

Amana Colony Folk Singers and Dancers to Perform at APAC 60th Anniversary Festival

For their final full, dress rehearsal the Amana Colony Folk Singers and the Schuhplattler dancers will perform at the Amana Performing Arts Center at 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 21.

The performance will last about 1 hour and 30 minutes. There is no admission fee.

As the theatre is handicapped accessible, the AC Folk Singers thought this would be a nice opportunity for their grandparents or community members with physical restrictions to see the group perform, said member Heidi Sandersfeld.

This also will be the final year for veteran Oktoberfest performer Terry Baugh. Baugh, who was one of the original members of the Oktoberfest stage show team, loves music and especially German folks songs. He was instrumental in creating a folk singing troupe in the 1980s and 1990s with Sharon Grimm, Ivan Reihmann, Wendy Ziegler and Carol Zuber, that performed at festivals and events in the area after the large stage show stopped. He and his daughters, Heidi and Gretchen Sandersfeld, sparked the 20215 "flash mob" dance. Then with he and his daughters worked with Tricia Ward, Carol and Harry Zuber to create of the new Amana Colony Folk Singers and this group has been a delightful addition to Oktoberfest for over a decade.

At this year's performance marking 60 years of Amana Oktoberfest, expect your favorite festival tunes, plus a surprise or two that will make this show memorable, "We hope you'll come celebrate with us," said Sandersfeld.

The group will perform twice at the Festhalle during Oktoberfest: Thursday Oct. 2 at 6:30 p.m. and Friday, Oct. 3 at 8 p.m.

A Few Oktoberfest Highlights

Go the Amana Colonies website or the Amana Colonies Visitor Center for a brochure but here are a few things to note as you invite friends to join you for this year's Oktoberfest.

We've got some new bands coming including Polka Police and the Happy Players along with our old favorites, Die Alte Kameraden. Of course Die Tiefen Keller Kinder are set to play Friday, 5:30 p.m. in the Festhalle. Because this year the event starts on Thursday, the Friday night schedule is different than previous year's. On Friday the Festhalle shows starts at 11:30 a.m. with Barefoot Becky. Music continues all Friday afternoon with DTKK performing at 5:30, the Amana Colony Folk Singers at at 8 p.m. and Polka Police close the night from 10 p.m. on.

Thursday the fun begins at 4p.m. with Alpine Thunder followed by the Colony Folk Singers at 6:30 p.m. in the Festhalle.

The annual Keg Tapping ceremony and party will be at the Amana Heritage Museum courtyard, on Friday, Oct. 3 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Guests enjoy free admission to the museum all day. The first 250 brats at the museum are served free. Beer is available for purchase. Festhalle tickets go on sale at the museum 10:30 a.m. they include admission. The single day admission is $15. Two-day Festhalle is $30. Proceeds of sales made at the museum benefit the Heritage Society.

At 1:45 the Burgermeister and his entourage will mount the float and they will march to the festival grounds to "officially" tap the ceremonial festival beer keg. The beef flows free till the keg is dry.

Amana's First Oktoberfest

But for a random Saturday drive, the recovery of a missing cigar box and the 1945 War Brides Act, Amana's Oktoberfest now celebrating 60 years, would not have happened.

Here now is the story. One autumn Saturday in 1962 Hank Bendorf and his wife, Amber, and Amber's brother and his wife, took a Saturday drive up the Mississippi. About lunchtime they pulled into LaCrosse. "There was a huge parade . . It happened to be their Oktoberfest. That's a big deal there and it was very festive, so we stayed. . ."

Bendorf, who was a member of the newly formed Amana chapter of the US Junior Chamber, known as the Jaycees, wondered if they couldn't put on a festival like that in Amana.

***News & Notes** continues on page 2*

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ACLUD TEMPORARY SIGNAGE PERMITS

Temporary signage permits for Oktoberfest are due by September 23rd. Please mail, email or drop the application off at the ACLUD office. All information regarding this Ordinance (Section 31.37.100) can be found on aclud.org or contact Kayleigh with any questions at 319-622-3840 or by email aclud@southslope.net. Any signage without a permit during Oktoberfest will be pulled and stored in the ACLUD office for pickup on Tuesday 10/7 from 9-11am.

SERVICES

Fall garden plowing, leaf collection, lawn aeration, and stump grinding. Call Rob Jeck at 319-622-3308

HELP WANTED

Ronneburg Restaurant seeks full or part time line cook. Stop in at 4408 220th Trail, Amana for an application or give us a call 319-622-3641.

Millstream Brau Haus, Help Wanted: **Bartender,** full or part time and Part Time **Host**. Stop by and pick up an application.

AMANA COMMUNITY LIBRARY HOURS

Monday 9am-3pm
Tuesday 9am-6pm
Wednesday 9am-Noon
Thursday 9am-6pm
Friday 9am-6pm
Saturday 9am-Noon

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News & Notes *from page 1*

Bendorf said, "'Hey, we ought to do our own Oktoberfest' I guess I mentioned it so I was named chair." Bendorf was 26 years old.

Bendorf was a little worried that the "older folks" wouldn't go for the idea. "Amana was, is really, a pretty traditional place. We'd had community 4th of July picnics, but this was going to be something a little different, with the publicity, the German theme and the beer," He explained.

What's more the seven villages had a total population of about 1,600 people and had never before hosted a major festival of any kind. But by 1965 Amana was becoming
a tourist destination, the community had just been named a National Historic Landmark by the Department of the Interior, while business owners Carl Oehl, William Leichsenring and others had just that year formed the Amana Travel Council. What's more the Amana Refrigeration had a national marketing campaign and Amana refrigerators and freezers were becoming a household brand, all of that fueling tourism.

It seemed as if Amana might be ready to host a festival. Even so Bendorf and his 38 fellow Jaycees had their work cut out for them.

The first festival was announced in the Amana Society Bulletin with the proceeds to benefit a summer recreation program for kids at the Amana Schools. The festival was held old Amana Welfare Club, (now Smokehouse Square Antiques) equipped with a big dance floor and a tiny stage. It was then the site of just about every Amana wedding reception.

Entertainment chair Wayne Witte hired the Bob Preston Band to perform (in black bermuda shorts because they didn't own Lederhosen) and the Sokol Dancers, a Czech group out of Cedar Rapids.

Hank's sister in law, the musical Emmaline Bendorf gathered a group of good, local singers and the good looking, little blonde Hahn boys to be in a "stage show." They sang German folk songs.

Jaycee Ron Thalacker urged that they serve grilled bratwurst and sauerkraut. Thalacker, an engineer at Amana Refrigeration, was a native of Sheboygan, Wisconsin, where bratwurst making is an art form. Now in those days neither the Amana Meat Shop nor the Homestead Meat Shop were making a sandwich-sized pork sausage, instead, they were still making a 14-inch long bratwurst "ring" that had been Amana's Saturday night staple (boiled and sliced) all during its communal era. The local butchers were a little worried about making a "short wurst," but Henry Seifert of Homestead was ready
o give it a whirl if Ron and the Jaycees would help him make the sausage. They did and the resulting photos were immediately used for pre-festival PR.

Worried they would run out, Thalacker bought several cases of bratwurst from Sheboygan for that first Oktoberfest.

The first Oktobertfest attracted several hundred people and plenty of locals. It was fun and everyone called it a big success. But it all could have been a big disaster as the clean-up crew who were enjoying one one last beer while sitting on tables on the front lawn of the clubhouse, forgot to pick up the cigar box which contained cash sales from the event. The next morning when Hank, realized the mistake, he rushed back to the clubhouse and found the box still on the picnic table.

The next year more volunteers got involved in the event specifically a colony of Echt Deutsch in the midst of the Amana Colonies. During World War II several Amana soldiers had met and married overseas bringing their German war brides home to Amana as allowed by the 1945 federal "War Brides Act" which made it relatively easy to do so. By 1965 there were over 30 people who had been born and raised in Germany living in the Amanas. And by 1965 the moment had arrived to reforge the connection - John F. Kennedy had been to Germany, West Germany was a member of the United Nations, its economy was rebounding and the spring 1965 mega-hit The Sound of Music had made alpine hats and dirndls a part of US pop culture. What's more Amana residents were traveling to Germany.

In 1966 Amana's Oktoberfest tripled in size adding Friday evening and all-day Sunday to their schedule. The stage show became a big, big deal - an elaborate 2 hour festival favorite with a cast of over 50 people, a live band and lots of enthusiasm. Both meat shops turned out bratwurst by the boxful and a Saturday morning parade through Middle Amana was added. Attendence soared.

Next week – more about the first years.

Emilie Hoppe

CLOVER RIDGE FALL DINNER

Clover Ridge United Methodist Church in Walford is serving a fall dinner this Sat., Sept 20th, from 5 P.M. - 7 P.M.

On the menu is: turkey & Amana ham, cheesy potatoes, corn rolls and homemade salads and deserts. Admission is a free will nation.

Please come for some good food and fellowship!

The 2 Old Hens are conducting 2 sales this weekend in Amana.

Friday, September 19 from 10 to 5
Saturday, September 20 from 10 to 5
Sunday, September 21 from 12 to 3

The first sale is located at 708 87th Ave. The sale will have farm and barn finds.

Hand tools, old Amish wagon, old China, hutches round up table, church pew, 2 stack bookcase, display case, Vintage toys, holiday and home decor and lots of collectibles.

The 2nd sale is located at the Amana train station. There is a wide variety of vintage finds.

Vintage Christmas and Halloween decor, cookie jars, yard decor, old paper items, comics, home decor, Just a little bit of everything.

Come explore the newly revamped train station. I look forward to seeing you.

AMANA COLONIES LAND USE DISTRICT (ACLUD)
Tentative Agenda of the Meeting Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) Monday, September 22,2025 6:30 p.m. at ACLUD office 4304 220th Trail AmanaAnd via Zoom

I. Call HPC Meeting to Order
II. Set Agenda
III. Review/Approve the August 18th regular meeting minutes:
IV. Welcome visitors and allow citizens to speak on items not on the agenda:
V. Discussion/Action on permit applications in a Historic Preservation Zoning District:
a. 2025-058 Amana Millwright LLC /800 48th Ave./ HP-C/ Remove existing 4" 1/2-round gutters & 3" downspouts. Replace with 6" 1/2-round seamless gutters and 4" downspouts.
b. 2025-060 Amana Society Inc. /920 48th Ave (Amana Builders Building)/HP-I/ Replace front garage door with new white garage door with 2 windows. Replace the sliding back door with an overhead garage door, no windows.
c. 2025-048 Amana Society Inc. /824 48th Ave. (Furniture shop)/ HP-C/ Remove non historic chimney on West side to complete new rubber roofing.
d. 2025-061 Scott Geiger /711 47th Ave./ HP-C/ New Build of garage and woodshed.
VI. Other Business
a. Discuss new HPC members
VII. Administrator's Report (if applicable)
VIII. Adjourn

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