Amana Society Bulletin

Vol. XCIV | Amana, Iowa, Thursday, January 08, 2026 | No. 45

AMANA CHURCH SOCIETY NEWS

The Early Service will be in the Middle Church Sunday, January 11, 2026 starting 8:30 A.M. with Sw. Emilie Hoppe presiding.

Opening Hymn: "Gott des Himmels und der Erden" No. 332 vs 1-6, Seite 328

Testimony: Christian Metz, Feb. 10, 1838

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11 & 13: 8-13
Jude 1: 17-21

Closing Hymn: "Ist Gott für ich, so trete" No. 585 vs 1, 2, 14, 15, Seite 580

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

Opening Hymn: "God who Madest Earth and Heaven" No. 32

Closing Hymn: "O Lord I Sing with Lips and Heart" No. 40 1-6, 17-18

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/*

JOIN US AT A RETIREMENT CELEBRATION FOR GREG LUERKENS

Community members, shareholders and friends are invited to a retirement celebration for Amana Society CEO Greg Luerkens on Tuesday, January 20th from 3:00 to 6:00 PM at the Carding Studio at Hotel Millwright. Light appetizers and beverages will be served. Join us in celebrating Greg's contributions to Amana Society, and wish him well in his future adventures!

Community Hymn Sing
Sunday, January 11, 2:00-3:30pm
Price Creek Event Center
4709 220th Trl, Amana IA 52203
At the upper level left ramp
entry as you face the building.
• All ages and non-percussion instruments are welcome
• Please spread the news to all you can
• Food available to purchase & eat inside lower main entrance before &/or after the hymn sing, from 11:00am to 5:00pm.
Join Us in Song & Praise

AMANA CENTERARION

Henrietta (Moershel) Hale
December 31,1925

Henrietta Moershel Hale celebrated her 100th birthday in Nevada, Iowa on New Years Eve. Henerietta is the daughter of Dr. Henry G and Henrietta Moershel. Niece, Connie (Zuber) Baugh and Nephew Dennis Zuber attended the celebration.

Cards may be sent to Henrietta Hale, 710 South 19th St. #321, Nevada, IA 50201

AMANA NEWS AND NOTES

Festival Dates 2026

The 2026 Amana Colony Festivals are on the books so here is a list for your 2026 calendar.

- Amana Colony Winter is Saturday, January 24.
- Amana Colonies Take a Bite, April 17-19
- Maifest, May 2 – 3
- Amana Colonies Wurst Festivals, June 19-20
- Oktoberfest, Oct. 1 – 4
- Tannenbaum Forest, Nov. 287 – Dec. 20.

Trumpeter Comeback A Thing of Beauty

Iowa's trumpeter swan population has rebounded with gusto since the Iowa Department of Natural Resources initiated a restoration program in 1993.

This week the Iowa DNR released data about the trumpeter swan. According to the Iowa DNR, 158 active trumpeter nests have been spotted in the state - that's a 17 percent increase since 2022. The active nest count is from the most recent statewide data collection period April through December, 2025.

The DNR has recorded more than 4,700 swans in the state of Iowa.

As Amana Colony residents can attest there have been between 150 and 300 trumpeter swans moving through or in residence here these past three years. That's huge since at one point in the 1930s there were fewer than 69 trumpeter swans in the entire continental United States. All of those swans were located in the Red Rocks National Wildlife Refuge in southwest Montana and there were no trumpeter swans in Iowa, though at one time they were native to Iowa.

Amana residents may recall 1993 – 1997 when the swam enclosure was built east of High Amana and amated pair of swans was brought to the enclosure to be fed and monitored by local volunteers working with Amana Society Forester Larry Gnewikow, the Amana Farms and the local DNR agents. The initial goal was to establish 15 nesting pairs in the state by 2003. Hatched cygnets from the nesting pairs in several enclosures around the state – including ours – were raised and then released.

At its height there were 50 enclosures located in the state where trumpeter swans were pair bonded and raising young. The program was paid for by Iowa's Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund, managed by the Iowa DNR.

Between 1995 and 2022 the Iowa DNR released over 1,218 swans in over 80 locations in the state. What's been remarkable is the number of swans who were born here in the Colonies, imprinted here, and made this area their home, returning season after season or staying here permanently. Swans do migrate but it appears that some stay here year-round while others return seasonally.

Taylor Ballard, wildlife research technician at the Iowa DNR's Clear Lake office, reported on the Iowa DNR website that the DNR asks its staff to observe and record any trumpeter nests they see. Active nests, he said, average about 4 cygnets swans each nesting season. Of the 158 known nests, 98 successfully raised cygnets to adulthood.

More than 70 percent of the cygnets that reach their first adult autumn will survive until March, Ballard noted.

Trumpeter swans are North America's largest heaviest native bird weighing between 15 and 30 pounds; and its largest species of waterfowl with a wingspan of six feet to ten feet 2 inches.

Beat the Brrrr Winterfest is Saturday Jan. 24

Winter comes alive Saturday, January 24, 2026, as the community hosts the 22nd Annual Amana Colonies Winterfest.

The day begins Saturday with the Amana Freezer 5K Run/Walk, starting gun at 10 a.m. on 48th Ave.in front of Hotel Millwright's Carding Studio. Race-day sign-ups and packet (t-shirt) pick up take place from 8:30–9:30 a.m. Please go to the Amana Winterfest website to sign up. This event is hosted as a fund raiser for the ongoing maintenance of the Amana Kolonieweg bike trail.

From 10 a.m.–4 p.m., visitors can enjoy free admission to the Amana Heritage Museum. Attend a special author talk and Q&A beginning at 1 p.m., featuring local authors R.C. Eichacker, author of Marriage by Committee: Marriage Customs of Early Amana and Melinda Wichman, author of How to Live with a Ghost. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

Also beginning at 10 a.m., adults 21+ can participate in the popular Amana Colonies Winterfest Wine & Beer Walk from 10 a.m.–4 p.m., sampling beverages at Ackerman Winery, Fireside in the Village, Millstream Brewing Co., Village Winery, and White Cross Cellars. Participants can pick up their $5 Wine & Beer Walk Passport at any participating business, collect stamps at each stop, and return completed passports to the Amana Visitors Center by 5 p.m. to receive a commemorative Winterfest wine glass (limited to the first 275 participants) and be entered to win one of five $25 gift certificates.

Market Barn becomes the heart of Winterfest activity with the chili feed and activities beginning at 11 a.m. The Amana Fire Department will serve open-fire chili, hot chocolate, and cider while supplies last, with proceeds benefiting the department. From 11 a.m.–2 p.m., guests can take part in classic Winterfest favorites, including the Great Amana Ham-Put, sponsored by the Amana Meat Shop, and the Wreath Toss, with winners announced following the Beard Contest. From 12–2 p.m., teams of two can compete—or participate for fun—in the Log Sawing Competition hosted by Amana Forestry, using an old-fashioned cross-cut saw. First-place plaques will be awarded in the Co-ed, Women, and Men categories. Throughout the afternoon, visitors can also watch chainsaw artist Bob Ward in action during the Colony Carvers demonstration and take home a one-of-a-kind carved piece.

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

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AMANA AREA FELLOWSHIP
Church Services
SUNDAYS 9:00 AM All Are Welcome
Amana Performing Arts Center
www.amanaareafellowship.org

The ***Amana Society Bulletin*** is published by the Amana Print Shop for the **Amana Society Inc.** and distributed free as a public service to the Amana Community.
On-line at: ***amanacoloniestoday.com***

News & Notes *from page 1*

The Beard Contest, concludes the Market Barn festivities at 2 p.m., with competitors vying for prizes in categories including Fullest Beard, Most Unique Beard, and Best Overall Beard. Sign-ups take place prior to the contest at the Market Barn.

Throughout the day, families can enjoy hands-on activities across the villages beginning at 10 a.m., including a Paper Snowflake Craft Station at the Amana Furniture Shop and a Snowflake Scavenger Hunt and movie day at Ackerman Winery. Kid-focused activities at the Ox Yoke Inn begin at 11 a.m. and include Decorate a Yokey Bear Cookie, a Children's Coloring Contest, and Kinder Gift Bags with children's menu purchases.

Millstream Brewing Co. will host Amana Colonies Winterfest activities throughout the day and into the evening with live music in the evening by Joel Berger, whose classic acoustic sound and soulful vocals will fill the taproom.

Live music also continues at the Ox Yoke Inn Bierstube Cellar Bar from 5–8 p.m. with the Jeff Weimer and David Arnold Duo.

All weekend long, visitors can enjoy Winterfest promotions across Amana, including cocktails and cocoa at Fireside Winery, a gift raffle at Four Winds Farm Apothecary, and warm beverages and a winter sale at Yana's Ladies Boutique. On Saturday, visitors can also warm up while shopping and exploring additional promotions, including hot cider and local beard care samples at Warped & Woven Mill Mercantile, winter drink and snack specials at Ackerman Winery, and a coffee special at the Ox Yoke Inn.

Amana Colonies Winterfest 2026 is made possible with the support of community sponsors including Compass Memorial Healthcare, Bankhaus, Hills Bank, and Vetter's Culligan Water.

Activities take place throughout the Amana Colonies, inviting visitors to explore local businesses, enjoy seasonal flavors, and celebrate winter in a historic setting.

Full event details are available in the Amana Colonies Winterfest Brochure, available online at amanacolonies.com and in print at the Amana Visitors Center and participating businesses.

FOOD DRIVE COLLECTION AT COLONIAL MANOR

Colonial Manor Nursing Home is collecting Non perishable food donated to those who are in need this holiday season. We will be collecting throughout January at our facility. Questions/concerns? Contact Joey. at 319-622-3131.

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AMANA COLONIES LAND USE DISTRICT(ACLUD)
Notice of Board of Trustees Meeting and Tentative Agenda January 12, 2026- 7 p.m. ACLUD office 4304 220th Trail Amana And via ZOOM link

I. Call Meeting to Order
II. Set Agenda
III. Review/Approve December 8, 2025 Regular meeting minutes.
IV. Welcome visitors and allow citizens to speak on items that are not on the agenda
V. Discussion/Action on the following permit applications in a Historic Preservation Zoning District:
a. 2025-082 Kully Kinzenbaw /1401 G St. High Amana/ HP-R/ Replace rotten wooden front door and frame with new steel exterior door.
b. 2025-083 Brent & Katie Kimmich /2608 220th Trl. Middle Amana/ HP-R/ Replace 39 windows with replacement white vinyl windows. Remove covering on historic porch door and cover non-historic porch door with cedar siding. Replace gutters and downspouts with 1/2 round aluminum. Remove plaster off foundation and complete jointing/tuckpointing repairs with Amana mortar mix. Replace roof with Malarkey antique brown shingles.
c. 2025-046 Jeff & Suzanne Conquest /621 46th Ave/ HP-C/ GRANT APPLICATION: Install new 3 board fence along 220th trail & 46th Ave. THIS IS FOR HP GRANT CHECK APPROVAL.
d. 2026STR-001 Holly Hastings /4403 220th Trail/ HP-C/ Short term rental renewal.
e. 2026-003 Kevin Ahrens /2870 F St./ R-1/ Add addition onto backside of current garage/shop.
VI. Other Business.
a. Discussion: Bill & Rona Wyant property survey request
b. Discussion/Action: Guidelines for Cedar siding
c. Discussion/Action: Scheduled ordinance review
d. Discussion/Action: Review and vote on lighting ordinance regarding business hours
e. Discussion/Action: Review updated design guideline document
f. Discussion/Action: Paul Bruhn update
VII. Review/Approve January Disbursements Report.
VIII. Review/Approve the January Treasurer's Report.
IX. President's Report (if applicable).
X. Administrator's Report.
XI. Adjourn.

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AUTHOR VISIT, BOOK TALK & SIGNING
MELINDA WICHMANN
Tuesday, Jan. 13 · 6:00 p.m.

Please join the Amana Community Library, 3023 220th Trail, Middle Amana, for a special evening with Homestead author Melinda Wichmann. Melinda will talk about her experience writing and publishing her first novel, How to Live with a Ghost, a mystery/romance that follows a restoration-minded home buyer who moves into a historic landmark—only to discover it already has a permanent resident.

Wichmann spent a 35-year career in journalism as a reporter with The Pioneer-Republican, The Star-Press Union and The Hometown Current.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase during the event, and attendees are welcome to bring previously purchased copies for signing. Cash, check, or PayPal are accepted.

How to Live with a Ghost is published by Pearl City Press and is also available on Amazon.

In case of inclement weather, the event will be rescheduled to Thursday, January 15. Please watch for updates on the Amana Community Library Facebook page. We hope to see you there!

Dear Families and Friends,

The Amana Elementary School is excited to inform you that we are participating in an incredible program that allows us to earn FREE classroom equipment and supplies!

Here's how you can Help!

Shop at Big G Food Store in Marengo from now - March 31, 2026

Save your receipts (the date must be on the receipt to be valid) and send them to school with your child

Your receipts will earn us points for free classroom equipment, donated by the store!

Please submit your receipts to our school by April 4, 2026. Receipts can also be dropped off at the Amana Community Library.

Thank You! Amana Elementary School

For Rent; The Homestead Welfare Club 4215 V St Homestead offers an exceptional 1100 square foot setting in our historic 1860 home for family reunions, social gatherings, or business meetings. It includes a mini kitchen, tables and chairs for 80+ persons plus a ½ acre private, beautifully shaded back yard perfect for outdoor activities. It includes picnic tables and small shelter. The cost is $75 per day. An additional 500 square foot full-service kitchen is available for an additional $25.
Call 319-622-3620 for details & scheduling

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Amana Community Library

Stuff the Stocking Fundraiser

The Amana Community Library is proud to offer our patrons a wide range of services — from quality reading materials and computer access to educational programs and community events. Your generous donations help us maintain and grow these services.

This year, we hope to expand our programs, events, and summer reading opportunities. Your support makes a real difference! With your donations, we're able to maintain our services and expand programs that benefit the entire community.

Thank you For Your Continued Support of the Amana Community Library!

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

Contact Information: *Rhonda Hegewald – Library Director*
amanalibrary@ccaschools.org
319-622-3192
website:
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Please fill out the bottom portion of this form and use the enclosed envelope to return your donation.

Happy Holidays!

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Please make checks payable to: Amana Community Library and return in the enclosed envelope.
Our Address: Amana Community Library, 3023 220th Trail, Amana, IA 52203