

August 2023 Rural Roundup



From Team New Rural Project <info@newruralproject.org>
To Steve Johnston <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
Reply-To <info@newruralproject.org>
Date 2023-09-13 16:00

The New Rural Project's Rural Roundup Monthly Newsletter

Dear Steve,

August was a month for community events and some team rejuvenation so we can be prepared to make a positive impact on the November municipal elections. We were also able to add four amazing people to our team who have joined us in our mission to increase equitable voting access for BIPOC communities in rural NC! for your content.

Join us as we continue to roll up our sleeves and dig into the hard work that is foundational to our democracy: full electoral participation by everyone!



As always, thank you for your continued support.

With gratitude,

Cynthia Wallace
Executive Director of NRP

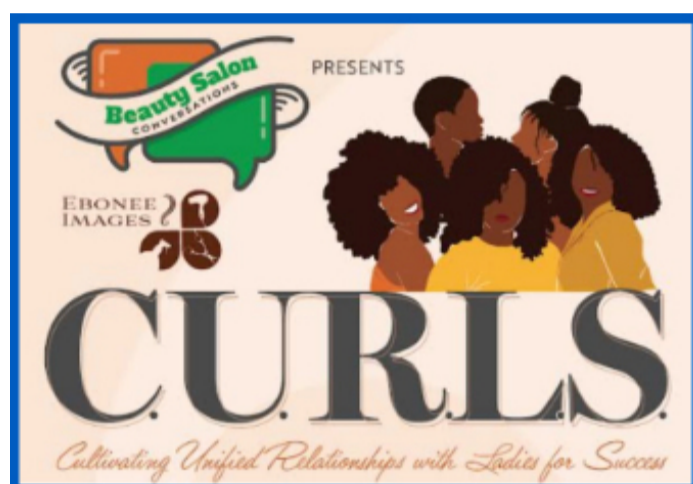
Donate to help us GOTV for November!

LISTENING

Union County

Beauty Salon Conversations: *Cultivating Unified Relationships with Ladies for Success (C.U.R.L.S.)*

We are thrilled to have **Dr. Iris "Benita" Sanders** join the NRP team to lead the development and design of this program for the women of Monroe and Union County. On **August 24**, Benita led an engaging information session with ladies from Union County to share details about our newest program series, **Beauty Salon Conversations: Cultivating Unified Relationships with Ladies for Success (C.U.R.L.S.)**, so we could get their feedback to ensure that the program would be tailored and designed by women in Union County, for women in Union County, and focus on important issues with women in Union County.



The program series will be held in the **City of Monroe** on **Saturdays in September** from **3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.!** Our awesome program chair is **Alfreda Leak Green of Ebonee Images**.

Join us by registering [HERE!](#)

UPCOMING

Anson County Partner Event



On **September 30**, we are participating in the **Second Annual Alumni Basketball Tournament** hosted by the **Sandhills Voter Initiative (SVI)** which was founded by three amazing young men after they attended NRP's first Barbershop Conversation Series: F.A.D.E. in May 2022. New Rural Project will be there to listen to current and future voters and share timely information about the 2023 local elections. You can find more information on the **Sandhills Voter Initiative's** newly launched [website](#).

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Back to School!

August is always "Back to School" time! For the second year, we participated in the **Town of Marshville's "National Night Out and Back to School Bash"** which occurred on **Tuesday, August 1**. Regional Organizer Nisea Moses, Organize NC Fellow Edward Cruz, Communications Fellow Lauren Garland, Executive Assistant Maryjane Conti, and Executive Director Cynthia Wallace, joined other community groups providing school supplies to local students. We talked to parents making sure they knew about the upcoming mayoral and town council elections in Marshville and Wingate, that photo IDs are needed to vote, and how they can get NC-issued IDs at no cost to them, if needed.



On **Thursday, August 24**, we had a table at the **Community Resource Fair organized by Thrive! Union in Monroe, NC** which was held at the Union County Human Services Agency. This event was also centered around "Back to School" and over 150 students received backpacks and tote bags filled with school supplies.



A diverse group of parents attended the event and completed a "passport" while stopping by our table, as well as over a dozen other community groups' tables to learn about many resources they hadn't known existed. The picture above shows New Rural Project with two of the three young people under the age of 19 that we helped register to vote!

Stop Killing Us Unity March in Wadesboro

Wadesboro has the highest incidence of gun violence per capita in North Carolina even though they are a small rural county. Public Safety is one of NRP's four critical focus issues. On **Saturday, August 26**, our partner **Leon Gatewood, CEO of the HOLLA! Center**, helped lead the **Stop Killing Us Event** which included a march to shine a light on this violence.



In intense 100-degree heat, we marched in the event in Wadesboro with organizations like **Black Voters Matter**. After the march, families who had been impacted by gun violence spoke. The stories shared by survivors and affected families were truly moving, sparking a deep sense of responsibility. We left inspired to continue our fight to reduce gun violence in the communities we serve.

State Health Fair and Panel Discussion

Our Executive Director, Cynthia, participated in a panel after the Stop Killing US march hosted by the **NC Black Alliance**. This panel was a part of the 12 - site health fair hosted by NC Black Alliance across the state. Given the focus in Anson on gun violence, the panel included a robust discussion on gun violence's impact on the physical and mental health of communities.



Cynthia discussed the types of legislation that if enacted could lessen gun violence and how the community's civic and electoral engagement could have a major impact.

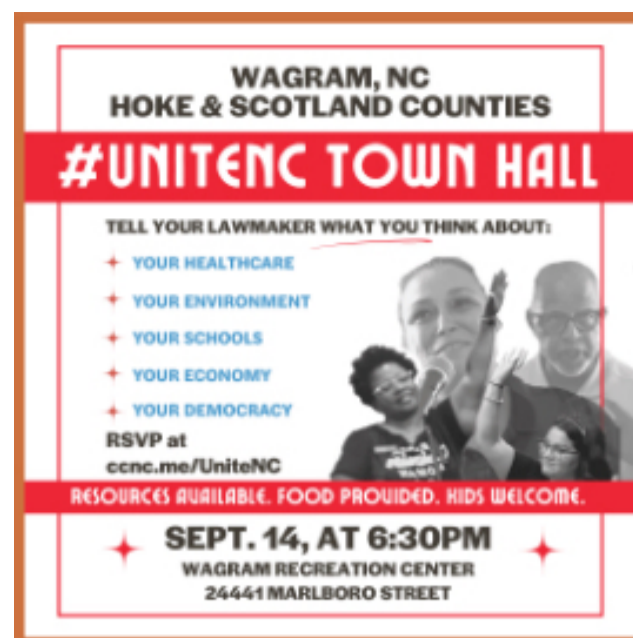
UPCOMING EVENTS

Hoke & Scotland Counties #UniteNC Town Hall: Wagram

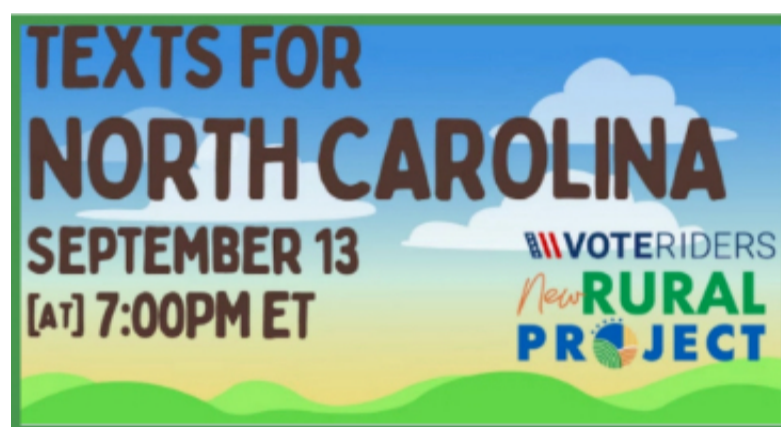
On **Thursday, September 14**, citizens of Scotland and Hoke County will have an opportunity to provide feedback to elected officials on the issues most important to them like voting rights, funding for public education, expanding Medicaid, the economy, and the environment.

The **#UniteNC Town**, sponsored by New Rural Project, Common Cause NC, the MidSandhills MAL Unit of the League of Women Voters NC, the Hoke County NAACP, the Hoke County Civic League, the Blue Springs Community Development Center, and the Hoke County Reentry Council, will take place at the **Wagram Recreation Center** on Marlboro Street and feature food from local restaurants such as Victoria's Ice Cream and Treats, Boneyard BarBQ and Grill, and Sherra's Sweet Sensations.

[RSVP](#) to let us know you'll join us.



ELECTORAL ENGAGEMENT



On August 10, we had a very successful first textbank focused on getting out the word that photo IDs are needed for NC's 2023 municipal election to young voters! Our partners at VoteRiders, who help folks get their NC issued driver's license or state ID and supporting documentation at no cost, led this textbank.

[Join us for our second textbank on Wednesday, September 13th as we go after the remaining 60,000 young people on our list!](#)

OTHER UPDATES

A big shout out to our friend and community partner, **Dr. Karen L. Smith**, from Hoke County on receiving the [2023 Larry Wooten Rural Leadership Award](#), presented by Governor Roy Cooper and Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler at an **Aug. 9** reception at the North Carolina Executive Mansion. The award, established in 2019, recognizes individuals who exemplify a deep commitment to rural endeavors, create lasting improvements in the lives of rural residents, and inspire others through their character and accomplishments. Congratulations, Dr. Smith!



We're Hiring!

Preparing for local elections means we need to hire canvassers to talk to their neighbors about the fact that a photo ID is now needed to vote in the 2023 election. We are focusing our door to door GOTV efforts on towns in Union County (Monroe and Marshville) and Anson County (Wadesboro). **Help us find great talent in our near these communities by clicking the graphic...it could be you and/or your friends!**



2023 MUNICIPAL ELECTION INFORMATION

Photo ID Requirements for Voting in the 2023 Municipal Elections



Voters will be asked to show photo ID when voting in North Carolina in person or by mail-in ballot. A list of acceptable photo IDs for voting can be found on the [North Carolina State Board of Elections](#) website.

For most voters who vote in person, they will simply show their North Carolina-issued driver's license. If a voter does not have an acceptable photo ID, they can get one for free from the [NC Division of Motor Vehicles \(NCDMV\)](#) or from their [county board of elections](#).

If a voter cannot show a photo ID when voting in person, they can still vote by filling out an ID Exception Form. If folks are voting by mail and they are unable to include a copy of their photo ID in their ballot return envelope, they can also fill out an ID Exception Form with their ballot.

2023 Municipal Election Dates

New RURAL PROJECT
IMPORTANT DATES
OCT. 10TH ELECTION

SEPTEMBER 15	VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE
SEPTEMBER 21	EARLY VOTING BEGINS
OCTOBER 03	LAST DAY TO REQUEST MAIL IN BALLOT
OCTOBER 07	EARLY VOTING ENDS
OCTOBER 10	MAIL-IN BALLOTS DUE BY 5PM
OCTOBER 10	ELECTION DAY POLLING PLACES WILL BE OPEN FROM 6:30 A.M. TO 7:30 P.M.

New RURAL PROJECT
IMPORTANT DATES
NOV. 7TH ELECTION

OCTOBER 13	VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE
OCTOBER 19	EARLY VOTING BEGINS
OCTOBER 31	LAST DAY TO REQUEST MAIL IN BALLOT
NOVEMBER 04	EARLY VOTING ENDS
NOVEMBER 07	MAIL-IN BALLOTS DUE BY 5PM
NOVEMBER 07	ELECTION DAY POLLING PLACES WILL BE OPEN FROM 6:30 A.M. TO 7:30 P.M.

Go to the [North Carolina State Board of Elections Voter Search](#) page to see what's on your ballot for the 2023 municipal election!

Until next time,

Team New Rural Project

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VOLUNTEER



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