Amana Society Bulletin

Vol. XCIV | Amana, Iowa, Thursday, March 12, 2026 | No. 02

AMANA CHURCH SOCIETY NEWS

The Early Service will be in the Middle Church Sunday, March 15, 2026 starting 8:30 A.M. with Sw. Kristie Yoder presiding.

Opening Hymn: "Herr, ich habe misgehandelt" No. 385 vs 1-4 Seite 382

Testimony: JF Rock, Jena, August 2, 1732 (excerpts)

Scripture: Philippians 1: 3-11, 27-30

Closing Hymn: "Sieh, Hier bin ich" No. 922 Seite

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

Opening Hymn: "Lord we confess our numerous faults" No. 232

Closing Hymn: "Today, thy mercy calls us" No. 175

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/*

AMANA COLONIES LAND USE DISTRICT

Due to the ASI stockholder meeting and holiday, May meeting dates have changed:

- BOT: May 4 at 7:00 PM
- HPC: May 18 at 6:30 PM

Applications and Agenda items must be submitted to the ACLUD Administrator at least one week prior to the meeting. Questions, please contact Kayleigh at aclud@southslope.net.

PROPERTY TAXES DUE

A reminder, Property Taxes were due March 1st, and must be mailed to the Iowa County Treasurer 901 Court Ave Marengo or presented in person at the Treasurer's office in that building. This does not apply to those with a mortgage having an escrow account.

THIS IS MY STORY: GENEALOGY WEEK
Amana Heritage Society

Join us in the Amana Heritage Museum Auditorium for the final talk and discussion about heritage in the Amana Colonies on March 13th from 9am to 11am. This event is FREE and open to the public.

3/13 Fri. 9 am Videos by AHS Staff and 10 am Roundtable discussion-Homestead

Questions? Call 319.622.3567 or send us an email at amanaheritage@southslope.net.

THANK YOU

The Amana Community Library would like to thank Iowa Young Birders for the amazing birding backpack—complete with two pairs of binoculars, a digiscoping adapter, a Sibley Birds East field guide, and educational pamphlets to help folks get started birdwatching and to support birding in our community!

We also extend our sincere thanks to Iowa County Pheasants Forever for their generous financial support in covering the cost of these materials.

The backpack will be available to check out from the library and will be a wonderful resource for patrons to use while exploring the birds at Amana Lily Lake and along the nature trails in the Amana Colonies. Your support helps connect our community with nature in meaningful ways!

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*** **and the Middle Amana Facebook page**

AMANA FIRE DISTRICT MEETING NOTICE

The monthly public meeting of the Amana Fire District will be held Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 7:00 pm in the Middle Amana fire station.

AMANA NEWS AND NOTES

Amana Colonies Festivals Seeking Volunteers to Help and Vendors/ Entertainers to Entertain

Do you want to help create our Amana Colony festivals? Do you have ideas that you think would make our festivals better and do you want to help make them happen? Please, consider becoming a festival committee member.

Chelsea Blake, Amana Colonies Festivals director, has been spreading the word that yes, volunteer committee members are needed; entertainers and vendors are needed for 2026 festivals in the Colonies. You can email her for more information and to fill out a "Committee Interest," "Vendor Interest" and/ or "Entertainer Interest Form."

Email Blake at events@amanacolonies.com

Committee members need to: attend planning meetings leading up to the event; collaborate with others to create the events, share ideas for improving, assist with planning and event details; volunteer during the event/ and or help recruit volunteers.

Hey, do you want create your own pop-up food or retail store at one or Amana festivals? Do you know of someone who might want to set up a food, coffee, merchandise, art, craft, type popup? There is a vendor fee for all those who sell products or foods at Amana Colony Festivals Vendor fees are based upon the size of the event. For example the vendor fee for Maifest and Wurstfest is $150 while the vendor fee for the Bike Ride of Iowa Couty is $50.

Do you or a friend play in a band or have an act that you think would entertain festival guests? Keep in mind this could be as an in-costume character performer (think Santa or our first ever Maifest Blossom Princess) or as a folk art demonstration performer (weaver, blacksmith, etc.) face painter, kid's magician, photo booth operator, musicians, bands, dance troupes, interactive entertainers or various types or lighting, sound or other technical operator/ set up help.

Again, send Chelsea Blake an email and ask for an interest form which spells out what's needed to participate. It takes a village to create a festival.

Easter Morning Breakfast and Program

Welcome Easter, April 5, with a special service and breakfast at the Amana Church in Amana. Breakfast will be 8:30 a.m. with the Easter Sunday service to follow at 10 a.m. Special hymns of praise will be offered by the Amana Church choir. Everyone is welcome.

Holy week evening prayers services will be Monday – Friday, March 30 – April 3 at 7 p.m. at the Middle Amana Church in Middle. Everyone is welcome.

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

IOWA 1855 AMANA FURNITURE & CLOCK SHOP

The Amana Furniture Shop is seeking a Full-Time Woodworking Production Associate!

This individual will support the creation of handcrafted, American-made furniture by assisting skilled craftspeople in day-to-day production tasks. This role is ideal for individuals with basic woodworking knowledge who are eager to learn traditional techniques and best practices for working in a shop.

For more information call 319-622-3953, email lswoods@amanas.net, or look for our ad on ***Indeed***.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING -- PROPOSED BUDGET
Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027
District Name: MIDDLE SANITARY SEWER

The Board of Trustees of the above-named District will conduct a public hearing on the proposed fiscal year
Meeting Date: 3/24/2026 Meeting Time: 06:00 PM Meeting Location:Sanitary District Office (directly east of Whirlpool main entrance)
At the public hearing, any resident or taxpayer may present their objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget.This notice represents a summary of the supporting detail of receipts and expenditures on file with the Clerk
Contact Name: Tony Berger Contact Telephone Number: (319) 361-8459

FUND	FYE 6-30-2025 Actual Expenditures	FYE 6-30-2026 Re-estimated Expenditures	FYE 6-30-2027 Proposed Expenditures	Estimated Ending Fund Balance June 30, 2027	Estimated July 1, 2026 Beg. Balance and All Other Receipts	Estimated Amount To Be Raised By Taxation
1. General	15,841	7,444	13,020	68,712	74,537	7,195
2. Debt Service	0	0	0	0	0	0
3. TOTAL	15,841	7,444	13,020	68,712	74,537	7,195

Proposed taxation rate per $1,000 valuation: $ 0.22000

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News & Notes *from page 1*

Birds of a Feather

Whether it was due to low water in traditional central flyway lakes and ponds, a change in our climate or a simple change of avian seasonal routine, this past week saw a huge influx of snow geese, Canada geese, trumpeter swans and other waterfowl on the Lily Lake.

The numbers, and we are guessing, ranged hourly from 300 to 3,000 birds. Guessing how many birds were on the lake became something of a game as folks gathered to watch the birds. As photos were posted on Facebook some of the birdwatchers were coming to the Lily Lake from as far away as Dubuque and Bellevue Iowa (one couple I spoke too who came to view the birds and then had lunch in Amana.)

There are more than 60 species of waterfowl in North American and it felt as if at least 25 were on the lake, but prominently visible were the snow geese and trumpters who stand out on the water. Pelicans, are not classed as waterfowl as they have their own species agrouping. It appeared that these were the white American Pelicans which are, as the name suggests, common to our area. The pelicans are nearly as large as trumpeter swans but have the longer bill and tend to soar and circle in large groups. They don't appear to fly so much as to float along on streams of air. Evening and morning the pelicans headed to fields as far away as West Amana and South Amana to feed.

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A true fixer-upper with restoration and business potential. Exterior changes subject to ACLUD approval. Contact us with any questions for to see it.

Phone: 319.622.3567
Email; amanaheritage@southslope.net
Amana Heritage Society Facebook

SAVE YOUR PULL TABS AND BRING TO THE AMANA COMMUNITY LIBRARY!

Collecting pull tabs from cans such as soup and pop is an easy and fun way to support the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Eastern Iowa & Western Illinois. It's a small thing that can make a huge difference.

The pull tabs may be dropped off at the Amana Community Library, anytime during regular hours.

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

Wilma Rettig will turn 85 this year!

Her birthday is March 23, and it would be fun to see how many cards she will receive, along with a note saying how you know Wilma!
Please send to
100 Village View Circle #260
Williamsburg IA 52361

PIANO TUNING SERVICE
If you are in need of your piano to be restored to its correct pitch
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FOR SALE

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FOR RENT

Safe and secure storage shed for rent in Amana! 10x25 unit. Video surveillance. $90/month. Please call 319-331-7477 with inquiries.

For Rent in Amana Large 2 bedroom, laundry (W&D) No Pets on 220 Trail across from Museum Call 319-331-9173

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

OBITUARY

Judy Chesley passed away Monday, March 9, 2026, at Rose Haven Nursing Home in Marengo at the age of 78 years. Funeral Service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 14, 2026 at the Middle Amana Church, with Elder Andrea Haldy officiating. Burial will be in the Homestead Cemetery. Visitation will be Friday from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Middle Amana Church.

Judy Ann Chesley was born December 23, 1947, the daughter of Herbert and Marie (Eichacker) Fels. She graduated from Amana High School in 1966. Judy was united in marriage to James Demmel in 1966. To this union they were blessed with four children. They later divorced. Judy then married Darrell Chesley in 1978. They were together for 37 years before separating. Judy proudly co-owned and operated Chesley Trucking. She also worked at Hummer Trucking as dispatch. Judy was a member of the Amana Church, the Homestead Welfare Club, and served on the board of the ACLUD. Judy enjoyed animals, attending chuck wagon races, and most of all her grandchildren.

Judy is survived by her children, Jeff Demmel (Kris Gibson) of South Amana, Jennifer Philipp of Palo, and Joel (Becky) Demmel of Amana; 8 grandchildren, Lindsey (Zach) Nelson, Natalie (Blake) Kuesel, Kylie Demmel, Matt Demmel, Hunter Philipp, Stone Philipp (Abbe), Jenna Demmel and Sydney Demmel; 6 great-grandchildren, Elliot, Ethan and Emersyn Kuesel, Holland and Haven Nelson, and Sutton Philipp (due in July); and her special friend, Robert Graesser. She was preceded in death by her parents, son, John Demmel, brother Ron Fels, her first husband, James Demmel, and her son-in-law Fred Sonny Philipp.

A memorial fund has been established for the Amana Church or Essence of Life Hospice. Powell Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Marengo is caring for Judy and her family. Messages may be left at www.powellfuneralhomes.com

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