



~ Upcoming Events ~

February 20, 2016

9TH Annual STRONG THREADS

May 30, 2016

Memorial Day

Honoring Vietnam Veterans

June 18, 2016

Juneteenth (Official Holiday June 19)

~ In This Issue ~

Aug. 8: Lower Richland Heritage Corridor Tour Right Direction Church International(RDCI) Seasoned Citizens Ministry

Aug. 19: Zion Baptist Church annual picnic @ Historic Harriet Barber House

Sept. 19: Hopkins Alumni Banquet

Sept. 23: Dorn VA Hospital Diversity Event

Oct. 2: SwampFest – BBQ, Blues & Jazz

Oct. 31: 13th Annual SwampFest at the Congaree

Nov. 7: Annual Veteran's Day Parade & Celebration

Nov. 18: Congaree National Park visiting Team @ Historic Harriet Barber House

Nov. 18: Cook's Mountain/Wateree Heritage Preserve Grand Opening

Dec. 5: 9th Annual Holiday Taste & Tour

Dec. 6: Holiday Drop in at Historic Harriet Barber House

Dec. 12: Eastover Christmas Parade & Festival

We Welcome News: Please send community announcements and news items to SERCO sercoevents@gmail.com or U.S. mail ~ to the attention of D.S. Brooks, PO Box 332, Hopkins, SC 29061. SERCO reserves publishing rights. Photographer: Ken James



Holiday Drop-in at Harriet Barber House

December 6, 2015

In Appreciation to SERCO Volunteers & Supporters



Guests Rose Stevens and Bennie Tarnow admire decorations by SERCO Volunteer Rachel Simpson.



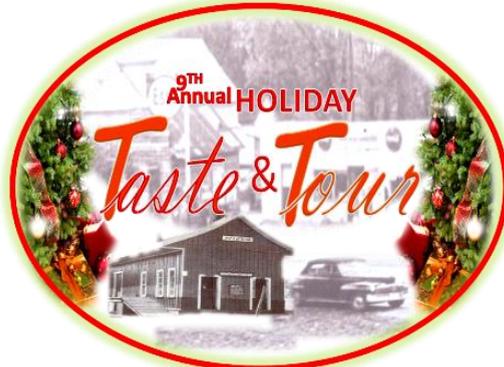
Jean Barber Grant, Hostess



Caterer: Nellie Belle Creations
Nellie Adams Randall



SERCO Volunteers and Guests
L/R: Carrie Barber White, Gladys Goforth, Doretha Walker Thompson, Eugenia Griffin, and Jennifer Shiver



Historic Village of Hopkins

The Historic Village of Hopkins - - once a bustling location originally named “Hopkins Turnout” between 1836 and 1842, when the South Carolina Railroad from Charleston completed a turntable there - - **came alive again for SERCO's 9th Annual Holiday Taste & Tour** on December 5th. Through the 1920's, the Village of Hopkins' hub at 214 Hopkins Road, Hopkins, SC was thriving with general stores, gin mills, industries, residences and a Town Hall. Annually, SERCO takes on a labor of love to recreate an atmosphere of an old fashion holiday. This year, there was a full schedule of FREE activities for guests, including delicious FREE Food Samplings: BBQ by local chef Herbert Sims (The Friendly Caterer), Pound Cake from the Adlun Flour/Allen Brothers Mills sponsored bake-off, and Quail from locally owned Manchester Farms (cooking demo by Angela Covington, Territory Sales Manager). Guests were treated to free rides on Choo-Chee 's Santa Trackless Train and other carnival rides. Lower Richland historian, Rev. John Middleton, provided local history facts during horse-drawn carriage tours.

Guests feed-back included a comment that this year's stage entertainment was the best ever. The program host was the entertaining Eugene Burden. Performers were: Tom Coolidge (accompanied by Melissa Washburn on vocals & upright bass and Jim Graddick on fiddle), Carlos “Teddy G” Santan, Arrington Jones, Deacon Joe Davis & The Choice Gospel Singers, and Myisha Thomas. While Elvis “*left the building,*” and the scheduled Elvis Pressley and James Brown Contest was not held, Congaree National Park's Chief of Interpretation, Scott Teodorski, surprised the audience with his talented singing and guitar playing. Hopkins' own Jesse Sumter, a widely-known James Brown professional impersonator, arrived in full costume, magnanimously greeted guests, caused a few adults to do double-takes and children loudly saying, “Hi James Brown!” There was also a local history museum, vendors for gifts and crafts, and farmers market by B&B Produce.

The goal of SERCO's 2nd annual Salvation Army Toy Drive was to “Stuff a COMET.” Richland County Councilman, Kelvin Washington, D-10, once again served as our Honorary Santa, and he was joined by an Honorary Elf, Tiffany James, COMET Community Outreach Coordinator. We are grateful for the on-site news coverage by Ms. Janae Frazier from WLTX-News 19.

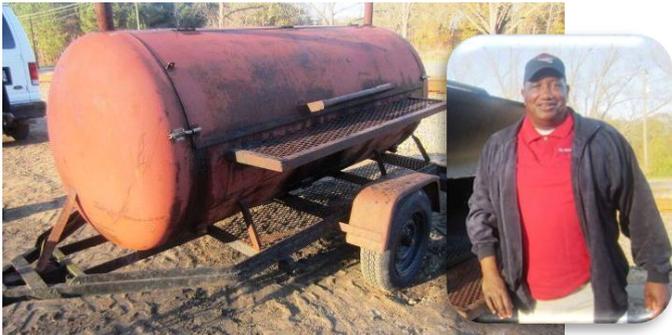


Symbolic Reminder of the Historic Hopkins Turn Out
Model Train loaned by Lisa B. Adams, Wavering Place Plantation.



Family Enjoying A Day of Free Fun in The Village of Hopkins

9TH Annual Holiday Taste & Tour



BBQ samplings and meals by Lower Richland's own master chef, Herbert Sims – The Friendly Caterer.



Cooking Demo & Samplings
Angela Covington (L) of Manchester Farms



Choo-Chee Trackless Train
Dan Goering, Engineer



Reporter Janae Frazier, WLTX – News 19 Interviews Mary Barber Kirkland, SERCO Board Member.



Mary Barber Kirkland (L), congratulates Pound Cake Bake-Off Winners: Dorothy C. Johnson, 1st Place and Marilyn Thomas, 2nd Place.



Neal Descendants Come Home

Vendors



9TH Annual Holiday Taste & Tour



Lower Richland's own, and well-known **Deacon Joe Davis and The Choice Gospel Singers** gave an energetic and talent-filled performance. The groups recently celebrated their 19th Anniversary.



Tom Coolidge – One Man Band, is always a requested favorite. This time, he was accompanied by Melissa Washburn (vocals/upright bass) and Jim Graddick (fiddle).



Matthew Sumter is a talented musician and a Lower Richland High School Student.



Myisha Thomas is a talented songstress and also a comedian. She once created a Facebook video that went viral with almost a half million shares in a couple days. She uses her voice to sing her comedic lyrics about life issues most of us face – and makes us laugh!



Scott Teodorski, joined us from The Congaree National Park, where he is Chief of Interpretation. Scott sang Elvis Presley's first single release, "That's All Right (Mama)." There is talent in the Swamp!



After hearing **Arrington Jones** sing, Program Host Eugene Burden tried to sign her to a contract. She is just a middle school student, so he addressed her parents who were sitting in the audience.



Singer and promoter, **Carlos "Teddy G" Santan** rendered some soulful Christmas songs. While they had not met before, he next called **Myisha** to the stage for an impromptu and well-done duet.

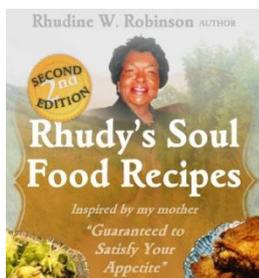


Lower Richland's own Jesse Sumter is the number one James Brown professional impersonator around. He graciously greeted the audience and some of his fans.



Town of Eastover - Annual Christmas Parade & Festival

The Town of Eastover held its 7TH Annual Christmas Parade & Festival on December 12, 2015. Marching bands, floats and Santa paraded on Main Street. Main Street. The festival featured entertainment, vendors, crafts and food. Ms. South Carolina, Daja Dial, served as the Grand Marshal. Among the elected officials present were Senator Darrell Jackson, Eastover Mayor Geraldene Robinson and Eastover Council Member Geraldene Robinson.



Congratulations to Rhudine Robinson, of Eastover, SC, on the release of *Rudy's Soul Food Recipes - 2nd Edition*.

SERCO South East Rural Community Outreach

SERCO Newsletter • July – December 2015 Issue • Page 6

Cook's Mountain/Wateree Heritage Preserve Grand Opening

November 18, 2015



The dedication of Goodwill Plantation and Cooks Mountain as the new Wateree River Heritage Preserve and the Rainbow Ranch Unit of 40-Acre Rock Heritage Preserve took place on the top of Cooks Mountain at Wateree River Heritage Preserve on Saturday, November 18, 2015.

Congaree National Park Visiting Team at Historic Harriet Barber House

November 18, 2015



A team from the Congaree National Park's Harpers Ferry, Virginia Design Center visited the Historic Harriet Barber House on November 18, 2015. The team is heading up the redesign of the Congaree National Park's official brochure. Mr. Scott Theodorski, Chief of Interpretation at the park, explained the team will make some needed changes that include more of a focus on cultural and historical stories of the Lower Richland area in which the park resides. Sisters Marie Barber Adams and Mary Barber Kirkland provided a tour of the Historic Harriet Barber House. SERCO and the Congaree National Park have forged a longtime partnership. Adams and Kirkland, representing SERCO's focus on the Lower Richland Heritage Corridor, also provided area information and suggestions in support of the park's public relations improvement effort.



On Saturday, November 7th, the 2015 Lower Richland Veterans Formation Chapter # 2 hosted an "all out" Veterans Day Parade & Ceremony to honor our Veterans from all branches of service. The parade began at Hopkins Middle School (1601 Clarkson Rd, Hopkins, SC) and consisted of veterans from all branches of service, marching bands, color guards, JROTC, live entertainment, veteran's motorcycle and classic cars, floats, and community leaders.

The final stop of the parade was the Saint John Holistic Wellness Center (222 JW Neal Circle, Hopkins, SC), where military veterans and their families, as well as the public, took part in a day of celebration and fun. This year's special guest

speaker was Terrance "The Motivator" Garrick (Retired Colonel), and the Guest Greeter was VA Chaplain Eddie Davis. Guests were entertained by the sounds of Gospel recording artist Troy Sneed, and free lunch was provided. (Photos courtesy of A.C. Jackson).



Mr. William Posey, 90+ years old, was honored as the oldest Veteran present.



Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott , and also Brigadier General of the State Guard, and Reverend Sammy L. Wade, Director of the Lower Richland Veteran's Formation Chapter # 2.

The Lower Richland Veteran's Formation Chapter # 2 was founded by the Reverend Sammy L. Wade, Director, in 2002 and has been established to provide assistance in helping homeless veterans. This organization is dedicated to assisting veterans who may need help in the following areas.

- * Aiding veterans and their spouses in applying for compensation benefits
- * Helping veterans in obtaining their identification cards
- * Keeping veterans informed of current disability changes
- * Assisting in securing work and human services
- * Supporting deceased veteran's family members and providing representation at funerals
- * Bringing veterans throughout the Lower Richland County together
- * Receiving help from the VFW, DAV, American Legion, Military Order of the Purple Heart.



BBQ, Blues & Jazz

An Evening of BBQ, Blues & Jazz: Part I of the two-day Annual SwampFest was held on the grounds of the Historic Harriet Barber House on Friday, October 2, 2015. Back by popular demand were: R&B legend Lenny Williams, soulful singer Carlos Santan of Atlanta, GA, Second Nature (Top 40 Band & Show) of Camden, SC. New to the line-up this year were: local icon Chef Fatback and The Groove Band and The James Brown Soul Experience – Featuring Lisa Haynes & Jesse “James Brown” Sumter.



Lenny Williams

Second Nature Band

James Brown Experience

Jesse Sumter

Lisa B. Haynes

Chef Fatback & Groove Band

Carlos Santan





Part I : October 2ND *BBQ, Blues & Jazz*

RV Club members from North Carolina, Georgia, Florida and parts of the northern and low country area of South Carolina gathered again for the weekend on the historical grounds of the Harriet Barber House. Guests enjoyed reserved seating and mingled with other guests from around the midlands. The threat of rain and flooding did not dampen the spirits of those who traveled to the most popular event of the year in Hopkins.



13TH Annual

SwampFEST at the CONGAREE

October 31st

Due to the “1000 Years Flood,” the 13th Annual SwampFest at the Congaree was rescheduled and held on Saturday, October 31, 2015. SwampFest at the Congaree took place in two locations – The Congaree National Park and the “Yard” of Old Mt. Moriah. Activities will ran throughout the day, offering **FREE** admission and a great opportunity for visitors to experience the richly diverse culture of the Lower Richland Heritage Corridor. The opening ceremony was presented by the McGrady Cadets. Artists included new performers: Atlas Road Crew (A.R.C.), the Sumter Tribe of Cheraw Indians, Melodic Hearts, and BluesBox50. Back by popular demand were the Fine Thymes String Band, Ladies of the Pickin’ Parlor, Drumming Brothers, and singers Katrina Blanding, and Jeffrey Lampkin & Frances Marion YGB Gospel Choir. Exciting new features drew audience participation: 1st ever Lower Richland All-Area Jubilee Choir, and the new SwampGong Contest. Other activities included the SwampFest Youth Art Contest, children’s carnival, wagon rides, guided tours of Congaree National Park, and food vendors.



Atlas Road Crew (A.R.C.)



SwampFest Jubilee Choir



BluesBox 50



Sumter Tribe of The Cheraw Indians



Host: Eugene Burden

SwampGong Judges L/R: Sour Cow-Jeremy Thomas, Low C-Jabari Wade, Micki Nausea-Anetha Sumter Jackson

SwampFEST at the CONGAREE

13TH Annual

-Back by Popular Demand



Fine Thymes String Band



**Jeffery Lampkin & Frances Marion
YGB Gospel Choir**



Ladies of the Pickin' Parlor



Melodic Hearts



Katrina Blanding



Drumming Brothers



Lower Richland Veterans Formation and the McGrady Cadets.



Congaree National Park's Superintendent Tracy Stakely and his family stroll through the SwampFest festival grounds.



L/R: The Gong, McKinley Brooks Sumpter (Gonger), Jarod Smith (Winner) and the other brave contestants

Hopkins High School Alumni Banquet

Sept. 19:, 2015

Continuing to Build on the Success of 20 Years was the theme for the 21st Annual Hopkins High School Alumni Foundation Banquet. Nine scholarships totaling \$10,000 were awarded that evening. The event was held September 19, 2015 at the St. John Holistic Wellness Center in Hopkins. The speaker for the occasion was Mrs. Cheryl H. Harris, Richland School District One Board Chair and Lower Richland High School graduate. (Photos courtesy of Crosby Foster)



Mrs. Cheryl Harris addresses the audience.



Alumni Chorale, accompanied by Dr. Marquita Daniels



Francis Finch and Ethel Moore Greene, from the class of 1964



Elegant buffet meal prepared by the Friendly Caterer.

Hopkins High School Alumni Banquet Sept. 19, 2015



Hopkins Alumni Foundation 2015 Scholarship Recipients

Matthew Owens introduces the 2015 scholarship recipients. He is currently serving as a 2015-2016 Albert Einstein Distinguished Fellow in Washington, DC.

Matthew Owens



The Class of 1965 celebrated 50 years after their high school graduation. Class President Shelton Byrd (far left), is pictured with classmates: Vivian Taylor Harris, Cartha Harris, Edith Jamison, Louise Howell Anderson, and Reno Russell Boyd (keynote speaker for the class celebration).

SERCO
South East Rural Community Outreach

SERCO Newsletter • July – December 2015 Issue • Page 14

SERCO Participates in Dorn VA Medical Center Week of Diversity

September 23, 2015



SERCO provided cultural displays and discussions on the Lower Richland Heritage Corridor during Dorn VA Medical Center's Week of Diversity. Pictured left is Mary Barber Kirkland as she provides information on historical photos. Other SERCO volunteers attending were Marie Barber Adams, Carrie Barber White and Thomas Gunter.

Right Direction Church International (RDCI) - Seasoned Citizens Ministry Visits Lower Richland Heritage Corridor -provided by *SERCO Tours*

August 8, 2015



(Betty Jones, Group Leader and Sam Hooker, photographer)

Zion Baptist Church's Day Camp Ministry Annual Picnic at **Historic Harriet Barber House** August 19, 2015



Ms. Doretha Walker Thompson brought the Zion Baptist Church's Senior Day Camp Ministry to the Harriet Barber House for another day of food, fellowship and fun. This is the group's third annual trip to the historic site in Hopkins where they always enjoy the peace and tranquility of this popular stop in the Lower Richland Heritage Corridor.

South East Rural Community Outreach

SERCO Newsletter • July - December 2015 Issue • Page 16

Please Join Us . . . The mission of SERCO is to create partnerships within the Lower Richland Community to provide charitable, educational and scientific programs to strengthen and expand the capacity of the community for a better quality of life for its residents.

SERCO invites you to become a part of the outreach movement by supporting our Lower Richland Heritage Corridor events and programs throughout the year:

SOUTH EAST RURAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEMBERSHIP FORM

INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES:

\$20 INDIVIDUAL \$40 FAMILY \$75 ADVOCATE \$100 PARTNER \$500 PATRON

ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES & CORPORATIONS:

\$1,000 BENEFACTOR \$2,000 CORPORATE SPONSOR

SUBMIT INFORMATION:

NAME _____

ADDRESS : _____

HOME PHONE: (_____) _____

WORK PHONE: (_____) _____

FAX : _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Mail completed form and check to:

**South East Rural Community Outreach
Post Office Box 332
Hopkins, SC 29061**

PayPal : sercoevents@gmail.com

South East Rural Community Outreach is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization under the laws of South Carolina, EIN: 20-2847013