

New Rural Project Monthly Rural Roundup



From Team New Rural Project <info@newruralproject.org>
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Reply-To <info@newruralproject.org>
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The New Rural Project's *Rural Roundup* Monthly Newsletter

Steve,



This past month, we've celebrated Women's History Month by featuring women pioneers on our [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) pages. As a women founded and led organization, we've loved showcasing these amazing women, and even though March has come to an end, we're looking forward to celebrating women's accomplishments all-year round.

With March coming to an end, that means our one year anniversary on April 6 is right around the corner! We launched NRP in 2021 because after running for office in 2020, we saw the need for an organization committed to rural empowerment. We had spoken to the historically marginalized folks that felt unheard and unseen by the traditional political structure and said if not us then who?

We're so proud of the work we've done with a committed staff, wonderful partners, and outstanding volunteers! We're excited about the

voices we've been able to amplify, the hundreds of shots in arms we were able to help facilitate, the essential needs we helped provide, and all the other work we've accomplished in our first year of existence.

[Please join us as we celebrate you and our one year anniversary!](#)



Sincerely,

Cynthia and Helen
Co-Founders of NRP

LISTENING



On March 26, we launched our new program Barbershop Conversations: Fruitful African American Discussions on Empowerment (F.A.D.E.) where barbershop talk meets civic engagement at Triad Barber School in

Anson County. We discussed entrepreneurship, jobs, and important issues in Anson like zoning changes.

The four-part series, which will continue on April 2, April 9, and April 23, is bringing more local community leaders, entrepreneurs, and

elected officials together with young Black men from Anson County to discuss other issues important to them like the justice system, crime, voting, civic engagement, and more.

When asked about the importance of this program, Garrett Snuggs, owner of Triad Barber School and Chair of the program, said:

"I believe that it is time for young Black men to be heard. The first step is having conversations with them in a comfortable, familiar space, like the barbershop. When New Rural Project invited me to Chair this series, I knew that the Triad Barber School of Anson County had to be involved."



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

We hosted our Young People's Conversation back in November 2020 as a special one-off event as part of our County Conversations meetings, but knowing how important it is to amplify the voices of folks under 40, we've created a NEW stand-alone series.

On March 30, we hosted our first event in our 2022 Young People's Conversations series. The conversation was moderated by NRP Program Director, Alexa Roberts, who is also a Councilwoman for the Village of Whispering Pines. Panelists included Taylortown Councilwoman Bridget Cotton, Richmond County Commissioner Tavares Bostic, Red Springs Commissioner Caroline Sumpter, and Scotland County Commissioner Darrel "BJ" Gibson.



We haven't stopped our vaccine support! On April 18, we'll be in Hoke County partnering with Dr. Karen Smith and The Old North State Medical Society at a community "Easter Egg Hunt" event hosted by Open Door Soup Kitchen.

ELECTORAL ENGAGEMENT



We hosted our second Front Porch Conversation - Deep Canvass on March 20, where over 40 incredible volunteers showed up and showed out – talking to hundreds of infrequent voters in

Wadesboro. As we spoke to these voters, we've learned that the mechanics of voting i.e. Vote by mail aren't as widely known as needed. We also heard that many think of voting based on who is on the top of the ticket so we have an opportunity to provide more education about the full ballot. We have another Front Porch

Conversation planned for [April 23](#) in Wadesboro, and we'd love to see you there.



On March 29, Quanisea launched our weekly phone bank. Every Thursday, we'll meet on Zoom to go over virtual phone banks, our script, and general best practices for making calls.

Whether you are a first-time volunteer

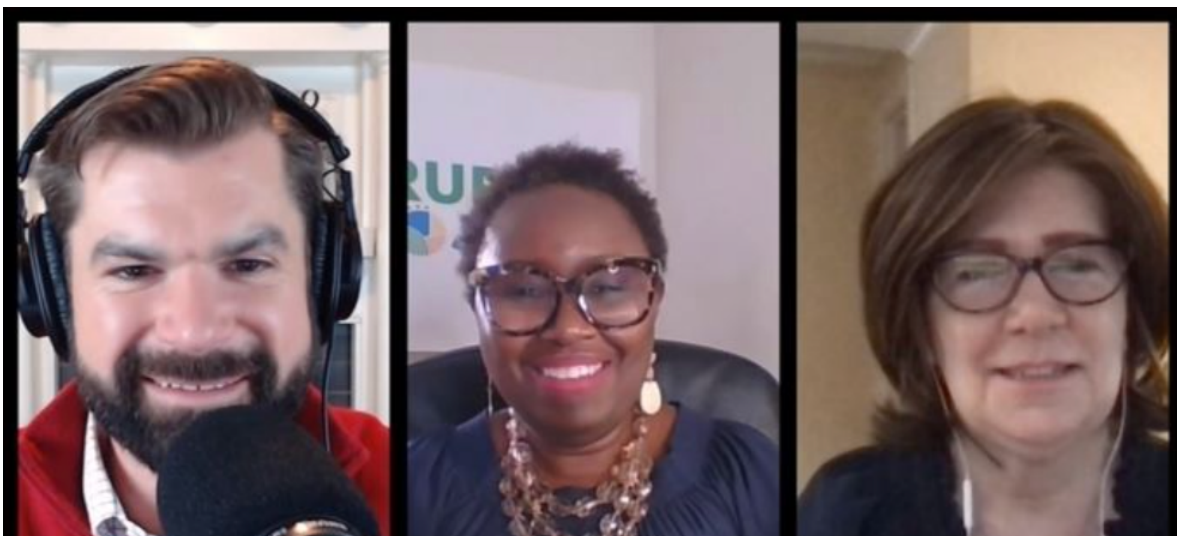
or a seasoned pro, all are welcome to attend! Before calling anyone, you'll be fully trained if needed. [Join us for our next phone bank on April 7!](#)

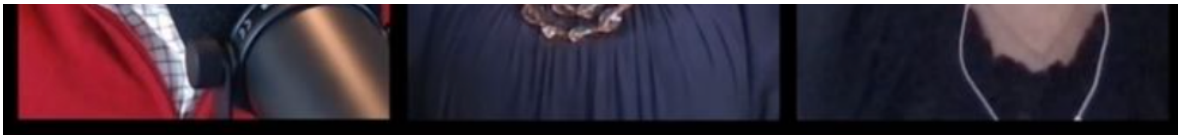
OTHER UPDATES

[Important North Carolina Election Dates](#)

- March 28: Absentee ballots become available for registered voters
- April 22: Deadline to register to vote in the 2022 primary election
- April 28: One-Stop Registration/Early Voting begins for the Primary
- May 10: Deadline to request an absentee ballot
- May 14: Early voting ends
- May 17: Election Day for the 2022 primary election

[NRP in the News](#)





Last week, Cynthia and Helen spoke with JD Wooten of North Carolina Democracy about NRP and our work to increase civic and electoral engagement in rural communities. We also discussed the Supreme Court's ruling on gerrymandering and what we believe the General Assembly should prioritize most. Check out our interview [here](#).

NRP on the Road

Our Executive Director, Cynthia, has been traveling around North Carolina emphasizing the needs of rural North Carolinians. Here's a peak at her travel schedule.

March 21 - 22: Cynthia attended the **NC Rural Center's Rural Summit 2022 : Building a Stronger Tomorrow**.



March 29: Cynthia was a panelist at a conference at **Duke University hosted by the Sanford School of Public Policy: Politics, Policy, and a New Economic Strategy for Rural North Carolina**. For the panel focused on organizing in rural communities, she shared how NRP's strategy, which begins and ends with listening to increase civic and electoral engagement of our rural voters of color, has been working!

As always, make sure you check [the NRP website](#) to see more about what we're up to (including other news articles on the work that we are doing).

Thank you so much for being such a valuable member of the New Rural Project! Look for more ways to get engaged at the bottom of this email.

Team New Rural Project

[P.S. Remember to sign up for our one year anniversary event on April 6!](#)

VOLUNTEER

CONTRIBUTE



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