

June's Rural Roundup



From Team New Rural Project <info@newruralproject.org>
To Steve Johnston <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
Reply-To <info@newruralproject.org>
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Steve,

This past month, we've seen just how fragile our democracy is. From the Supreme Court's reversal of Roe v. Wade and gun regulations to the revelations of the January 6th hearings, it's clear that our democracy, our safety, and our fundamental rights are in grave danger.

But, we have the power to do something about it: our vote. That's why our work here at the NRP is so important. With so much at stake this year, we want to make sure that everyone's voice is heard at the polls. Through our canvassing, Barbershop Conversations, phonebanking, and other community engagement programs, we're doing everything in our power to get as many people engaged in our electoral process as possible.

We hope that you had a wonderful 4th of July weekend! As we think about Independence Day, let's also keep fighting for a brighter future for our country.

With gratitude,

Cynthia and Helen
Co-founders of NRP

LISTENING

On June 26, we hosted our second quarter virtual discussion in our Young People's Conversations series. Our Moderator was Samuel Cole, Jr. who is a native of Anson County and currently resides in Union County. In addition to working as a 4-H Agent with the NC Cooperative Extension, Mr. Cole is an entrepreneur and is the founder of Cole & Eden, LLC consulting company. Panelists included John John, a barbershop owner from Scotland County; Brandy McPherson, a non-profit founder from Hoke County; Sherilla Horton, multiple company entrepreneur from Moore County; and Garrett Snuggs, owner of an Anson barbershop and Barber School.

You can view the inspiring session [here](#).

CALLING OUR YOUNGER FRIENDS!

THE RURAL PROJECT CONVERSATIONS

YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONVERSATIONS

JOIN US FOR OUR 2ND QUARTER INSTALLMENT OF OUR 2022 YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONVERSATIONS SERIES AS WE TALK WITH YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

				
JOHN JOHN UNDERGROUND KUTS, LLC SCOTLAND COUNTY	BRANDY MCPHERSON MOLDING YOUNG MOGULS, HOKE COUNTY	MODERATOR: SAMUEL COLE COLE & EDEN, LLC ANSON, UNION COUNTIES	SHERILLA HORTON INNER GENIUS UNLOCKED, LLC MOORE COUNTY	GARRETT SNUGGS TITE CUTZ BARBER SHOP, TRIAD BARBER SCHOOL ANSON COUNTY



On Sunday, July 3, we wrapped up our Scotland County Barbershop Conversations four week series with reflection, a certificate presentation, and a cookout with many of the participants' family members!

Over these weeks, we've had almost 40 unique Black men participate in the FADE (Fruitful African American Discussions on Empowerment) program. Our first FADE participant has applied for a position on a local county board! By opening the door to conversation in a comfortable, familiar community space, we've been able to have meaningful conversations with African American men about the barriers they face when voting, critical issues that they care about, and how those issues can be solved with more electoral engagement across our communities. More FADE programs coming soon!

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Juneteenth Events

The New Rural Project team and volunteers had a busy Juneteenth weekend attending community events across the region we serve. On Friday, we were in Maxton (Robeson County) and Indian Trail (Union County). Saturday, we attended Marshville's Juneteenth celebration, also in Union County. On Sunday, we attended events in Moore County and Scotland County, and we capped off the weekend in Richmond County on Monday. Read more about the special events we attended below!



Nisea, Cynthia, Maryjane, and a wonderful group of volunteers had a great day on June 18th in Marshville supporting their 2nd Annual Juneteenth event, with planning led by our friend, Lakeysa Medlin.

Our wonderful Regional Organizer, Nisea, served as a judge for the Miss Juneteenth pageant in Maxton at Townsend Elementary School.



On June 20th, NRP team members Nisea and Alexa monitored bouncy houses at Richmond County's Juneteenth Celebration. We had so much fun celebrating with the community and reconnecting with friends like Richmond County Commissioner Tavares Bostic (pictured with Nisea and Alexa).

Here are some more photos from our Juneteenth celebrations!



ELECTORAL ENGAGEMENT

We are continuing to host our Weekly Deep Canvas Phone Banks every Thursday at 6:00pm. Come join Nisea and the New Rural Project team "virtually" no matter where you live! [Sign up here.](#) Every Wednesday we feature voters or future voters across our focus counties explaining "Why I Vote." Check out our videos on [Facebook.](#) If you'd like to share "why you vote" and be featured, please reply to this email.

We're gearing up for the upcoming elections and would love to have you join our Volunteer Corps. As we expand our team, we will have many opportunities to volunteer including on the ground activities like deep canvassing and volunteering at in-person events and virtual activities such as phone banking and text banking. Let us know how you would like to get involved [here.](#)

OTHER UPDATES

There are still more North Carolina elections to vote in prior to November! Across North Carolina, there will be several municipal, runoff, and second-primary elections on July 26th. Find out if you have a local election using the [NCSBE's Local Voter Tool.](#) Early voting starts on July 7th if you have a local election!

Statewide General Election

The statewide general election is on Tuesday, November 8th! This election is also known as the "midterm," as it is held two years (mid-way) into the four-year U.S. presidential term. Some important election dates to know are:

- **August 5:** County early voting plans due to State Board of Elections
- **September 9:** Absentee-by-mail voting begins
- **October 14:** Final Day to register to vote
- **October 20:** One-Stop Early Voting begins - where you can register and vote in one-stop!
- **November 1:** Final day to request absentee-by-mail ballot
- **November 5:** Last day of One-Stop Early Voting
- **November 8:** Deadline to mail absentee-by-mail ballots;
ELECTION DAY

Other NRP Happenings



Cynthia and Nisea recently graduated from the NC Rural Center's Homegrown Leaders program, a three-day regional leadership and economic development program that supports leaders who are committed to building regional collaboration across multi-county regions in the state.

When asked about the experience, Quanisea said, "I walked out of the three-day program as a stronger leader and with some new friends and partners."

Cynthia also participated on June 15th and June 22nd at 7pm with the Rural Urban Bridge Initiative to present their program to help bridge the political, economic, and cultural divide between rural and urban/suburban communities. The training is on the playlist of our new YouTube Channel.



We've expanded our social media with the launch of our [YouTube Channel! Subscribe today!](#) Keep up to date with NRP and all our events through videos that will be regularly posted on our Channel.



NRP is hiring! We're looking to hire folks to support our Field Organizing work. We've already posted jobs for an [Organizing Director](#) and an additional [Regional Organizer](#). Other jobs will be posted on our social media and on Indeed very soon.

If you're interested in applying for Organizer roles, please follow the directions in the job description on Indeed and reach out to us at jobs@newruralproject.org.

As always, thank you for being on our team.

Sincerely,
Team New Rural Project

CONTRIBUTE

VOLUNTEER



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