

## The Marshall County Historical Society Celebrates 70th Anniversary This Year



The Marshall County Historical Society has been in existence since 1956 when Eleanor Bussell gathered an interested group of people to organize a historical society. They met in the basement of the Court House.

Over the years, the organization has gathered an enormous amount of historical items. In 1983, Mrs. Kathryn Ehringer, former owner of the Ehringer Furniture Store, gifted the organization with our present building at 314 5th Street in Lacon.

Our board of 12 members meet

6 times a year to continue the business of preserving the integrity of the historical items and the history of Marshall County.

Through the years the museum has been enlarged as artifacts have been donated. At the present time, there are two floors of exhibits that are constantly changing as more artifacts are received.

Our role in Marshall County includes preservation of cemetery records, family histories, schools and many other historical records.

Our volunteers work on various projects to educate the public on businesses and the pioneers of Marshall County. Various displays showcase each community of the County as well as other items of interest.

We will be planning a celebration later this year.

Memberships are always needed for the support of the organization and volunteers are greatly needed to help with projects and to continue being open two days a week.

Come by and see the full window of memorabilia and items displayed.

The Museum is open Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon.

## 2026's Best & Worst States For Children's Health Care

Keeping children healthy is both essential and costly. Fortunately, about 94% of children ages 0 to 18 have health insurance coverage to protect them when they become ill. However, high coverage rates have not necessarily reduced health care expenses for families. On average, workers contribute \$6,850 per year toward employer-sponsored family health coverage. While some families receive assistance through Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), many who do not qualify for government support continue to face financial strain especially amid significant inflation.

Cost, however, is not the only factor influencing children's health care. The quality of the health care system and environmental conditions such as access to nutritious food and fluoridated water also play significant roles.

Because conditions vary widely by location, WalletHub analyzed the 50 states and the District of

Columbia using 33 key indicators related to the cost, quality, and access to children's health care. The data set includes measures ranging from the percentage of children ages 0 to 17 in excellent or very good health to the number of pediatricians and family doctors per capita.

*"The quality of children's health care should be one of the most important considerations for parents when deciding where to live. Having access to quality pediatric and dental care, nutritious food and good spaces for recreation from a young age can give children a much better chance of growing up healthy and forming good habits that will last into their adult life."*

Chip Lupo, WalletHub Analyst

### Best States For Children's Health Care

State	Score
1. Massachusetts.....	67.34
2. Rhode Island.....	61.77
3. Connecticut.....	60.91
4. Vermont.....	60.90
5. Hawaii.....	60.74
6. New Jersey.....	60.32
7. Pennsylvania.....	58.17
8. New York.....	57.41
9. Iowa.....	57.01
10. California.....	56.25
11. New Hampshire.....	55.89
12. Minnesota.....	55.57
13. District of Columbia.....	55.48
14. Oregon.....	55.02

15. Delaware.....55.00

23. Illinois..... 51.85

### Worst States For Children's Health Care

37. Nevada.....	46.51
38. Alabama.....	45.26
39. South Carolina.....	45.13
40. Louisiana.....	45.11
41. Missouri.....	45.07
42. Arkansas.....	45.02
43. Oklahoma.....	44.72
44. Texas.....	44.63
45. Georgia.....	44.59
46. Wyoming.....	44.09
47. Kentucky.....	43.98
48. Montana.....	42.91
49. Alaska.....	42.20
50. Arizona.....	41.36
51. Mississippi.....	37.69

### Best vs. Worst

◆ Massachusetts has the lowest share of uninsured children aged 0 to 18, which is 7.5 times lower than in Texas, the highest.

◆ Hawaii has the lowest share of children aged 0 to 17 with unaffordable medical bills, which is 2.6 times lower than in Wyoming, the highest.

◆ The District of Columbia has the most pediatricians per 100,000 residents, which is 29 times more than in Louisiana, the fewest.

◆ Colorado has the lowest share of obese children aged 10 to 17, which is 2.4 times lower than in Mississippi, the highest.

## Toluca Coal Mine Association To Host Annual Stepping Stones For Mother's Day Event May 2

The Toluca Coal Mine Association will once again host its popular Stepping Stones for Mother's Day event, inviting community members of all ages to take part in this creative, hands-on tradition.

The event is scheduled for Saturday, May 2, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. and will be held at 712 E. Bennington Street in the Dahlbach Garage. The activity is open to everyone, with no age restrictions.

Over the years, participants have ranged from as young as 9 weeks old to 92 years young, proving that creativity truly has no age limit. The event has become a cherished annual tradition for the Association, offering families and individuals a chance to create lasting keepsakes just in time for Mother's Day.

There is no charge to participate; donations are accepted to

help continue the program and keep it accessible for all.

A wide variety of artistic supplies will be available, but participants are encouraged to bring personal items to make their stepping stones unique. Suggested additions include broken jewelry, colored beads, decorative stones, matchbox cars, small plastic animals, Barbie accessories, shells, keys, and other meaningful objects.

In addition to creating personal stepping stones, participants are invited to contribute to the Jumbo by making a stone for placement along the Pollinator Garden path, which continues to grow into a colorful and artistic walkway.

Community members are encouraged to mark their calendars and join in a fun and meaningful event that will be enjoyed for years to come.

## Eastern Marshall County Emergency Services Activity Report

March 2026

### Toluca-Rutland Fire Protection District Callout Summary

Gas Leak Investigation.....	1
Brush/Grass Fires.....	7
Fire Alarm Investigations.....	1
EMS/1st Responder.....	7
Vehicle Accidents.....	8
Weather Watch.....	1
Down Power Lines.....	3
Structure Fires.....	2
<b>Total Calls.....</b>	<b>30 (54 YTD)</b>

### Wenona Fire Protection District Callout Summary

Vehicle Accidents.....	2
Rubbish/Brush Fires.....	5
Structure Fire.....	2
EMS Assist.....	1
Diesel Fuel Spill.....	1
Weather Watch.....	1
Callout Cancelled.....	5

### EMC-EMS Callout Summary

Total Calls.....	57 (136 YTD)
Toluca-Rutland Fire District.....	44 (103 YTD)
Wenona Fire District 12.....	36 YTD)

## Marshall County Court News

### LAND TRANSFERS

Grantor: Brian D. EGGLESTON, Timothy J. Hicks. Grantee: Donald Kelley II. Subdivision: Lake Wildwood Development, Lot 1647, Lot 1648, Warranty Deed.

Grantor: Casey M. Ragains. Grantee: James M. Stombaugh. Broadus Reuben Add, Block 46, Lot 6. Block 46, Lot 7. Quit Claim Deed.

Grantor: Jacob Schrock, Ryanne J. Schrock. Grantee: Kai Armentrout, Kaitlyn Armentrout. Grand View Bay Subdivision Lot 66. Lot 67. Warranty Deed.

Grantor: Colleen M. Domke,

Donald F. Domke. Grantee: David P. Draksler, Peggy Ann Draksler. Lake Wildwood Development Lot 1081. Warranty Deed.

Grantor: Gary W. Olson, Patrice M. Olson. Grantee: Eric Ryan Vaughn. Lake Wildwood Development Lot 451. Quit Claim Deed.

Grantor: Cheri Zielinski Co. Tr., Timothy M. Zielinski Co. Tr. Grantee: Linda M. Olson Tr. Lake Wildwood Development Lot 668. Warranty Deed.

Grantor: Angelo Lucente, Michelle Lucente. Grantee: April Passini, Michael Passini. Lake Wildwood Development Lot 586, Lot

587. Warranty Deed.

Grantor: Paula Bailey, Lindsay Ramza, Christopher Salisbury. Grantee: Angelo Lucente, Michelle Lucente. Lake Wildwood Development Lot 517, 518. Warranty Deed.

Grantor: Donna L. Smith Co. Tr., James D. Streitmatter Co. Tr. Grantee: Elizabeth A. Vonk, Joshua P. Vonk. Section 5, Township 13N, Range 8E, Govt Lot --SE, Notes Pt, 120A, Trust Deed.

Grantor: Donna L. Smith Co. Tr., James D. Streitmatter Co. Tr. Grantee: Jacob A. Streitmatter, Mary C. Streitmatter. Section 5, (Continued On Page 4)

## Rediscover Your Love Of The Outdoors With Master Naturalist Training



Do you love spending time outside? Do you enjoy sharing your curiosity about the natural world with others? If so, the University of Illinois Extension Master Naturalist program may be the perfect fit for you.

The Master Naturalist program connects adult learners with University of Illinois scientists and local environmental partners to build knowledge, strengthen conservation skills, and support hands-on stewardship. Volunteers gain a deeper understanding of local ecosystems while helping others connect with and care for the natural spaces that make our region unique.

### Summer 2026 Training Opportunity

University of Illinois Extension

serving Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall, and Putnam counties is pleased to offer a hybrid Master Naturalist volunteer training session beginning in Summer 2026. This eightweek program runs from June 2, 2026, to July 31, 2026, and includes:

• Online, asynchronous coursework covering topics such as geology, archaeology, wetlands, ornithology, botany, and entomology.

• Inperson field trips to some of the area's most inspiring natural sites, including the Sue & Wes Dixon Waterfowl Refuge, Starved Rock State Park, and Nachusa Grasslands.

### Become a Certified Volunteer

After completing training, Master Naturalists participate in (Continued On Page 4)

# MONA'S POLENTA IS BACK!!

# WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

4:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**Mona's**  
Italian Restaurant  
Toluca, IL - Phone (815) 452-2303

Also Serving From Our Full Menu