Amana Society Bulletin

Vol. XCIV | Amana, Iowa, Thursday, May 14, 2026 | No. 11

AMANA CHURCH SOCIETY NEWS

The Combined Baccalaureate Service will be in the Amana Church Sunday, May 17, 2026 starting 10:00 A.M. with Br. Jon Childers presiding.

Opening Hymn: "Follow Me, the Saviour Calleth" No. 24

Testimony: Christian Metz, Ronneburg, May 3, 1819

Scripture: John 15:1-8
Proverbs 3:1-7

Closing Hymn: "Take My Life and Let It Be" No. 267

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 FIRE DISTRICT MEETING NOTICE

The monthly public meeting of the Amana Fire District will be held Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 7:00 pm in the Middle Amana fire station.

BRUSHES AND BLOOMS

Two of your favorite summer events have been brought together for a unique, new experience. Colonies in Bloom and the Amana Arts Guild's Plein Air fresh paint are now one spectacular event. Mark your calendars for June 25-28 for a weekend of artists creating throughout the colonies, classes open to all, gardens in bloom, and opportunities to purchase art while supporting the Amana Arts Guild.

Excitement is building, keep your eyes out for weekly updates, invitations to join in the activities, and complete details on our 4-day event we now call Brushes and Blooms.Details can be found on the AAG website, amanaartsguild.org

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ZITHER CONCERT AT HOMESTEAD CHURCH MUSEUM SCHEDULED FOR JULY 11TH

We are thrilled to share that Anne Prinz of Zither International, one of the world's leading experts in zither performance and history, will return to the Amana Colonies in July 2026 for a special zither concert at the Homestead Village Church Museum to help support its restoration!

Anne has performed in the Amanas over the years and spent time this past July working in the Amana Heritage Museum archives, studying our extensive zither music collection. She will be joined by fellow musician Karen Hinnah, and together they will present an unforgettable concert on Saturday, July 11th at 10:00am.

During their visit, Anne and Karen plan to continue researching our zither archives—helping us better understand and interpret this fascinating part of Amana's musical heritage.

To support their stay, we are asking if anyone might be willing to host Anne and Karen in their homes during their week in the Amanas—either for the full week or for a few days as part of a rotating host schedule. They plan to arrive on July 10th and depart on July 18th.

If you are interested in helping welcome these talented musicians and scholars, please contact the Amana Heritage Society office (319.622.3567 or amanaheritage@southslope.net). Your hospitality will help make this important cultural and musical exchange possible!

Tickets can be found on www.amanaheritage.org.

AMANA NEWS AND NOTES

Collen Conrad Retires – 36 Years Serving Our School

After 36 years with the Clear Creek – Amana School District, it will be hard to imagine the Lakeside building without Colleen Conrad.

Colleen Conrad has been here for school consolidation, new technologies, new buildings and huge transitions. She's helped kids (and teachers) sort out missed buses, class schedules, lost lunch cards (remember when we had cards?) lost musical instruments, phone calls to Mom, sudden fevers, playground accidents and just about every minor and major catastrophe that can happen to a kid (or a teacher) at school.

She's filled in wherever and whenever she was needed and did she ever say, "Hey that's not in my job description"? We doubt it.

We caught up with Colleen via email last week to congratulate her on her years of service to Amana children and their parents. We asked her how she was feeling about retirement. She answered, "This is a really hard question to answer. I have such mixed feelings about ending my time at school. I hope to come back and volunteer as the staff and kids have become like family to me."

"It will be different when the first day of school comes around because that was my favorite day of the. . . I'm going to really miss the kids."

She was hired by Amana Superintendent Craig Okerberg who was a shared superintendent with the Clear Creek School District and then the first CC-Amana Superintendent after the consolidation of the Amana and the Clear Creek School Districts. She worked as secretary for the school superintendent and then for Principal Michael Hooley. Office duties varied but mostly it meant keeping the Amana School ship afloat.

Now she'll be shifting gears, finding new opportunities, spending time with her show horses and on the farm she shares with her husband, Mike. But she'll miss her school days. We asked about her most rewarding moments, "I've enjoyed the elementary kids reading to me. I always tried to drop what I was doing if a student came to the office to read to me."

Amana students, their parents and grandparents thank you and all of this spring's CCA retirees for their dedication and school spirit. We've been fortunate to have you on staff at CCA.

Part 2 - Spring Applause and Pet Peeves

Last week we took a very informal survey to see what we are thinking as we take walks and drive about the seven villages and see what's what in Amana.

As was stated last week, the methodology was wholly unscientific and the questions were untested. I posted two questions with a short introduction on an Amana Villages community Facebook page; over 70 comments were logged in about 18 hours. The post has since been removed (but screen shots have been saved in case anyone would like to use for a community awareness initiative.)

The questions: *"When you take a walk or drive around the villages what things do you see that you like? What things do you see that get your goat or make you cringe?"*

As you can read, the gist of both questions focused on the visual "what do you see?" but as the comments came in, several people brought up nonvisual aspects of community life. Last week we shared comments pertaining to what we are seeing in our neighborhoods. This week we'll take a look at the nonvisual. Some remarks were reiterated by others or received multiple "likes" and those I have

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

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

The Board of Trustees of the above-named District will conduct a public hearing on the proposed fiscal year
Meeting Date: 5/26/2026 Meeting Time: 06:00 PM Meeting Location:Homestead Welfare Club
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: Thomas H Oehler Contact Telephone Number: (952) 220-1687

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	22,663	17,469	12,469	98,991	107,453	4,007
2. Debt Service	0	0	0	0	0	0
3. TOTAL	22,663	17,469	12,469	98,991	107,453	4,007

Proposed taxation rate per $1,000 valuation: $ 0.54000

Lakeview Village

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News & Notes *from page 1*

indicated below as "Repeated."

Some responses were phoned in, texted or emailed to me. Not every remark is listed here and some have been shortened to save space.

First the positive remarks:

"I love the Amana Elementary and all the wonderful staff; love Amana restaurants (and pies!) love having access to Amana shops and love our backyard Lily Lake. Migration this spring was epic!" (Repeated).

"We have so much to do. Every weekend there is something we could do. (Repeated)

"Lots of jobs here. Anyone can find work."

"The local museum and all the history here. That's really unique and I appreciate that."

"I love all the free entertainment. You can hear great bands . . . (Cites specific venues)."

"The amount of volunteerism. It does take a village to do all we do and we are a really small town. People do help out at festivals, like at Oktoberfest or the Tannenbaum Forest."

Citing the work of a local theatre professional, "I love our theatres in town…"

"The Fourth of July firework and the picnic!

"The Firemen and the Firemen's breakfast."

"Lots of selfless people here who are willing to help you." (Repeated).

"I love the history and the friendships and the neighbors. The quietness on the Lily Lake when walking on the trail. . . There may be negatives but I'm glad I get to live here and not in Cedar Rapids."

"I lived outside Amana … and then I moved back and I think leaving help me get a different perspective on Amana. I wonder if people know how lucky we are to live here? Just everything. There is so much open space and so many trees, places to walk, ride bikes, the traffic, the shopping, the events and so many things that are really special about Amana. People are friendly here."

The things we are concerned about:

"Instead of complaining why not stop and help?" (About the yard complaints.) (Repeated)

"People do want to help sometimes we don't know who needs help. . . Just a thought could you add a small section to the (Amana) Bulletin for residents who are needing help? Older folks might not all be on Facebook and we could encourage our kids to mow a lawn, help fix something, etc. And have the needs of neighbors in one place and could include updates on when those needs have been (helped)."

"What people miss most about times gone by is their neighbor. This was a community built on and for your neighbor. Now we don't know our neighbors, or what they are going through, or care to help."

"I think ACLUD could address some of the things that people are complaining about . . . I don't think they are enforcing rules."

"Wish there were more options for trespass permits or times when you didn't need an expensive permit."

"Some people don't care to get involved with community things. . . Why aren't more people helping out with like the firemen or the first responders or really anything?"

"I wish we had a pool in town for the kids. Or a splash pad." (Repeated).

"I worry about tourism. I have been in the hospitality business for XX years and we're in a down turn. Last year was not good. This spring hasn't been great with the price of gas . . We have to work together as a community and as a convention and visitor's bureau and restructure or something to address some of this or we're going to see some businesses shut down."

"What's happening with Whirlpool? Are they staying here? I hope so. That's a lot of jobs to lose." (Repeated).

"Some days, especially in the spring, the smells from when they spread sxxx on the fields is terrible. I mean terrible. You can't open your windows." (Repeated).

"Jake braking trucks. If you live in West Amana it's annoying."

The Amana Print Shop
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FOR RENT

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THANK YOU

On behalf of the Amana Community Library, we would like to sincerely thank the Amana Community Chest for your generous donation and your continued support over the years. Your contributions make a meaningful difference in our ability to provide quality programs, resources, and services to our patrons.

We are especially grateful for your support of our Summer Reading Programs, which play a vital role in keeping young readers engaged and learning throughout the summer months. Thanks to your generosity, we are able to offer exciting books, activities, and events that inspire a lifelong love of reading for children and families in our community.

Your commitment to literacy and learning helps make the library a welcoming and enriching place for all. We truly appreciate your partnership and your investment in our library and community.

Amana Community Library
Rhonda Hegewald, Director

Love Like You've Never Been Hurt

Jesus said, "Offenses will come". And likely most, if not all of us, have been hurt at some time in our lives. Join us for a weekly group study of the book and video series "Love Like You've Never Been Hurt" by Jentezen Franklin. Classes starting soon in Amana. Contact Joyce at 571-225-7554 for more details.

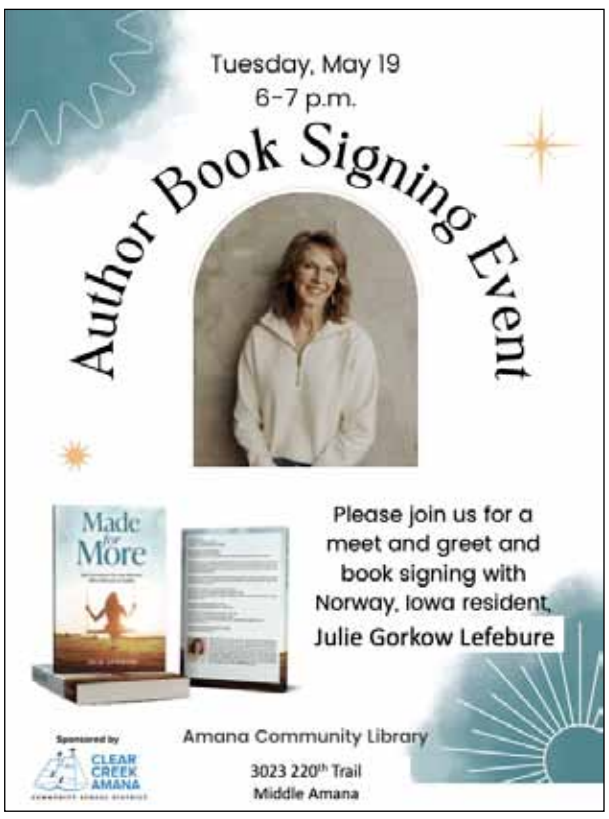
The ***Amana Society Bulletin*** is published by the Amana Print Shop for the **Amana Society Inc.** and distributed free as a public service to the Amana Community.
On-line at: ***amanacoloniestoday.com***
Email: ***amanaprintshop@southslope.net***

LIVE MUSIC UNDER THE STARS

The Midwest's Hippest Band FunkDaddies is returning to The Amana Performing Arts Center Courtyard, 39 38th Ave, Amana, May 23rd! FunkDaddies is a funk band playing horn-driven soul, R&B and dance music in an exciting, original style.

FunkDaddies was formed with the purpose of bringing the best, funky dance music to the Midwest, performed by highly accomplished musicians. Inspired by Tower of Power, Earth, Wind & Fire, and all the great Motown artists, FunkDaddies brings its own irresistible, high-energy sound and first-class stage show to audiences everywhere.

If there is rain, the event will be moved inside, Food Trucks 5-8 PM: Born to Fry, Smoken' ZBQ. Free Will Donation. For information, call 319-899-3799 or email deborahkennedy@live.com



AMANA COLONIES LAND USE DISTRICT (ACLUD)
Tentative Agenda of the regular Meeting
Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)
Monday, May 18, 2026 6:30 p.m.at the ACLUD office 4304 220th Trail Amana

I. Call HPC Meeting to Order
II. Set Agenda
III. Review/Approve April 27, 2026 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. 2026-037 Richard & Pamela Leichsenring /2615 220th Trail/ HP-R/ Build new 32'-1.5 X 18' garage where barn structure was. 7/12 roof pitch, gray asphalt shingles, White K-style gutters, (2) 9/6 28X56 white vinyl windows on W side, White exterior door no window, reuse grey aluminum siding from house, garage door on lower side white no windows.

b. 2026-038 Brad Zuber /5203 D St. East Amana/HP-R/ Construct 10' X 14' storage building on NE corner of lot .

c. 2026-039 Historical Sites Foundation /17 220th Trail Upper South/ HP-R/ Tear down barn behind hotel & salvage any material that can be repurposed by ACHSF.

d. 2026-040 David Forbes /718 47th Ave/ HP-R/ Replace vinyl siding on house & garage with LP smart side in grey.

VI. Other Business - Paul Bruhn Update
VII. Administrator's Report (if applicable)
VIII. Adjourn

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