



→ Lower Richland ~ Clean & Green

South East Rural Community Outreach

P.O. Box 332 ~ Hopkins, SC 29061 ~ www.serco-sc.org ~ 803/788-7185 ~ Non Profit

"Preserving History and Enriching Communities of the Lower Richland Heritage Corridor"

Non-Profit

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Winter Issue
2010

~ Upcoming Events ~

January

- 16th Dr. M.L. King, Jr. Birthday Celebration
22nd Lecture Series at the Harriet Barber House: Dr. Larry Watson

February

- 10th Authors Marie Barber Adams and Deborah Scott Brooks at Garners Ferry Library - Black History Month Program
19th Strong Threads IV - Annual Black Arts & Culture Celebration

March

- 15th Lecture Series at the Harriet Barber House: Rev. John Middleton
19th Lecture Series at the Harriet Barber House: Rev. Neal Jones
29-30th Lake Carolina Elementary, 3rd Grade Harriet Barber House

April

- 30th Lower Richland Sweet Potato Festival

May

- 6-7th Annual Eastover Parade and Festival
30th Annual Memorial Day Observance and Heritage Celebration



Congressman Jim Clyburn Attends Congaree SwampFest

Left/Right:

Dorothy Adams, Mary Kirkland, Marie Adams, US Congressman Jim Clyburn, Deborah Scott Brooks, Jean Grant, Carrie White and Bernice Scott

(See More – Pages 2 & 3)

Coming Saturday, February 19th . . .



Join us for the 4th annual premier celebration of history & culture.
This year themed:

FIRST TEACHERS: FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES

This is a FREE EVENT

Saturday, February 19, 2011

from 11:00am - 4:00pm

116 Barberville Loop

Lower Richland Boulevard

Hopkins, SC 29061



Join us for an inspiring lecture series.

**DANCING - SINGING - STORYTELLING - FOOD
INTERACTIVE MUSEUM - MUSIC - ART**



Featured Speaker

ROSE ROCK

Author of "Mama Rock's Rules
& Mother of Comedian Chris Rock

Click here to check out our video!

Questions Contact - 803-661-9612
Veronica Primus @ veronicaprimus@gmail.com or
Marie Adams @ marieadams@att.net

**ARTISTS VILLAGE - CRAFT VENDORS - YOUTH ACTIVITIES
KIDDIE PARK**

The Harriet Barber House, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is one of a few properties from the SC Land Commission purchased by a freed slave and continuously owned by the family since 1872.

~ In This Issue ~

1st Annual Kingville Reunion
8th Annual SwampFest
Campfire Chronicles
District 10 - New Water Lines
Get Out The Vote (GOTV)
Harvest Market Kick-Off
Historic Markers Unveiling
Hopkins High Alumni
Lower Richland Authors
Odyssey Golf
Schools at Harriet Barber House
-Batesburg-Leesville Elementary
-Burton Pack Elementary
-Fairfield Elementary
Taste & Tour
Veterans Parade
Writing Camp

We Welcome News: Please send news and announcements to SERCO by U.S. mail ~ to the attention of D.S. Brooks, PO Box 332, Hopkins, SC 29061 or e-mail: sercoevents@gmail.com. SERCO reserves publishing rights. (Chief photographer, Ken B. James)





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8th Annual Congaree SwampFest

The eight annual Congaree SwampFest was held on Friday and Saturday, October 1-2, 2010. Part I - was held on Friday with an "Evening of BBQ, Blues & Jazz" at the historic Harriet Barber House. The concert featured Mr. Drink Small, Second Nature of Camden, SC, Ms. Panessia Ruff, and Terrence Young & The Finesse Band.

Part II - continued on Saturday with a celebration at the Congaree National Park and the festival site on the yard of Old Mount Moriah. A diverse array of entertainers performed. Activities ran throughout the day, offering free admission and opportunities for visitors to experience the rich culture of the Lower Richland Heritage Corridor.





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Part II - 8th Annual Congaree SwampFest



Left/Right::
Park Superintendent Tracy Swartout,
Congressman Jim Clyburn,
Dr. Jim Williams of Tennessee



Ceremonial Unveiling of SC Historical Markers for Lower Richland



Councilman Kelvin Washington
District 10



Ceremonial Historical Markers Await Unveiling



Mayor Lee Faber
Eastover Marker



Attorney Ted Hopkins
Hopkins Marker



George Wilson
Kingville Marker



Rev. J. P. Neal, Jr.
Minervaville Marker



Mary Sherrer - Former Director
Scarborough-Hamer Foundation
(Kensington Mansion)



Dick Watkins (Cowasee Basin)
Elizabeth Almlie (USC Student)
John Greco (Friends of Congaree)



"Unveilers"
Hopkins, Neal & Wilson



Mary Kirkland & Carrie White
Harriet Barber House Marker



Supt. Tracy Swartout
Congaree National Park

The public joined Richland County Councilman Kelvin Washington, District 10 and South East Rural Community Outreach (SERCO) for a ceremonial unveiling of new historical markers for Eastover, Hopkins, Kingville, Minervaville and the Harriet Barber House on Saturday, September 11, 2010. The ceremony took place at the Harriet Barber House in Lower Richland, Hopkins, SC.

Persons associated with a specific marker did the unveiling honors; they were Mayor Lee Faber for Eastover; Attorney Ted Hopkins for Hopkins; George Wilson for Kingville; Rev. J.P. Neal, Jr., for Minervaville, and twins Mary Barber Kirkland and Carrie Barber White for the Harriet Barber House. Mary Sherrer, former SERCO board member and past director of Scarborough-Hamer Foundation (Kensington Mansion), presented the Occasion and Tracy Swartout, Superintendent, Congaree National Park, led the observance of Patriot's Day.

South Carolina Historical Markers denote and interpret places important to an understanding of South Carolina's past and are placed in the right-of-way of state highways or public roads. SERCO realized the success of this project after over two years of working with the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, responsible for the approval of the inscriptions for all historical markers or other monuments erected.

Funding for the erection of the markers was provided by a grant from the Richland County Hospitality Tax program. With the erection of these five markers, SERCO hopes to continue to have additional sites in Lower Richland recognized for heritage and historical significance.

SwampFest Art Contest Winners

Ranger Kathleen O'Grady, Contest Coordinator, Congaree National Park

Kindergarten

Student : Hannah Miles

Round Top Elementary

Teacher: Mrs. Novak

First Grade

Student: Grantley Hardin

Pocalla Springs Elementary

Teacher: Paul Wilkinson

Second Grade

Student: Reagan Brown

Pocalla Spings Elementary

Teacher: Paul Wilkinson

Third Grade

Student: Riley Hatchison

Lake Carolina Elementary

Teacher: Ms. Schoultz

Fourth Grade

Student: Dalton Reynolds

Pleasant Hill Elementary

Teacher: June Collins

Fifth Grade

Student: J'Lynn Hilton

Pocalla Springs Elementary

Teacher: Paul Wilkinson

Sixth Grade

Student: Grayson Byrd

Heathwood Hall

Teacher: Clare Scurry

Seventh Grade

Student: Brandon Barrigan

Sand Hills Middle School

Teacher: Ms. Adams

Eighth Grade

Student: Madison Moore

Hillcrest Middle School

Teacher: Ms. Hughes

Campfire Chronicles

Justin Woldt, Program Coordinator, Congaree National Park

The 2nd Annual Congaree Campfire Chronicles was held at the Congaree National Park on November 12 – 13, 2010. This living history event consisted of costumed interpreters portraying life in the Congaree floodplain from the 1500s through present day.

Visitors were able to take advantage of free guided tours with a park ranger to "walk through time" and hear the stories of South Carolina's past. Also, speakers and other activities were offered throughout the day on Saturday.

South Carolina's only national park is less than 20 miles from Columbia and is a natural treasure rich in cultural history. The Congaree tribe foraged in this floodplain forest. Escaped slaves sought refuge among the dense stands of bald cypress and water tupelo. Francis Marion's militia passed through these woods as they traveled to Fort Motte.

Lower Richland Writing Academy Graduation

Graduation was observed on December 11, 2010 for students enrolled in the Lower Richland Writing Academy. The students shared samples of their writings with parents and guests during the closing luncheon. Students targeted in grades three through five attend Hopkins, Gadsden and Webber Elementary schools. The classes, held at the historic Harriet Barber House, began in the summer and met once each month through December. The students engaged in rigorous and engaging writing activities and were exposed to the genres of writing rubric, the SC writing rubric, and the process of writing similar to what they will use during the school year. Teachers Kimberly Howard and Lashaunda Young provided the instruction.



(Photo provided by Mary Barber Kirkland)



Historic Village of Hopkins

The historic commercial hub for the Village of Hopkins, a Lower Richland township, is now marked by signage. Through a grant from the Richland County Hospitality Tax grant, the Council of Village Elders, Inc., (COVE), sponsored the "welcome sign," which is located at the intersection of Hopkins Road and Lower Richland Boulevard.

Schools Visit Historic Harriet Barber House

Batesburg-Leesville Elementary

Over ninety fifth grade students from the Batesburg-Leesville Elementary School visited the Harriet Barber House on October 28 & 29, 2010.



Burton-Pack Elementary

Students enrolled in the Burton-Pack Elementary After School Program (3rd – 5th Grade) visited the Harriet Barber House on October 26 & 27, 2010.



Fairfield Elementary

Approximately 70 fifth grade students and their teachers came from Fairfield Elementary School in Winnsboro, SC to the Harriet Barber House on November 18, 2010

Annual Community Veterans Day Observance



The Lower Richland Veterans Formation, Chapter #2, celebrated their Annual Community Veterans Day observance on Saturday, November 6, 2010 in Hopkins. The celebration began with a parade featuring several floats; the Fort Jackson, SC Color Guard; military vehicles from the Air National Guard of Eastover, SC; the Lower Richland High School Band and JROTC, and veterans from the surrounding Lower Richland area. At 1:15 PM, the Air National Guard Air Force saluted the veterans with a four (4) plane fly-over. Sheriff Leon Lott was the speaker at the closing ceremony which was held at Hopkins Park.

(Photos provided by Cynthia Barnes)

Fall Kick - Off Lower Rich-land Heritage Corridor Farmers Market



Fall kick-off activities for the Lower Rich-land Heritage Corridor Farmers Market took place on Saturday, October 16, 2010, in the Historic Village of Hopkins. Tourists from as far away as Florida, Georgia, several towns in South Carolina and local residents had the opportunity to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmers. Visitors enjoyed free sample food items, purchased lunch from food vendors, browsed historic displays, and won prizes in hourly drawings. The event also incorporated a brief drive-by tour of nearby historic places in the area. The purposes of the market are to attract tourists to the Lower Richland Heritage Corridor and to make fresh fruits and vegetables available to the area. The event was sponsored by Council of Village Elders (COVE); supported by SERCO, and made possible by the Richland County Hospitality Tax Grant program.

4th Annual Lower Richland Heritage Corridor Holiday Taste & Tour

For the 4th year, SERCO presented the Annual Holiday Taste & Tour of Lower Richland historical sites on Saturday, December 4, 2010. Departing from the historical Harriet Barber House in Hopkins and guided by Rev. John Middleton, local historian, guests traveled by bus to the "Christmas at Kensington Mansion" celebration; Antioch AME Zion Church (organized 1838); Neal Ecological & Heritage Preserve, and the Historic Village of Hopkins. In addition to a performance by a string quartet at the Kensington Mansion, tourists were treated to light refreshments at each site. The last stop offered a chance to shop at the Farmers Market and visit the Heritage Hall in the Historical Village of Hopkins.



Departure - The Harriet Barber House



1st Stop - Kensington Mansion



2nd Stop - Antioch AME Zion Church



3rd Stop - Neal Ecological & Heritage Preserve



Holiday Taste & Tour



4th Stop – Historic Village of Hopkins



USC Professor Dr. Bobby Donaldson & Richland County Conservation Commission Members Visit Goodwyn Cemetery



Conservation Commission Members
Nancy Stone-Collum & Glenice Pearson



Goodwyn Cemetery



USC Associate Professor of History,
Dr. Bobby Donaldson & Student
Assistant Dustin Riddle

SERCO hosted a tour of the historic Goodwyn Cemetery for Richland County Conservation Commission members Nancy Stone-Collum and Glenice Pearson, USC Associate Professor of History Dr. Bobby Donaldson and his Student Assistant, Dustin Riddle. Dr. Donaldson commented that "there is tremendous history and countless stories to be uncovered beneath the shadows of those towering pines." The work to document and restore the historic cemetery, located in Hopkins, is being completed by SERCO through a grant made possible by the county's Conservation Commission.

(Photos by Dorothy Adams)



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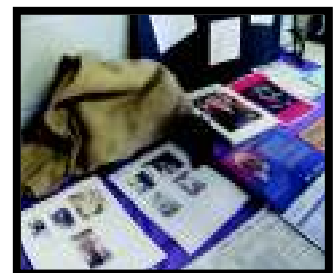
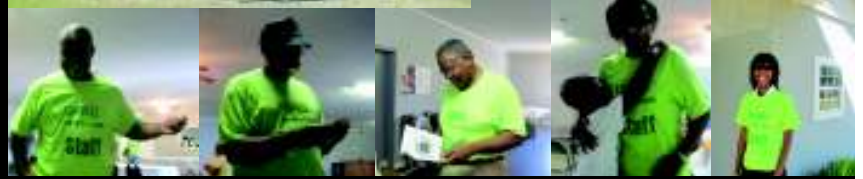
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1st Annual Kingville Reunion Saturday, October 9, 2010 Wilson Lake House



Richland County Councilman Kelvin Washington, District 10 - Hosts Waterline Groundbreaking Ceremony



Richland County Councilman Kelvin E. Washington hosted a Groundbreaking in Hopkins on October 14, 2010 to celebrate the construction of a new waterline in the Hopkins community which will bring clean, safe drinking water to more than four hundred residents. Officials present were: State Senator Darrell Jackson, State Representatives Jimmy C. Bales and Joe Neal, former County Councilmember Bernice Scott and Hopkins Middle School Principal Mr. Goler Collins. In addition to Richland County Council, the partners which made this possible include the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, USDA Rural Development, and Richland School District One.



A non-partisan Get-Out-the-Vote Rally was held at the Harriet Barber House on October 25, 2010. The event was opened to the public and held to encourage all eligible voters to exercise their choices in the then upcoming November election. The rally was sponsored by the "Wrecking Crew and Richland Community," and paid for by Friends of Jim Clyburn.

Book Signing at Kensington Mansion



Rhudy's Soul Food Recipes

Rhudine W. Robinson, Author

Eastover native and author, Rhudine W. Robinson, signed copies of her book, *Rhudy's Soul Food Recipes*, as a part of Kensington Mansion's Victorian Christmas Event, December 5, 2010. The book is dedicated to the memory of her mother, Rosa Y. Washington. Mrs. Robinson is a retired school teacher and worked at Webber Elementary school for 28 years. She may be contacted by e-mail at rhudysrecipes@bellsouth.net or at (803)353-2971.

Book Signings at Barnes & Noble Book Store



Dr. Warner M. Montgomery (The Columbia Star Newspaper), author of *Forest Acres*, and Marie Barber Adams and Deborah Scott Brooks, authors of *African Americans of Lower Richland County*, signed copies of their newly released books on **Saturday October 16, 2010**, at Midtown at Forest Acres, Richland Fashion Mall., Columbia. Dr. Montgomery of *The Columbia Star* newspaper was recently honored by SERCO for support of the organization.



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Hopkins Alumni Foundation 15th Annual Scholarship Awards Banquet



Class of 1970



8 of 21 Scholarship Recipients - 2010



Class of 1960

On Saturday, September 11, 2010, the Hopkins High School Alumni Foundation held its annual banquet and awarded 21 young students a total of \$17,000 in scholarships. The gala event was held at what is now the Hopkins Middle School. Foundation president Kenneth L. Corbin (Class of 1966) introduced the evening's speaker, Rev. Harry J. Riley of Riverdale, Georgia (Class of 1960). Foundation members Henry Bates (Class of 1960) and Ethel Moore Greene (Class of 1964) received awards for their continuing service and dedication. Members of the classes of 1960 and 1970 were recognized and received the traditional eagle pins. Music was provided by the alumni chorale under the direction of Dr. Julie Hartwell and Dr. Marquita Daniels, daughters of the late Lucille Daniels Hartwell who served as the school's musical director for a number of years. Professional caterer Herbert Sims (Class of 1971) prepared an elegant meal.

The high school was merged into Lower Richland High School in 1971. To keep the legacy of the school alive, a group of Hopkins High School graduates reunited to organize the Hopkins High School Alumni Foundation in September 1994. They established a goal to provide scholarships for high school graduates who are descendants of students, faculty and staff who attended the school. The foundation has awarded 94 scholarships from 1995 through now and the post high-school graduation rate is 100%.

Education for African American students in the Hopkins township had its beginnings, said first to be in a barn, and in the early 1900s on land donated by Mr. Ephraim Neal. This was a one room, one teacher school, led by Mr. Sam Gregory. Rev. Jesse W. Neal followed as the next principal/teacher. After Neal's death, Rev. John B. Barber served as principal/teacher until 1940. Under Barber, the number of teachers increased to four. In September 1916, there was a consolidation into the Hopkins school of small community schools throughout Lower Richland. The land on which this school was built is now occupied by Jerusalem Baptist Church. After Rev. Barber's retirement, his son Ulysses Barber became the next principal/teacher. U. R. Barber, later named a Richland One Hall of Fame honoree, became the first principal of a fully accredited Negro school in the Lower Richland area. Former state representative Joe E. Brown served as principal from 1959 to 1971 during the transformation into a junior high then later a middle school.



Odyssey Golf Youth Tournament

Tournament Winners

The Odyssey Golf Foundation held its Youth Tournament on October 30th at the Sedgewood Golf Course off Garners Ferry Road in Hopkins. Pictured are team winners in two age categories.

(Photos provided by Sampson Brown)

