

SERCO

Lower Richland  
Clean & Green

# South East Rural Community Outreach

P.O. Box 332 ~ Hopkins, SC 29061 ~ [www.serco-sc.org](http://www.serco-sc.org) ~ 803/788-7185 ~ Non Profit

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

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## ~ Special Appreciation ~

SERCO extends a special "Thanks" to our members, advocates, supporters and patrons:

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## STRONG THREADS

DANCING - SINGING - STORYTELLING - FOOD - MUSIC - ART  
POETRY - VENDORS - YOUTH GAMES - STEPPIN'

**This is a FREE EVENT**

Join us for the 5th annual premier celebration of history & culture

**Saturday, February 18, 2012**

11:00am - 3:00pm

116 Barberville Loop, Lower Richland Boulevard, Hopkins, SC 29061  
@ the historic Harriet Barber House

From Garners Ferry Road in Columbia, make a right on Lower Richland Blvd

**LEGACIES ARE INTENTIONAL, BUILT AND THEN GIFTED.**

Join us for the official presentation of the  
**STRONG THREADS FAMILY OF THE YEAR AWARD!**

### Featured Performers



**Sulaiman (Kutay) Turay**  
Master Drummer, dancer,  
storyteller and Cultural Arts  
Instructor from Sierra Leone

**Lil' People Theater**  
of Greenville, SC



**ABATSU Drummers & Dancers**

**Black Inventors' Museum**

**Abram Staten & All 4 Christ**

**Dannetta Lynn (singer)**

**MO'MUSIC**

**Vii's African-American Tea Ceremony**

**Historic Harriet Barber House Museum**

**Lower Richland Diamond Dawgs**

**The 21st Century Burton-Pack Steppers**

**New this  
year!!!**

**An African wedding ceremony  
with dancing and traditional dress**

**WWW.STRONGTHREADS.COM**

For questions and vendor registrations, visit us online or contact - [strongthreads@gmail.com](mailto:strongthreads@gmail.com)



LOWER RICHLAND HERITAGE CORRIDOR  
**SERCO**  
Educate • Preserve • Enhance



Sponsored in partnership with:  
The Local Hospitality Tax Revenue Fund of the Richland County Council; The South East Rural Community Outreach (SERCO); The Network for Serious Teens and Adults Acting Responsibly, Inc. (STAAR); The Harriet Barber House

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9th Annual

## Congaree SwampFest

Part I – BBQ, Blues & Jazz Sept. 30



Carlos Santan



Katrina Garvin



2nd Nature



H2Flo



RC Dist. 10  
Councilman  
Kelvin Washington  
Salutes SERCO

9th Annual

## Congaree SwampFest

Part II – A Fall Celebration of People & Nature Oct. 1

Two Sites: Old Mt. Moriah Grounds &  
Congaree National Park



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## "Return to Kingville" - 2nd Annual Kingville Reunion

The 2nd Annual "Return to Kingville" community reunion was held on Saturday, October 29, 2011. Residents of the historic and once thriving railroad town, established in the late 1700's, were joined by local and nationally residing family and friends. (The event was sponsored by SERCO through a grant funded by Richland County Hospitality Tax. Extractions of info & photos from: "Return to Kingville," By MINDY LUCAS - [mlucas@thestate.com](mailto:mlucas@thestate.com): <http://www.thestate.com/2011/10/10/30/2028105/return-to-kingville.html>)



Eighty-three-year-old Ada Hopkins was just a girl when the steam engines of the Southern Railway line would go rumbling down the track to Kingville. "I can still hear those trains," said the former school teacher at the Kingville Reunion held near Gadsden. "They were so loud... made all kind of noise."



George Wilson of Gadsden is the chair for the Kingville Historical Foundation and would like to see Kingville brought back as a town.



Cole Wilson, of Gadsden, talks with Emma Jones, of Orlando, FL. Wilson recounted life during the Great Depression and both World Wars while Jones remembered growing up in a section of Kingville along the railroad tracks called "The Quarters."



The Kingville historical marker on Kingville Road off Bluff Road in Gadsden, is one of the only signs of what was once a vibrant town. Erected by SERCO through a Richland County Hospitality Tax Grant.



Jordan Alford, 7, of Gadsden, learns about natural history from Terri Hogan, chief of resource management for the Congaree National Park.



Wanda Green of Columbia was working hard making fresh squeezed lemonade for the Kingville Reunion.



"Jaime Da Clown" was a favorite with children at the Kingville Reunion, including Makayla Dove, 7, and London Dove, 2, of Gadsden.



Sharlene Drummond of Gadsden paints a monkey on the face of Wilson Shiver, 5, of Gadsden, at the Kingville Reunion.



Beatrice Sumter of Hopkins writes out the menu for just one of the food booths at the Kingville Reunion.

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## Lower Richland Veterans Day Celebration & Parade

The 9th Annual Lower Richland Veterans Day Celebration and Parade was held Saturday November 5, 2011. It was started by the Lower Richland Veterans Formation under the leadership of Rev. Sammy L. Wade.



Veterans Tina Knight (l.) and Lori Gregory (r.) carry parade banner. Marching behind is Shaw Air Force Base Color Guard.



Fort Jackson Army Band



Lower Richland High School Marching Band



Guest Speaker for the Veterans Day Program, Ms. Angela Geiger, delivers a powerful message.



L/R: County Auditor Paul Brawley, County Councilman Norman Jackson, District 11, and William Posey & family. Posey is LR Veterans Formation's oldest member.



Hopkins Magistrate V.R. Stroman and staff



Front L/R: Judge Amy McCullough and former State Representative Joe E. Brown. Rear: County Council Chair Kelvin Washington, District 10 (center), is flanked by two local veterans.



Antique truck: Team 1 Automotive



The program honors members of the Lower Richland Veterans Formation, the SC Combat Veterans Group and all veterans and their families. Lower Richland High School Principal Kelvin Wymbs is shown among the special guests.

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## Alcorn/Allen University Saturday STEM Academy Visits Historic Harriet Barber House



"STEM" is an acronym for the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Program in which public school students are afforded an opportunity to expand their knowledge about math, environmental science, and 21st century technology. STEM Coordinator Tamikah Battle explained that science, technology, engineering and mathematics are the building blocks of the future. This unique program is designed to assist in meeting the needs of our eager learners by providing opportunities for them to participate in project-based learning opportunities and hands-on training that Allen University provides for students and teachers. The 5th and 6th grade students in the program were accompanied by program assistants Mrs. Sarah Walker and academy instructors: Mrs. Calvernetta Brown, Dr. Latrice Love, Ms. Desiree Smith and Mr. Sherman Sumter. They toured the Harriet Barber House before visiting the Congaree National Park and the Campfire Chronicles.



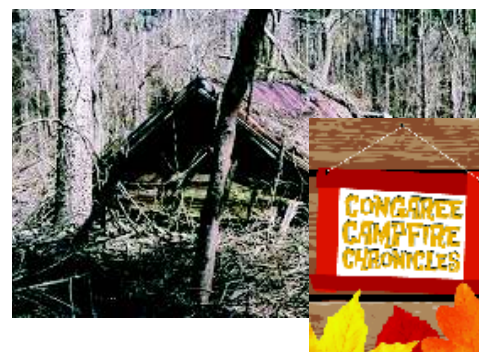
## Congaree National Park - 35th Anniversary Celebration



The 35th anniversary of **Congaree National Park** being a national park unit was celebrated on November 5, 2011. The public joined the staff of South Carolina's only national park at the **Harry Hampton Visitor Center** for cake and for a showing of ETV's documentary about the creation of the park, "Roots in the River." Youth visitors were also given the opportunity to complete the Congaree National Park Junior Ranger program during the celebration.

following . . .

The 3rd annual Congaree Campfire Chronicles was also held on Saturday, November 5, 2011 at Congaree National Park. Park rangers guided visitors on a living history walk, exploring stories of the past in the Congaree floodplain over the past 500 years. Costumed interpreters depicted the relationship between people and the land that is now the park in a series of scenes along the park's boardwalk. The 90 minute tours ended with a campfire, marshmallows, and socializing with park volunteers and staff.



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## 5th Annual Lower Richland Heritage Corridor Holiday Taste & Tour

Dec. 12, 2011



Bus Tour – Off to Historical Sites in  
Lower Richland Heritage Corridor



"The Old Hearth" - LR Heritage Museum  
Historic Village of Hopkins



Christmas Tree - Craft Winner  
Rachel Simpson (Beads & Safety Pins)



Historic  
Harriet Barber House  
Hopkins, SC



Kensington Mansion  
Eastover, SC



Red Hill Baptist Church - Organized 1868 - Gadsden, SC

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## Hopkins High School Alumni Foundation Banquet

The Hopkins High School Alumni Foundation Banquet was held September 17, 2011 at the Hopkins Middle School Cafeteria in Hopkins. The event began at 6:00 PM and the speaker for the occasion was a 1974 graduate of Lower Richland High School, Attorney Geraldine Sumter of Charlotte, NC. Her formal education in the schools of Lower Richland and her first experience with former Attorney Matthew J. Perry to challenge the school board in 1970 helped prepare her for a distinguished career in law. Attorney Sumter is currently a managing partner of Ferguson Stein Chambers Gresham & Sumter in Charlotte. She is regarded as one of the top civil rights attorneys in the nation. The Hopkins High School Alumni Foundation, organized in 1994, has a very proud history of awarding over 115 scholarships from 1995 through 2010. A small group of alumni has been working diligently for over 16 years to provide financial support for the youth in our community as they pursue their goals in college. Kenneth L. Corbin serves as president and Marie Barber Adams serves as program committee chair.



L/R: Attorney Geraldine Sumter and Hopkins High School Alumni Foundation President, Kenneth L. Corbin



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## Eastover Library Groundbreaking December 7, 2011

The expansion of the Eastover Branch of the Richland County Public Library will feature an additional 2400 square feet when completed in October of 2012. The project was made possible with a USDA grant and matching funds from Richland County totaling 1.6 million dollars. Remarkably, it will become the first LEED certified county owned municipal building.



Eastover librarian Dr. Dee Robinson (center) welcomes guests to the groundbreaking ceremony.



Pictured right to left: Melanie Huggins, RCPL Executive Director, Jesse Risher, USDA representative, Kirby Shealy, RCPL Board Chair, Lee Faber, Eastover Mayor, Kelvin Washington, Richland County Council, and John Baker, RCPL Board member.

(Photos: Marie Barber Adams)

## Cemetery Research & Preservation Planning Project

Through a grant awarded by the Richland County Conservation Commission, the Council of Village Elders, Inc. and the Chicora Foundation are conducting research and site surveillance to document a cemetery site off Cabin Branch Road, Hopkins. Archaic rectangular stones were discovered in a circular area surrounded by a trench on privately owned property which has already been set aside as an ecological preserve. The "Elders" have already erected walking trails on the preserve, and have developed a curriculum-based program for outdoor classroom studies. Previous county conservationists examined the stones and area and determined this site to be an early graveyard. A meeting at the site was recently attended by Richland County Conservation Coordinator Nancy Stone-Collum, Chicora Foundation Director Dr. Michael Trinkley (and staff), Council of Village Elders Board Members Dr. Clarence Hill and J.P. Neal, Jr.. Chicora will soon conduct a preservation assessment to evaluate the cemetery, determining what issues the cemetery faces. The Council of Village Elders and local historians/consultants will develop and carry out long-term preservation plans based on Chicora's recommendations.

