

## AMANA CHURCH SOCIETY NEWS

The Combined Service and Children's Christmas Program, December 18, 2022, starting 10:00 A.M. with Br. Michael Shoup presiding.

Opening Hymn: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"  
Scripture: Luke 1: 26 -32; Luke 2: 1 - 13;  
Matthew 2: 7 - 11

The Christmas Story & Let the little children come to me.

Hymn: "Away in a Manger"

Closing Hymn: "Joy to the World"

Song sheets will be provided. Please join us, all are welcome!

The Wednesday Evening Prayer (Nachtgebet) meeting will begin at 7:00 P.M. in Middle.

## AMANA FIRE DISTRICT MEETING NOTICE

The monthly meeting of the Amana Fire District will be held Wednesday, December 21, 2022, at 7:00 pm in the Middle Amana fire station.

## LIBRARY NEWS

### Amana Library Holiday Hours

December 22 - 9am - 3pm

December 23 -26 - CLOSED

December 27-29 - 9am-1pm

December 30 - January 2 - CLOSED

January 3 - 9am-6pm

January 4 - Regular Hours Resume

The Amana Library will close during bad weather. We will follow the same schedule as the Clear Creek Amana School District schedule. If school has a late start, the library will open at 10:00. If school is cancelled, the library will be closed. If there is an early dismissal, the library will also close at the early dismissed time. Please call ahead to make sure we are open, 319-622-3192.

The Amana Library Staff would like to wish everyone a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!

### Blood Drive

The Amana Library will host an ImpactLife Blood Drive on Thursday, December 22 from 1:30pm to 6:30pm. The Drive will be held in the Amana Elementary Cafeteria, 3023 220th Trail, Middle Amana.

As a special THANK YOU, all donors will receive a gift card or donation to Feeding America. Potential donors must be at least 17, weigh more than 110 pounds, and possess a photo ID to donate. Please eat and hydrate before donating. Whole Blood and Double Red Cell will be available to donate. To sign up, please call the Amana Library 319-622-3192 or email [amanalibrary@ccaschools.org](mailto:amanalibrary@ccaschools.org) to schedule a time.

## FEATHERS IN THE WIND

Christmas is a time of giving, but the best gifts I have ever gotten were those from the heart.

Soon after I began chemo Charlemagne came home with this man. Now anyone knows that after being in the hospital no one wants to take a portrait of you or even see you. Men, however, are either blind, dumb (silent), or both.

Well, Charlemagne walls in this big man who drops a plastic bag on my blanket. I look at it then I look at him, then I do a double take.

Here this kind man figured since I was loosing my hair he would just shave off his too as a very special gesture. Once in my life I was speechless so I cried.

Then there was my friend who on more then one occasion has prayed with me or given me a hug. I don't think most people have any idea what she (and others like her) do "behind the scenes" to make things run smoothly like the Cookie Walk, cemetery, or just fix and see things to do for others. The community runs smoother because of them, but they rarely get thanked, so many times they hear complaints.

I mean look at the Kolonieweg - that didn't get done by itself. Thank you!

Then there was the time my cell phone was down. I had just gotten the call from my brother-in-law that my sister was in the hospital, but I couldn't call back to him or my niece. I needed a cell phone number, but the only person that might have the number also had an unlisted cell phone so once again I called

*Feathers continues on page 2*

## AMANA NEWS AND NOTES

### December 8 Explosion in Marengo Still Being Felt

Repercussions of the Thursday, Dec. 8 explosion and fire at the C6-Zero asphalt shingle recycling plant are being felt throughout Iowa County.

Two people were severely injured in the explosion and both remain hospitalized at the University of Iowa in serious to critical condition, reported Marengo Police Chief Ben Gray. Others suffered injuries that ranged from burns and broken bones to cuts and contusions. They were treated at Compass Memorial in Marengo or the University of Iowa Hospitals in Iowa City. There were about 30 employees at the facility at the time of the blast.

The explosion at the plant took place about 11:15 a.m. December 8. The exact cause of the explosion is under investigation Gray noted.

The Marengo Fire Department responded immediately with mutual aid coming from 20 neighboring community and city fire departments. Initially 7 law enforcement agencies responded, Gray added. The fire is under investigation by several agencies including the State Fire Marshall's office.

At one point there were over 200 fire fighters, emergency and law enforcement personnel on the site helping victims, evacuating nearby homes and fighting the fire, Gray estimated.

Nearby businesses and homes on the east side of Marengo were evacuated. But all residents were able to return to their homes by about 7 p.m. Gray said.

The Linn County HAZMAT team was called to the site and was able to monitor air quality. Gray said they found no cause for public concern about air quality during the disaster.

Chris Herr, Amana Fire Department, said the Amana Fire Department provided mutual aid and was on the scene 17 hours working with Marengo and the other departments to control multiple fires that cropped up after the explosion. Fire suppressant foam, used to smother flames, was used. Once the foam was deployed it required vigilance to make sure the fire did not regain strength or pop up in other areas of the large facility.

The fire suits and gear worn by six Amana fire-fighters who were closest to the fire has been damaged. "Some sort of oil type product got dispersed ... and got on our gear. The gear is being sent off to be cleaned in Chicago. We're awaiting news as to whether or not it can be cleaned." If it can be cleaned, how much it will cost to clean is another question, Herr added.

Herr said that any of the fire departments at the fire most likely had damage to their fire gear. The Marengo Fire Department is currently reporting that all of their fire gear has been damaged - spots of flammable, oily substance will make them unfit to use if they cannot be completely cleaned and certified as safe to wear.

"We were able to use some of our old gear to replace what's been damaged, but some departments in our area won't have enough old gear," Herr said. He explained that each fire suit is custom fitted to the fire man or woman. These suits cost about \$3,000 each and will take a year or more to replace as they are constructed upon order and custom fitted.

Mark Swift, the Marengo Fire Department treasurer, estimated that the cost to replace their gear will be over \$80,000.

Herr noted that Iowa County Emergency Management is investigating ways to fund the replacement gear. "We'll be working together with Iowa County and It's certainly something we are going to have to figure out soon," Herr concluded.

The C6- Zero plant uses a process to turn old roofing shingles into oil, sand and fiberglass. A KCRG News story reported that C6-Zero's website said the process it uses is proprietary and is patent-pending. A company spokesman said the patent is approved and awaiting final issuance from the United State Patents and Trademarks Office.

According to officials, around 30 people were inside the building during the explosion. As of Tuesday, Dec. 13. nobody was killed in the explosion. A UIHC spokesperson said about half of the patients

it treated for injuries related to the explosion were discharged and the rest were admitted to the hospital.

As of Tuesday all but two had been released from the hospital, as far as Chief Ben Gray was aware.

"It was the largest fire I've seen in my years of law enforcement," said Gray, whose been a police officer over 20 years. He joined the Marengo force in 2019.

Herr said, "I think it's Iowa County's worst fire. It was certainly the worst any of us had seen."

### Last Weekend for Tannenbaum Forest

If you have not yet seen the Tannenbaum Forest in Amana's Festhalle, this is the weekend to do so.

Volunteers will begin taking down the trees on Monday, December 19.

Thus far, the forest has been had lots of people visiting. "It's been so busy," said one longtime volunteer.

This weekend Santa Claus will be at Hotel Millwright on Sunday, Dec. 18 from 1 - 3 p.m. He'll be sharing stories and passing out sugar cookies to the kids.

The forest will be open 11 - 5 p.m. on Friday, 10 - 7 p.m. on Saturday and 11 - 4 p.m. on Sunday.

### Christmas Program and Worship Sunday Morning

Come out and see Amana's Sunday School kids in their annual Christmas program combined with worship on Sunday, Dec 18 at 10 a.m. in Amana at the Amana Church.

Also on the schedule for Christmas worship - Christmas Eve Carol Service at the Middle Amana Church at 8 p.m. on Christmas Eve and on Christmas morning a 10 a.m. worship service also at the Middle Amana Church.

## George Berger is turning 90!

Please join us at an **OPEN HOUSE** for George on **Saturday, January 14, 2023 from 1 to 4 pm** at the **Amana Elementary School cafeteria**.

**Enter through the Library doors.**

**No gifts please,** but cards are just fine.

Refreshments will be served. Stories will be told and he is looking forward to seeing you!

If you can't make the reception, you can send him a note or card at: George Berger, 508 Q St, Box 165, South Amana, IA 52334 or call him at 319-622-3174.

## SOLD!



4315 V ST.  
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## Lakeview Village

2BR, 2 Bath, 1 stall garage unit for sale located on Amana Retirement Community Campus. Must be 55 years of age or older.

Please contact Tanya Strong at (319) 622-3551 for details.





**Feathers from page 1**

a friend who figures out what I'm trying to say between sobs and goes, in the dead of night, pounds on the door and gets the phone numbers

Cell phones are going to drive me to drink. There are no phone directories around for Cedar Rapids and Iowa City and people like me can't remember their cell phone much less find them when they ring.

I guess the best gift was something I got over 50 years ago when Charlemagne pledged his love to me. I still look at him and wonder how he tolerated my foibles this long.

The only better gift was knowing that there is a God or Supreme Being. I really don't care what you call him, her, or whatever, but the knowledge that there is something out there who loves us and cares is all that really matters.

B.S.H.

Remember, the greatest gift is and always will be LOVE.

**Food Drive Collection at Colonial Manor.**  
Non perishable food donated to those who are in need this holiday season. We will be collecting in December and January at our facility.  
Questions/concerns Contact Joey. 319-622-3131

**Michele Maring Miller Art Gallery**  
20% off Michele's Art Work  
10% off everything else including antiques  
Open 10 to 5 Friday-Sunday now until Dec. 24 or call 319-249-4524.  
Small rummage sale in the back of the gallery  
**611 F Street West Amana**

**Look Closely, at the Photo Below, Were Any of These Your Parents or Grandparents?**

They are the 8th Grade graduates of the Amana school in about 1917. The Heritage Museum and I need your assistance in identifying some of these teenagers. Here are their first names; Girls: Irma, Betty, Emily?, ??, Emily, Helen; Boys: Carl. Len?, ??, Louie?, Rudolph.

Call RC at 319-622-3908 or email, rceye@southslope.net with your answers or helpful opinions on who they might be.

Do you wonder who is interested in your old photoes? Why not let the Heritage Museum see if they are of historical value. They will scan and return them if you wish. Do not forget to check the backs for names and other possible information.

**OBITUARY**

After a long and rewarding life, Harvey Oehler, 87, who "never had it so good", passed away peacefully Dec 8, 2022. Harvey married Karen Johnson in 1959 and the couple made their home in Amana for their entire marriage. Karen passed away in 1995.

Harvey is survived by his three daughters, Chris (Dan) Davies, Amana, Julie (Don) Schott, Colorado Springs, Yvonne (Jamie) Jonas, Cedar Rapids; grandchildren Danita (Josh) Simmons, Benjamin Oehler, Erin (Galen Smith) Davies, Jon (Becca) Wonder, Ryan (Catie) Jonas, Emily (Joel) Seaser, Kylie (Jacob) Bundt; great-grandchildren Orion Simmons and Claire Smith; and countless extended family and friends.

Most people will remember Harvey from the many years he managed the Ronneburg Restaurant in Amana. He greeted friends and visitors alike with a big smile and often times his accordion or as he referred to it, his "Stomach Steinway" strapped over his shoulders announcing, "I've had a lot of requests but I've decided to play a few songs anyway." There were no strangers in Harvey's life, only friends he hadn't met yet.

A party with light snacks to celebrate Harvey will be held at Price Creek Event Center, Amana, Sunday, December 18 from 12-3pm. Memorials may be directed to the family.



Amana Elementary School and Community Library

**Stuff the Stocking Fundraiser**

Dear Library Patron,

Amana Library patrons and AES students are able to access many services through our library including a variety of reading materials, computers, and internet access.

Your donation to the library will enable us to expand and maintain these services and continue to stay current with evolving technology. We also plan to continue updating outdated shelving and furniture in various parts of our space as well as getting new computers soon.

The Amana Library Foundation considers the future needs of the library. You may also choose this option for your donation. Please consider making a donation for current materials or to the Amana Library Foundation. Both donations are tax deductible under 501(c) (3). Fill out the bottom portion and use the addressed envelope to return. You may also use this link to make your donation online.

<https://ia-clearcreekamana-lite.intouchrecepting.com/>

**Library Hours: Monday: 8:00-3:00 Tuesday: 8:00-6:00**  
**Wednesday: 8:00-1:00 Thursday: 8:00-6:00**  
**Friday: 8:00-6:00 Saturday 9-Noon**

Contact Information:  
Heather Fox: [heatherfox@ccaschools.org](mailto:heatherfox@ccaschools.org)  
Phone Number: (319) 622-3192  
Website:  
<http://www.ccaschools.org/amanalibrary@ccaschools.org>  
Like us Facebook: Amana Elementary School and Community Library

Thank-you For Your Continued Support of the Library!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount for your tax deductible donation: \_\_\_\_\_

For Current Library materials \_\_\_\_\_

For the Library Foundation Fund \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the Amana Library and send to:  
Amana Library, 3023 220th Trail, Amana, IA 52203

**WANTED/WANTED TO BUY**

BUYING All ANTIQUES; Toys, signs, Furniture, Crocks, Paintings, textiles, automotive, oddities and the unusual. Any condition. Fair cash prices paid. Call or text 319-270-1251/Jack Cirkl.

**FOR RENT**

For Rent room with shared bath and common area South Amana. No smoking, references, background check. Call Larry at 319-540-9351

**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 1/2 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**

**COLLECT BIG G RECEIPTS FOR EDUCATION**

The Amana Elementary is excited to be 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 Foods, Marengo until March 31, 2023. Save your receipts and send them to school with your child or drop them off at the Amana Library.  
Your receipts will earn us points for free classroom equipment, donated by the store! Please submit your receipts by April 5. Thank you!

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](http://amanacoloniestoday.com)  
Email: [amanaprintshop@southslope.net](mailto:amanaprintshop@southslope.net)

**SOUTH SLOPE'S MATCHING GRANTS SUPPORT LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS**

South Slope Cooperative Communications and Aureon are pleased to announce that matching charity grants have been awarded to the Amana Fire Department, North Liberty Optimist Club, and Junior Achievement of Eastern Iowa.

The Amana Fire Department will use their grant funds to purchase self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and an adaptor for their rapid intervention team (RIT) pack. The SCBA air packs keep them from inhaling toxic fumes. The Amana Fire Department volunteers serve the seven villages of Amana.

The North Liberty Optimist Club will use their grant money to purchase food and grocery store gift cards for families to use during winter break. Winter outer-wear items will also be purchased.

Junior Achievement of Eastern Iowa will use grant funds to purchase program kits used within the College Community School District in Cedar Rapids. These program kits will help teach children about how money works, how education leads to career success, and how to start and run a business.

**The Amana Print Shop**

**319-622-3912**  
**[amanaprintshop@southslope.net](mailto:amanaprintshop@southslope.net)**  
**Mail: PO Box 05 Middle IA 52307**  
**Hours:**  
**Mon., Tues., Thurs. Friday 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM**  
**Wednesday 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM (Deliveries).**  
**Friday - Please Call/by appointment**  
**Please phone before driving over as I may be engaged in work/projects or at appointments**  
**All outsourced items (Full color rack cards, business cards, etc.) are printed in the U.S.A. and sold at 5-10% over cost**