Amana Society Bulletin

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AMANA CHURCH SOCIETY NEWS

The Regular Early Service will be in the Middle Church Sunday, October 11, 2026 starting 8:30 A.M. with Sw. Kristie Yoder presiding.

Opening Hymn: "Sieh, hier bin Ich" No. 922 Seite 911/12

Testimony: JF Rock, near Stuttgart, Germany, December 3, 1716; Excerpt from C Metz, Ronneburg, November 7, 1825

Scripture: John 16: 5-15
Psalm 32

Closing Hymn: "Wer nur den lieben Gott lasst walten." No. 1076 Seite 1052

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: "O Thou that Hear'st when Sinners cry" No. 252

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 past services online may be found at: *https://amanachurch.com/category/podcast/*

Thank You!

A huge thank you for everyone who supported our pancakes for the pantry breakfast on Oktoberfest morning. We were surprised and pleased by the number of folks who joined us, (twice as many as last year) and promise that next year we will be ready for everyone.

THE IOWA PLAY COMES HOME TO IOWA FOR FIRST PUBLIC READING IN AMANA

Amana Heritage Society and TKM Theatrical Productions present Kathe Mull's gentle comedy about friendship, community and the heart of Iowa on October 10

The Iowa Play—a gentle comedy in two acts by playwright Kathe Mull, receiving its debut performance on Saturday, October 10, 2026, at the Amana Performing Arts Center, 39 38th Avenue, Amana, IA.**(Location Update!)**

Presented by the Amana Heritage Society and TKM Theatrical Productions, doors will open at 2:30 p.m., with the performance beginning at 3:00 p.m.

Tickets are $25 per person and are available online at amanaheritage.org/store or by calling the Amana Heritage Society at 319-622-3567. Admission includes an intermission menu featuring an "Amana-rite" sandwich, Amana's playful homage to Iowa's famous Maid-Rite sandwich.

MOVIES IN AMANA!

October is here, and The Magic Lantern is excited to bring you a few fun, spooky scary movies to the Big Screen every Wednesday this month at The Amana Performing Arts Center!

Coming Up Next, October 14th: A lovely couple suffer a freak accident that leaves them... deceased. While their spirits are away in limbo, a family of insufferable New York yuppies have moved into their quaint country residence. After failing to haunt them away, the couple turns to a manic, rotten-toothed "Bio-Excorsist" to help scare the family off, but they get more than they bargained for in this classic quirky dark comedy from 1988 (Rated PG)

This movie will have you singing "DAY-O!" all through dinner! Doors open at 6:30pm, film starts at 7pm. Follow The Magic Lantern on Facebook or Instagram to stay up to date on the latest movies.

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

AMANA NEWS AND NOTES

One Huge Oktoberfest

"Rain, rain go away" we all said on Thursday, and boy, did it, as Friday through Sunday could not have been nicer when Amana's biggest festival, Oktoberfest rolled out.

"I don't think I've seen bigger crowds in Amana for the parade and on Friday. This has to be one of the very biggest Oktoberfest since I've been here," said one, longtime Amana merchant as we chatted on the parade route as the parade traversed Main Street.

"Thank you to every single person who volunteered and supported the Oktoberfest," said John Zuber, Oktoberfest festival committee chairman. "Despite all the rain earlier in the week and the challenges that rain provided, the Oktoberfest team, the merchants, sponsors, volunteers and support crew stepped up and once again, showed all the visitors how special Oktoberfest in Amana can be."

"The grounds and the Festhalle looked fantastic and continue to improve, thanks to the Amana Colonies Historic Sites Foundation board. I'm confident that with the team of dedicated people who organize and make Oktoberfest happen, it will continue to improve every year," Zuber added.

"We are all especially proud of the fact that 12 nonprofit groups and charities benefitted from Oktoberfest at the Festhalle. We're continuing to find ways to help support the nonprofits through the festival." This year for example, the pumpkins, straw bales and mums were sold rather than given away after the fest. The money will be donated to a local nonprofit, Zuber explained.

Thursday and Friday both far exceeded expectations with admissions to the Festhalle on Friday a record breaker, perhaps even topping last year's "largest crowd ever" achieved at the 2025 anniversary festival.

Saturday morning the village was packed and Sunday at the Festhalle was perhaps the best attended Sunday ever. When all the admissions have been counted, Oktoberfest 2026 may well be in the top three "largest Oktoberfests" ever in the Colonies.

This despite the challenge of wet conditions limiting parking.

"We were able to line up off site parking on pavement as we were unable to use three of our grass parking areas due to the rainfall last week. Thank you Amana Colonies RV Park and Event Center and Whirlpool Amana for allowing visitors to park in their lots. That was a huge help and we are grateful," he added.

A "step on free" shuttle bus paid for by the Oktoberfest organizing committee once again provided free transportation to and from the RV Park, and this year from Whirlpool, to the village of Amana. This shuttle bus service is a costly budget item for the festival, but important given the need.

The Amana Church's Pancakes for the Pantry reported a great response with over 90 people enjoying breakfast and making a free will contribution to the Amana Colonies Food Pantry operated by the Amana Church Society. Donations will help fill the pantry this fall.

Another big hit was the Festkeller at the Festhalle with their big screen TV and green space where fans could catch the football action on Saturday and Sunday.

Visitors lined and relished the food and music at Millstream Brewing Co. and at Hotel Millwright, while the Ronneburg streetside party, a festival tradition, was extremely busy Saturday.

So as we roll away the empty kegs, hang up the Lederhosen and polish the brass band instruments, let's make a final PROSIT to the more than 200 hundred volunteers who make the festival happen from the Amana Colonies Historic Sites Foundation board members, to the Colony Folksingers, to their band, the people setting up and tearing down the fest site, the parade and games organizers, the people serving the beverages and cooking the food, the people cleaning the tables and emptying the trash and the many people who helped in ways large and small to make our Oktoberfest a memorable event: Thank you.

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

Three day Hoehnle antique tag sale at 4118 V Street, Homestead.

Friday, October 16th 9 to 5, Saturday, October 17th 9 to 5, and Sunday, October 18th 9 to 5.

Many early communal Amana items including furniture, tinware, baskets, sampler, painted game boards and crocheted animals/people/scenes. More recent Amana items including Dan Ray coffee table, Gordon Kellenberger paintings and Jack Hahn carved bird feather and framed print. Entrance on east side of house. Plenty of parking on V Street.

Hope to see you there!!

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ImpactLife
PARTNERS FOR LIFE BLOOD DRIVE
Amana Community
Sponsored by CLEAR CREEK AMANA
Thursday, October 22
1:30 pm - 6:00 pm
Amana Elementary Cafeteria - *3023 220th Trail*
To book your appointment, scan the QR code or contact ImpactLife at (800) 747-5401.
Group Code: 2519 Last Date to Donate Elsewhere: 08/27/26
LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER!

News & Notes *from page 1*

One Wet Month

September 2026 ranked as one of the wettest months in the past 134 years of record keeping in the State of Iowa. In some areas of the state, including Linn and Johnson County, September 2026 was the wettest month in 134 years.

This is according to the Iowa State University Iowa Environmental Mesonet (IEM) which tracks data in Iowa using 58 weather stations positioned across Iowa.

Using data from the two weather stations closest to the Amana Colonies we find that Cedar Rapids had a total of 11.12 inches in September 2026. Iowa City had 11.25 inches in September. Amana Colony weather watchers have noted about 11.25 to 12.5 inches here.

Compare that to June 2008, a record breaking rainfall month in Iowa: in June 2008 Cedar Rapids had 8.95 inches and Iowa City had 8.09 inches.

September of 1965 the statewide average total was 9.84 inches making it, up till now, Iowa's wettest September. This year has blown that figure away. On average, Iowa sees about 3 inches during the month. For the books, September 2024 was Iowa's driest September with only .69 iches recorded.

Iowa Renaissance Festival is Here

Epoch change ahead as the Iowa Ren-Fair is back for two weekends at the Middle Amana Community Park starting Saturday, Oct. 10 at 10 a.m. Check out their Iowa Renaissance Festival Facebook page for updates. The Ren-Fair continues Sunday.

Posted for the first weekend's events: on the Melee Field armed conflicts will begin at 11:30 a.m. and will continue until 4 p.m. The Joust Tournament is happening with Equus Nobilis at 12:30, 2:30 and 4:30 p.m. On the Minstrel Stage look forward to performances by Canine Kingdom, Droopei the Barbarian, plus Orches and Trolls. On the Royal Stage they'll be hosting various minstrels and magicians, costumed performers and the Royal Court.

The festival opens at 10 a.m. and closes at 6 p.m. It is slated to continue next weekend as well with an updated fest schedule to be posted on their Facebook page.

STORAGE FOR RENT

Self Storage Unit Available in Amana. Available on October 1st. Size 10x25 which is comparable to a standard 2 car garage. Concrete floor. Roll up doors. Please call 319-331-7477 if interested!

DIRECT FROM BRANSON: The Ultimate Family Variety Show

Coming to The Amana Performing Arts Center November 7-8 is Branson's most awarded vocalist, Doug Gabriel. Show times are: Saturday, Nov. 7th: 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm and Sunday, November 8th: 2:00 pm Tickes are $35, for group rates & Information call 319.899.3799

The Doug Gabriel Ultimate Variety Show is Branson's most popular and longest running show because it has it all! High energy, great production, hilarious comedy, and incredible music. The show features Branson's most awarded Male Vocalist, Doug Gabriel. Doug and his talented cast of singers and musicians cover many styles of music and perform the hits of artists like: Travis Tritt, Keith Urban, Queen, ZZ Top, Ricky Skaggs, Christopher Cross, Kiki Dee, Ray Parker Jr., Casting Crowns, Lonestar, Van Halen, Huey Lewis & The News, Cher, and even a great tribute to the King, Elvis Presley.

The female entertainers of the show which include Doug's wife Cheryl, their daughter Jasmine, and Stephani Haygood, perform the hits of 3 of the most Iconic Female Country Music Legends: Shania Twain, Dolly Parton, and Reba McEntire. This show appeals to audiences of all ages.

The Doug Gabriel Ultimate Family Variety Show is sponsored by generous anonymous supporters.

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 Facebook and at: ***amanacoloniestoday.com***

AMANA RETIREMENT COMMUNITY
Assisted Living is Hiring!!
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JOHN DEMMEL MEMORIAL AT THE AMANA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The Amana Community Library received a generous donation In Memory of John Demmel.

We are excited and honored to use John's Memorial to bring new authors, new titles, and new books to the library for others to enjoy!

John was an avid reader, and one of his favorite authors was Stephen King. In his memory, we were especially pleased to add three Stephen King titles to our collection: Never Flinch, On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft, and 11/22/63.

These books, along with the rest of the books purchased with the memorial donation, will be displayed on a dedicated table at the library.

We are very grateful for this meaningful gift and the opportunity to share the joy of reading with our community.

WANT TO BUY

-Reloading Equipment -Bullets and Brass
-Presses and Dies -Shooting Sports Items
-Large and Small Estates -Supplies and Ammo
-Muzzleloaders and Firearms: Vintage & Modern
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Call, Text or Email JOEL VZ (319) 530-1234
jvanzante@southslope.net

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

I. Call Meeting to Order
II. Set Agenda
III. Review/Approve September 14, 2026 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. 2026-037 Richard & Pamela Leichsenring /2615 220th Trail Middle Amana/ HP-R / Build new 32'-1 1/2 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. 2026-071 Roy & Monica Kersten /4448 V St. Homestead / HP-C/ Remove shake siding & replace with new siding. Replace all windows with vinyl replacements. Replace front & rear door. Remove old roofing and install with new asphalt shingles. Repairs to be made to front porch.

c. 2026-085 Steve & Kandace Rose /711 29th Ave. Middle/ R-1/ Replace facia, gutters and leaf guard due to hail damage. Remove sidewalk & steps to front door and replace with new 4' sidewalk leading to a 8x10 brown composite front steps (2)/landing with blacaluminum railing. Install handicap ramp over stairs if needed in same composite material/color.

d. 2026-076 David & Mary Rettig /2607 220th Trail. Middle/ HP-R/ Reside second story dormers & shed dormer on East side with clear #1 cedar.

e. 2026-077 Amana Society Inc. /4423 220th Trail. (General Store)/ HP-C/ Remove current siding from SE corner to NE corner & replace with LP smart side in matching color to existing. Replace 11 windows on East side of building with new white vinyl. Corners will be wrapped in Cedar.

f. 2026-081 Amana Society Inc. /724 48th Ave. Amana/ HP-C/ Replace existing front double doors to include a handicap sill and non-removable pin hinges for safety & accessibility. No change to style, design, color or materials.

g. 2026-082 Mark & Andrea Farrier /4415 F St. Amana/ HP-R/ Replace 5 windows on NW side of house with white vinyl windows.

h. 2026-084 Tom Boston-Kemple /406 53rd Ave East/ HP-A / Corn crib exterior renovation - 1) Replace old car siding with new car siding painted gray 2) Replace corrugated vinyl siding with new car siding painted gray 3) Replace old vents and windows with new vents and 6/6 windows to match house.

VI. Other Business.
a. Discussion/Action: Scheduled ordinance review
b. Discussion/Action: Review woodshed height
c. Discussion/Action: Paul Bruhn update
d. Discussion/Action: Ordinance lodging definitions
e. Discussion/Action: Jake Braking sign placement
f. Discussion/Action: BOT elections
g. Discussion/Action: Privacy fences
h. Discussion/Action: HPC chair
i. Discussion/Action: Admin performance review

VII. Review/Approve October Disbursements Report.
VIII. Review/Approve the October Treasurer's Report.
IX. President's Report (if applicable).
X. Administrator's Report.
XI. Adjourn.

Ravenwolf Productions Presents:
The Crowfoot Rakes Saturday, October 17th, 7pm

Iowa's premiere Irish band. It's bona-fide homegrown Irish music for the Iowish people!
West of Mary Welsh Elementary in Williamsburg