

Colonies in Bloom: Gardens of the Amanas, ‘Heart Balm’

By Alicia Schmitt,
Amana Heritage Society

AMANA — Celebrate both Iowa theater and the gardening heritage of the Amana Colonies Saturday, June 28.

Begin with Colonies in Bloom from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Take a self-guided tour of selected gardens in the seven villages.

Then, enjoy a performance of “Heart Balm” by Iowa City playwright, Janet Schlapkohl, at the historic Homestead Village Church Museum at 7 p.m.

Colonies in Bloom is a free event that celebrates the rich gardening culture of the Amana Colonies. Gardening has always been a key part of the Amana Colonies and has flourished over time.

In the communal era, production of fruits and vegetables was a community endeavor. Hobby gardens were unknown. When the communal system ended in 1932,



hobby gardening became popular.

Selected residences and businesses will open gardens to visitors for Colonies in Bloom. Each garden is unique, with both traditional and modern gardens as well as both native and exotic plants.

Maps for Colonies in Bloom will be available at the Amana Heritage Museum, the Amana Colonies Visitors Center, and each participating garden location as well as online as a PDF at amanacolonies.com and amanaheritage.org.

“Heart Balm,” a live

performance by playwright Janet Schlapkohl at the historic Homestead Village Church

Museum, is the story of a young German immigrant who discovers love, a new occupation, the Iowa court system and herself. The play poses the question, "What is the price of a broken heart?"

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the show begins at 7 p. Tickets are \$25 with a \$5 discount for Amana Heritage Society members. Tickets available at amanaheritage.org.

The Homestead Village Church Museum (4210 V Street, Homestead) will host to this performance to raise awareness about its future. Amana is planning a major historic preservation project to restore the structure to its former humble glory.

The church was built

in 1865 and served as a worship space until the 1990s when it became a museum site for visitors to learn about the religious heritage of the Amana Colonies. Revitalization efforts will allow it to become a venue for educational and entertaining musical and theatrical performances, focusing on the history and heritage of the state of Iowa as a whole.

More information about the Amana Heritage Society and these two events can be found online at amanaheritage.org. Or call 319-622-3567 or email amanaheritage@southslope.net.

CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

A public hearing will be held by the Iowa County Board of Supervisors establishing an Area Service System "B" road classification for a portion of A Ave.

The proposed section of A Ave is located in Section 18 of Hartford Township, T80N, R12W of Iowa County, Iowa more particularly describes as follows:

The portion of A Ave. located within Section 18 of Hartford Township. Commencing at the intersection of Hwy 6 and A Ave and thence south approximately ±1,550 ft to a point of beginning. Thence continuing southerly, then westerly on A Ave to the City of Victor city limits. Iowa County will reduce service to Level B.

The hearing will be held in the County Board Room located on the second floor of the Iowa County East Courthouse Annex, Marengo, Iowa 52301, at 9:15 a.m. on Friday, June 27, 2025. At that time the Board of Supervisors will take public comments and questions.

NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS CASE NO. ESPR020751 THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR IOWA COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARSHA SUE WHITE, Deceased

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Marsha Sue White, Deceased, who died on or about May 11, 2025:

You are hereby notified that on May 27, 2025, the Last Will and Testament of Marsha Sue White, deceased, bearing date of August 12, 2024, was admitted to probate in the above-named court and that Larry Patrick Driscoll was appointed Executor of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above-named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated May 28, 2025.

Larry Patrick Driscoll
Executor of Estate
708 Oswego St.
Tama, Iowa 52339
PO Box 70
Williamsburg, IA 52361
Date of second publication the 13th day of June, 2025.

NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS CASE NO. ESPR020753 THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR IOWA COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DOROTHY J. LANE, Deceased

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Dorothy J. Lane, Deceased, who died on or about May 31, 2025:

You are hereby notified that on June 6, 2025, the Last Will and Testament of Dorothy J. Lane, deceased, bearing date of December 27, 2001, was admitted to probate in the above-named court and that Dale Lewis Lane was appointed Executor of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above-named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated June 9, 2025.

Dale Lewis Lane, Executor of Estate
204 W South St
Williamsburg, IA 52361
Grant M. Taylor, ICIS#: AT0013491
Attorney for Executor
Bloethe, Elwood & Buchanan
Law Office
702 Third St, PO Box L
Victor, IA 52347
Date of second publication the 20th day of June, 2025.

NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS CASE NO. ESPR020752 THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR IOWA COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CHESTER K. BALLARD, Deceased

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Chester K. Ballard, Deceased, who died on or about May 24, 2025:

You are hereby notified that on June 4, 2025, the Last Will and Testament of Chester K. Ballard, deceased, bearing date of February 18, 2025, was admitted to probate in the above-named court and that Donald C. Ballard was appointed Executor of the estate. Any

action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above-named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated June 3, 2025.

Donald C. Ballard, Executor of Estate
1978 Hwy 5
Knoxville, IA 50138
Thomas M. Buchanan, ICIS#: AT0001162
Attorney for Executor
Elwood, Elwood & Buchanan
423 N. Highland St.
PO Box 70
Williamsburg, IA 52361
Date of second publication the 20th day of June, 2025.

STATE OF IOWA: COUNTY OF IOWA May 30, 2025

The Iowa County Board of Supervisors met on May 30, 2025. Heitschusen, Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Maas, Heitschusen, Meyer, Degen and Montross were present.

Motion by Maas, seconded by Montross to approve the agenda. All aye, motion carried.

Motion by Montross, seconded by Maas to approve minutes for May 23, 2025. Heitschusen, Maas, Meyer, and Montross – yes. Degen abstained.

Motion Carried.

Chair Notes: The board approved handwritten claims paid with warrant numbers 39315-39317 and 39418-39419 and claims paid with warrant numbers 39318-39417.

Motion by Meyer, seconded by Maas to approve Resolution 2025-05-30A as follows:

Resolution 2025-05-30A

WHEREAS The Iowa County Engineer has investigated the site and recommended that a stop sign be placed at the intersection of 190th St and A Diagonal as follows:

Install a stop sign (M-26) to stop the local road (190th St) at the intersection with county road (A Diagonal) at the North line of Section 23, T-80N, R-12W of the 5th P.M. Iowa County, Iowa designating the Northeast and Southwest road (A Diagonal) as a through road at this location.

THEREFORE, the Iowa County Board of Supervisors hereby approve this recommendation, and the County Engineer is instructed to install this stop sign.

All aye, motion carried.

Motion by Maas, seconded by Montross to approve Resolution 2025-05-30B as follows:

Resolution 2025-05-30B

WHEREAS: The Board of Supervisors is empowered under authority of Sections 321.255 and 321.285 of the Code of Iowa to determine upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that the speed limit of any secondary road is greater than is reasonable and proper under the conditions existing, and may determine and declare a reasonable and proper speed limit, and

WHEREAS: F Ave has one speed limit sign on the south end (near 148th St) that reduces speed to 40 mph, but no other signage, and

WHEREAS: After having conducted an investigation into this matter, no prior resolution or ordinance has been identified or located that would serve to reduce or establish the lower speed limit of 40 mph as is currently stated on the south end of F Ave, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE RESOLVED by the Iowa County Board of

Supervisors that speed limits be established and appropriate signs erected at the locations described as follows:

Beginning at the intersection of Hwy 212 and F Ave then proceeding south on F Ave to the intersection of F Ave and 148th St any and all speed restrictions shall refer to 321.285, section 3 & 4 of the Iowa Code.

All aye, motion carried.

Motion by Maas, seconded by Meyer to set a public hearing for reducing level of maintenance to Area Service “B” Road – A Ave for June 27, 2025, at 9:15 a.m. All aye, motion carried.

Motion by Montross seconded by Maas to approve the liquor license applications for Fireside Winery and two for Amana Colonies Outdoor Convention Facility. All aye, motion carried.

Motion by Maas, seconded by Meyer to approve the FY26 ECICOG Transit Purchase of Service Contract. All aye, motion carried.

Motion by Meyer, seconded by Montross to approve and authorize chair to sign the Amendment to Contract with Bayer at 2227 and 2229 225th Street. All aye, motion carried.

Sandy Newkirk met with the board to discuss concerns regarding parking in Main Amana.

Motion by Maas, seconded by Montross to approve bus loading and unloading signage being put up in Main Amana with 15-minute time limits. All aye, motion carried.

Motion by Maas, seconded by Degen to approve the donated leave policy of Catastrophic illness of employees and immediate family members. All aye, motion carried.

Motion by Meyer, seconded by Maas to approve the County Handbook to amend the existing sheriff's employees hours to 12-hour shifts. All aye, motion carried.

Motion by Montross, seconded by Maas to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 a.m. All aye, motion carried.

Kevin Heitschusen, Chairperson
Brandy Enochson, Auditor
Minutes are unofficial until approved at the next Board Meeting.

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IF YOU HAD KNEE OR HIP REPLACEMENT SURGERY and suffered an infection between 2020 and the present time, you may be entitled to compensation. Call Attorney Charles H. Johnson 1-800-535-5727

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Williamsburg police calls

Report does not include house checks.

JUNE 2

Business check: 810 W. Walnut St.
Report callback: 210 W. State St.
Vehicle unlock: 605 Washington St. #4; 810 W. Walnut St.
Vehicle accident: 236 O'Donnell Rd.
Theft: 333 E. Evans St.
Medical: 235 E. Evans St.

Disorderly conduct: 238 O'Donnell Rd.
Suspicious activity: 238 O'Donnell Rd.

JUNE 3

Traffic stop: North Highland Street/Boyd Street; Cyclone Drive/Industrial Park Drive.
Business check: 350 W. Evans St.
Radar enforcement: 441 N. Highland St.; 209 Industrial Drive.
Public works, utilities: 102 S. Highland.
Report follow-up: 235 E. Evans St.; 205 Westwood Rd.
Abandoned vehicle: 601 Court St.
Report callback: 130 W. Evans St.
Unlock vehicle: 502 Henry St.
Animal complaint: Page Street/Valley Road.
911 open line: 112 O'Donnell Rd.
Juvenile: 910 North St.
Suspicious activity: North Street/West Street.

JUNE 4

Business check: 601 O'Donnell Rd.
Suspicious Person: 205 W. Welsh St.
Parking complaint: 706 W. Penn St.
Administrative: 210 W.

State St.
Records request: 210 W. State St.
Fraud, scam complaint: 123 Bailey Park Rd.
Community policing: 810 W. Walnut St.
Property found: 130 W. Evans St.
Traffic stop: Park Avenue/East State St.; Interstate 80, mile marker 220.
Noise: 605 Washington St.

JUNE 5

Business check: 130 W. Evans St.
Extra patrol: 939 S. Highland St.
Traffic stop: Washington Street/Jackson Street.
Parking complaint: 204 E. Welsh St.
Administrative: 210 W. State St.
Suicide threats: 300 W. State St.
Suspicious vehicle: 150 O'Donnell Rd.

JUNE 6

Business check: 210 W. State St.;
Medical: 405 W. Welsh St.; 205 Westwood Rd.
Walk-in: 210 W. State St.
Assist citizen: 210 W. State St.
Traffic stop: Interstate 80, mile marker 220.
Civil: 403 Hampton Dr.

JUNE 7

Business check: 812 Long St.
Traffic stop: 817 S. Highland St.; 200 W. State St.; North Highland Street/Hawkeye Drive.
Fraud, financial: 203 Tracy Lane
Vehicle unlock: 303 Westwood Rd.
Vehicle accident: 605

Washington St.
Community policing: 350 W. Evans St.
Medical: 950 North St.
Foot patrol: 939 S. Highland St.
Alcohol: 504 North St.
Assist citizen: South Highland Street/East Maple Street.

JUNE 8

Radar enforcement: 409 N. Highland St.
Business check: 939 S. Highland St.
Vehicle unlock: 504 S. Highland St.
Property found: 304 W. State St.
Investigation: 111 Hampton Circle.
Agency assist: Interstate 80, mile marker 220.
Assist citizen: 209 Industrial Park Dr.
Traffic stop: Interstate 80, mile marker 211; South Highland Street/East State Street; 130 W. Evans St.

JUNE 9

Business check: 810 W. Walnut St.
Medical: 1042 Chamtham Dr.
Vehicle unlock: 103 W. Walnut St.
Walk-in: 2033 T Ave.
Report follow-up: 333 E Evans St.
Report callback: 210 W. State St.
Mental health liaison: 208 Court St.
Civil: 504 North St.
Disabled vehicle: Interstate 80, mile marker 223.
Wanted person: 533 Hawkeye Dr., lot 44.
Traffic stop: Interstate 80, mile marker 220; North Street/Elm Street.
Vehicle accident: Interstate 80, mile marker 227.

Letters policy

Letters to the editor must be signed with the author's name and town of residence and should include a phone number for verification purposes. The phone number will not be published.

Form letters and letters from outside our subscription area will generally not be published.

We will not publish letters that we deem libelous or letters that contain claims or assumptions that cannot be verified using reasonable effort, letters

we consider in poor taste or letters we consider offensive to the general readership.

Letters must be less than 500 words and will be edited for grammar, style and spelling.


Only one letter from a single author on the same subject will be published in a 30-day period.

Letters that endorse candidates will be considered ad content and will not be printed. Endorsements of ballot issues will be accepted as letters to the editor.

Letters will run at the discretion of the managing editor based on relevance, timeliness and available space. We do not guarantee that submitted letters will appear in print.

Send letters for The Hometown Current, the Marengo Pioneer Republican and the Williamsburg Journal Tribune to Hometown Media Managing Editor Winona Whitaker at winona@hometowncurrent.com.

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