



Highland Happenings Spring 2026

www.thehighlandcenter.org

540-468-1922

61 Highland Center Drive, Monterey, VA 24465

Maple Festival 2026

The 2026 Highland County Maple Festival returns this week, and The Highland Center will be buzzing with activity.

We're proud to partner with the Highland County Chamber of Commerce as a sponsor of the Highland County Maple Festival and to serve as a central hub throughout the celebration. In a Maple Festival first, The Highland Center is not only hosting but also organizing and running the Local Artisan Market, featuring Highland County artisans. Special thanks to Lauren Hindman and Ash Minnigh for their assistance.

During festival weekends, visitors can browse local arts and crafts vendors and live performances upstairs, then head to the lower level for fresh maple donuts, indoor seating, restrooms, and a warm place to relax and recharge during a busy festival day.

Whether you're volunteering, performing, or simply stopping by, we hope you'll come in, stay awhile, and say hello.



FESTIVAL ENTERTAINMENT

MARCH 14

2pm: Southern Rail Express
(bluegrass)

MARCH 15

2pm: Little Switzerland Cloggers

MARCH 21

2pm: Square Dance with callers and live music

MARCH 22

2pm: Mill Creek Cronies
(Appalachian folk)

Comedy Night - May 1



The Highland Center welcomes The Funny Womacks & Friends on May 1 for a first-ever live stand-up comedy show in Highland County! FWAF offers clean, PG-13 entertainment perfect for teens and families (ages 13+). Younger children are welcome but may not understand the humor.

Touring comedians Dawn & Chris Womack have a mission to create shared experiences that foster connection and joy through laughter. Known for blending big laughs with small-town charm, performances highlight talented regional comedians and create memorable nights of entertainment.

Tickets can be purchased online at The Highland Center's website. Advanced ticket prices will be \$20 Adult/ \$10 teen and \$25/\$15 at the door.

Highland Center Receives Operation Roundup Grant



The Highland Center recently received an Operation Round Up grant from Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative (SVEC) to cover the purchase of a new stove for the shared kitchen—an important upgrade that will benefit many!

The Highland Center extends its sincere thanks to SVEC and the Operation Round Up program for investing in local community spaces.

Charles Pinckney Jones & Marth Jane Wilson Memorial Gift

The Highland Center also extends gratitude for a gift made in memory of the children and grandchildren of Charles Pinckney Jones and Martha Jane Wilson.

Charles Pinckney Jones, a respected Highland County lawyer and public servant, represented the region in both the Virginia House of Delegates and Senate and remained active in civic life, including service on the University of Virginia's Board of Visitors. Charles and Martha raised a large family in Monterey, and their descendants carry on the family's long-standing legacy of civic leadership and community engagement in Highland County.

New Online Options!

Did you know - we have two convenient, new options now available on our website?!

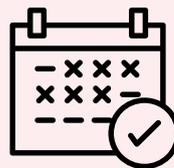
Stock Donation



You can now support The Highland Center by donating stock directly through our

website. Stock gifts are an easy and impactful way to contribute, helping us maintain our historic building, support local programs, and foster community connections throughout Highland County.

Reservation Requests



The Highland Center now offers a convenient online reservation request form for

our event and meeting spaces. Whether you're planning a gathering, workshop, or celebration, it's never been easier to check availability and submit your request.

Tuesday Talks Return in April

*Touched by the
Infinite Mystery*

TUESDAY TALKS

April 14 - Rock Ward

May 12 - Donna
Bedwell's Folk School
Experiences

Tuesday Talks are set to resume on April 14 with a very special talk from Rockwell (Rock) Ward. He will share themes from his new book, *Touched by the Infinite Mystery*, a reflective collection of essays that invites readers into encounters with nature, the night sky, caves, and moments where wonder and everyday life intersect. Rock's work draws on his experiences in natural landscapes, astronomy, and contemplative observation, offering stories that encourage curiosity, deep listening, and a sense of connection to the world around us.

This free talk will include selected readings, reflections, and an opportunity for discussion.

2026 Farmers' Market Plans

Exciting developments are underway for the Highland Farmers' Market, the longest-running program at The Highland Center.

This season, Ash Minnigh will serve as the Farmers' Market Management Intern, helping coordinate market operations and vendor support, while Anne Vasquez joins as a volunteer assisting with SNAP benefits and market tokens.

The market will continue its tradition of showcasing fresh produce, local baked goods, crafts, and live music. A pre-season plant and seedling sale is planned for Friday, May 22, followed by the official opening of the Farmers' Market season on Friday, June 5.

Vendors and performers interested in participating are encouraged to reach out to learn more about how to get involved.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Pre-Season Plant Sale
Friday, May 22

Farmers' Market Open
Friday, June 5
3:30-6pm



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The Highland Center

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