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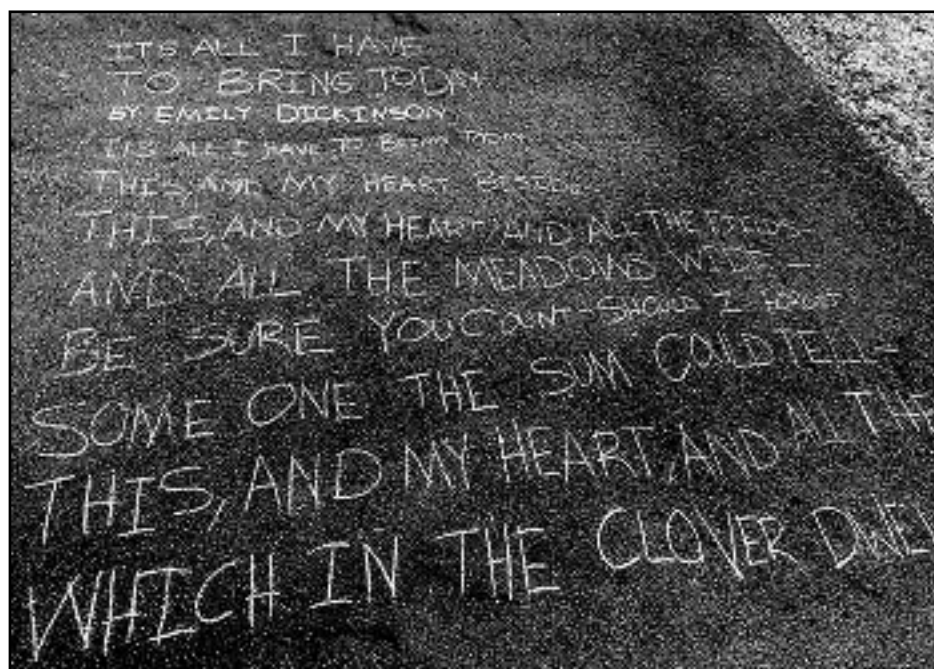
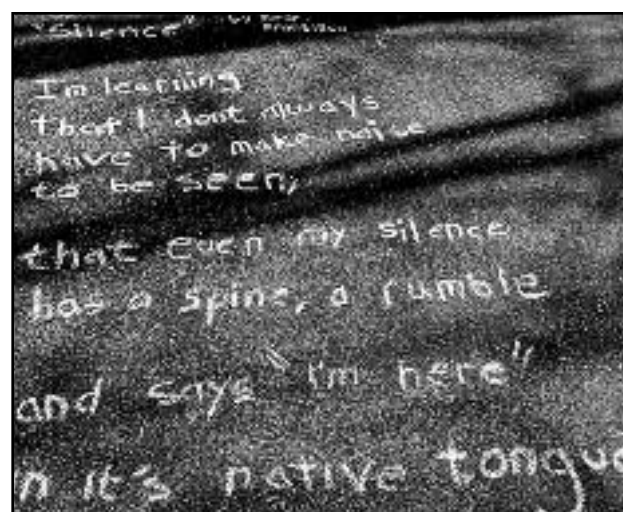
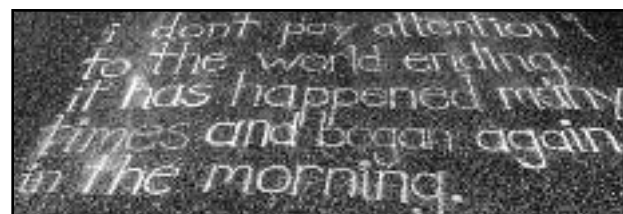
Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) English Teacher Jana Battiloro and her students discovered the use of a different kind of chalk board and a "Poetry Inspiration Challenge" during the Covid-19 Pandemic. The exercise helped students explore one way to harness the power of their own inner poet while reaching out with words of inspiration for their neighbors and themselves.

Prior to their Spring Break, Battiloro gave her students a light assignment to complete during their one-week off from Distance Learning.

"The Tuesday before Spring Break, I left a 'challenge' for them on Google Classroom," Battiloro explained. Her challenge coincided with National Poetry Month.

"My challenge for you is to not only begin our celebration of National Poetry Month," she instructed her students, "but also to spread some love. So here is the challenge: Find a poem - any poem (even a verse of a poem) and write it on your sidewalk, driveway, window, front door, anywhere you can to show it to the rest of the world. The poem should somehow spread a message of positivity, optimism, hope, encouragement, or love. Then post a picture here so we can see what you did!"

Battiloro explained, "I found myself turning to poems each day when I started my day, trying to find some inspiration and some peace. Then, my daughter started to leave messages on our sidewalk and walkway each day, encouraging our neighbors. That's how the idea was born: That I could merge these two forms of encouragement and that this is needed, but especially for my precious students who are feeling lost and unmotivated and missing their own lives. So, I offered them a poem of encouragement by Mary Oliver, and told them to take the ideas out to others in the form of sidewalk chalk or even post on paper on a tree!



"I am so very proud of my students - all of them. Each day I try to share with them another poem or lyrics from a song - still trying to keep them connected to me and the school and to education."

Battiloro added that she had seen variations of this all over her hometown, too.

Battiloro said the student reaction was overwhelming, but she added, also, it was in line with what she and others have come to expect from WHRHS students.

"So, as Watchung Hills students always do," she said, "they rose to the challenge and have been leaving messages on roads and driveways and sidewalks everywhere, since that day."

Some of the selections the students shared included some written by other poets, and some written by them.

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TOWNSHIP OF LONG HILL SPRING CHALLENGE GRANT

The Challenge Grant this Spring was sponsored by the Long Hill Shade Tree Commission and resulted in 24 trees being planted in Long Hill Township. The trees included maples, oaks, redbuds, pears and others. The hard-working DPW team planted them in the first week of May.

This program was so popular this Spring that three requests had to be turned down because of limits on the DPW's time. It has been offered each Spring for almost 20 years.

Forms appear in the paper and online at the Township website in March.



(above) DPW workers planting trees from the Challenge Grant.



(above) Redbud and pear trees from the Challenge Grant were planted in the Heritage Development in Long Hill.

PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

Community service organizations and sports teams are encouraged to submit news of upcoming events or highlights and photos on recent events.

**Organizations
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ALUMINUM CANS FOR BURNED CHILDREN

The Stirling Fire Company is collecting aluminum cans for the Aluminum Cans for Burned Children Program (ACBC), which benefits The Burn Center at Saint Barnabas Medical Center.

All proceeds are directly donated back to the burn center to provide patient assistance and education for pediatric patients.

Aluminum beverage cans can be dropped off in the trailer located in the front parking lot of the Long Hill DPW.

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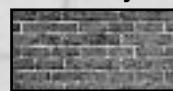
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(above) Alexandra "Lexi" Jacobson, a Freshman at Watchung Hills Regional High School, organized a group of over 80 people to write letters to the residents at the Chelsea in Warren, a nursing home in Somerset County.

STUDENT COORDINATES LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN TO SENIORS IN COMMUNITY DURING CORONAVIRUS

Alexandra "Lexi" Jacobson, a Freshman at Watchung Hills Regional High School, organized a group of more than 80 people to write letters to the residents at the Chelsea in Warren, a nursing home in Somerset County.

Jacobson said she was inspired to act from "seeing the amazing things that our state and community has done to help those in need during this time" of the pandemic.

"Because of these amazing people I had been inspired to help people as well!"

Jacobson recruited others for her letter writing campaign by texting, emailing, and reaching out via instagram and Snapchat. "I really wanted to try to get as many people involved as possible,"

Jacobson said.

Jacobson's group wrote enough letters for all of the Chelsea residents, about 75, as well as the staff. Said Jacobson, "Each letter had kind messages, inspirational quotes, poems, jokes, or even activities such as how to play card games, or recipes that are fun to make at home."

After delivering the letters, Jacobson received a call from the Chelsea about how much the residents appreciated the letters.

Jacobson would like to encourage others to reach out to seniors during the pandemic. She hopes that "more people will hear about it and write their own letters so we can help cheer up even more people!"

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WHRHS MAY ATHLETIC COLLEGE SIGNING DAY

Nineteen student athletes in the Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) Class of 2020 who play interscholastic sports for the Warriors announced their intentions to attend next year and play intercollegiate sports at Division III colleges, on College Signing Day, held on Friday, May 1, at the school.

Two additional students who signed on May 1 plan to play at New Jersey community colleges. A third student plans to play at a California community college.

The WHRHS Athletic Department held a "virtual celebration" for the student athletes on "Twitter," (@WHRHS_Athletics) according to Athletic Director Dan Root.

Root congratulated the students. "We are very proud of our student athletes who have decided to continue their academic and athletic careers at these amazing institutions of higher learning," he said. "We wish you all the best."

THE STUDENTS SIGNING IN MAY ARE:

Tanner Ash of Warren Township, who plans to play Football at Kean University, Union;
 • Jayden Baltuch of Warren, Basketball, Emory University, Atlanta, Ga.;
 • Jordan Belle of Green Brook Township, Football, Kean University;
 • Clement Carfaro of the Millington, Football, Rowan University, Glassboro;
 • Adam Claxton of Warren, Lacrosse, Kean University;
 • Thomas Dardis of Warren, Track and Field, Ramapo College, Mahwah;
 • Joseph DeNave of Warren, Lacrosse, Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pa.;
 • Scarlett Glasser-Nehls of Watchung, Basketball, Arcadia University, Glenside, Pa.;
 • Elizabeth Killeen of Millington, Volleyball, Montclair State University, Montclair;
 • Maurice Kirchofer III of Green Brook, Volleyball, Ramapo College;
 • Anthony Leone of Warren, Lacrosse, Kean University;
 • Michael Morin of the Gillette, Football, Salve Regina University, Newport, R.I.;
 • Claudia O'Reilly of Warren, Swimming, University of Scranton, Scranton, Pa.;

• Tanner Rokosny of Green Brook, Lacrosse, Kean University;
 • Julia Schinik of Watchung, Softball, Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pa.;
 • Terryn Stephens of Green Brook, Football, College of the Desert, Palm Desert, Calif.;
 • Jack Taub of Warren, Lacrosse, Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pa.;
 • Maya Zhang of the Stirling, Fencing, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md;
 • Vivian Zhang of Green Brook, Swimming, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, Calif.;
 • Caitlin Bonnesen of Stirling, Basketball, St. Mary's College, South Bend, Ind.;
 • Ryan Krug of Stirling, Baseball, County College of Morris, Randolph Twp;
 • Christopher Miller of Warren, Baseball, Raritan Valley Community College, Branchburg.

The County College of Morris (CCM) Titans and the Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC) Lions play in the Garden State Athletic Conference (GSAC). The College of the Desert (COD) Roadrunners play in the California Community College Athletic Association (CCCCAA).

THREE ANNUAL SIGNING DAYS

There are three College Signing Days throughout the high school academic year: In November, February and May.

Earlier in the year, the following students declared their intention to play sports at the following colleges:

On Wednesday, Feb. 5, three student athletes in the WHRHS Class of 2020 announced their intentions to attend next year and play intercollegiate sports at Division I colleges.

THE STUDENTS SIGNING TO MATRICULATE AND PLAY AT DIVISION I COLLEGES ARE:

• Teresa Rotolo, who plans to attend and compete in Track and Field at Villanova University, Villanova, Pa.;
 • Chloe Mok, Fencing, Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, Conn.;
 • Victor Odoliniec, Fencing, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.

On Wednesday, Nov. 13, an additional seven WHRHS students announced their intentions to attend and play at Division I or Division II colleges.

AT DIVISION I COLLEGES:

• Chloe Ferreira, Soccer, Monmouth University, West Long Branch;
 • Laura Baeyens, Cross Country and Track & Field, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.;
 • Bradley Jelmert, Track & Field, Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, Ark.;
 • Mahogany Jenkins, Track & Field, University of Indiana, Bloomington, Ind.;
 • Christopher Salkowski, Track & Field, Coastal Carolina University, Conway, S.C.

AT DIVISION II COLLEGES:

• Kaitlyn Gully, Field Hockey, Bentley University, Waltham, Mass.;
 • Sophia Cicchetti, Softball, Adelphi University, Garden City, N.Y.

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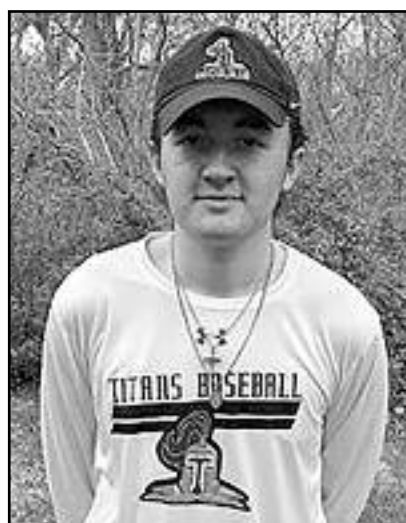
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(above) Maya Zhang
Fencing, Johns Hopkins



(above) Ryan Krug
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(above) Elizabeth Killeen
Volleyball, Montclair



(above) Joseph DeNave
Lacrosse, Muhlenberg



(above) Clement Carfaro
Football, Rowan



(above) Maurice Kirchofer III
Volleyball, Ramapo



(above) Scarlett Glasser-Nehls
Basketball, Arcadia



(above) Tanner Rokosny
Lacrosse, Kean



(above) Terryyn Stephens
Football, College of the Desert



(above) Michael Morin
Football, Salve Regina



(above) Anthony Leone
Lacrosse, Kean



(above) Vivian Zhang
Swimming, CalTech



(above) Caitlin Bonneson
Basketball, St. Mary's College



(above) Jayden Baltuch
Basketball, Emory



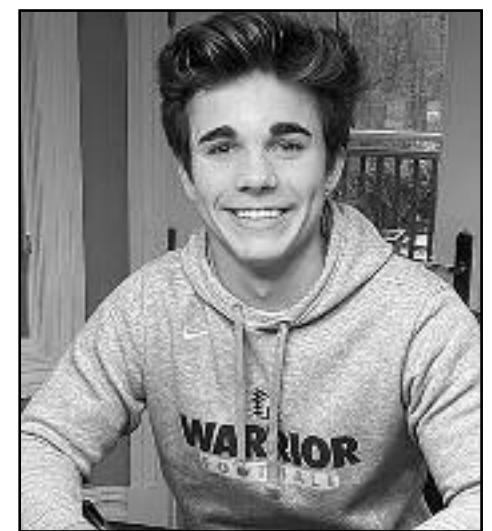
(above) Christopher Miller
Baseball, RVCC



(above) Jack Taub
Lacrosse, Muhlenberg



(above) Julia Schinik
Softball, Gettysburg



(above) Tanner Ash
Football, Kean



(above) Thomas Dardis
Track & Field, Ramapo



(above) Adam Claxton
Lacrosse, Kean



(above) Claudia O'Reilly
Swimming, Scranton



(above) Jordan Belle
Football, Kean



(above) Anthony Meluso,
WHRHS Director of Technology

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WARRIOR DISTANCE LEARNING TECH SQUAD

Submitted by Denis Kelly

If there is ever a dominant common characteristic enabling the students, faculty, administration, even parents to get the most educational value out of the experience of living during the time of the 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic, it is a newfound appreciation for all the essential workers, who are far too often taken for granted.

Introducing the Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) Distance Learning Tech Squad – The WHRHS IT Department. Since well before, but certainly doubly so since the start of the 2019-2020 School Year distance learning experience on March 16, they have been on-the-job, supporting students and teachers as the IT facilitators during the whole process.

The Warrior Distance Learning Tech Squad includes: IT Director Anthony Meluso, IT Manager Andy Bohl, Technicians Luis Nazario, Luis Kourany and Kevin Teeter, and Student Information Systems Manager Chris Beckert.

Meluso laid out the broad responsibilities for Tech Support during the distance learning experience.

“Planning started two weeks before the governor made the announcement to close school,” Meluso said. “IT was tasked with assessing available hardware and software for immediate use during the health-related closure.”

Meluso continued, “9th, 10th and 11th graders have 1:1 Chromebooks. For 12th grade, the students used their own devices. Surveys were conducted identifying students without a device

and students without internet at home. On the Friday before closing, IT distributed over 50 loaner Chromebooks to seniors. We also have seven students without the Internet at home. We provided those students with Verizon Hotspots.”

He continued, “Any technology hardware repairs or requests for staff and students are processed weekly. Drop off and pick up windows are between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. each day through the Building and Grounds offices.”

Meluso said, “The role of Google Classroom during distance learning is tremendously important. Announcements, discussion, assessments, and grading are processed here. It’s the hub that is needed to make communication flow without physically being in a classroom. Both teachers and students are already very familiar with all the possibilities of Google Classroom from prior professional development and the school’s focus to make it part of the daily learning stream.”

When asked how the transition to online learning was, Meluso responded “The staff at Watchung Hills are professional educators and quickly handled the transition from in-class learning to distance learning. They prepared several weeks of lessons ahead of the school closure. Initially, there were some issues with recording their lessons, sharing their screens, and access to files and other resources. The IT team quickly addressed these and worked on building tutorials to share with the faculty and staff.”

Photo by WHRHS

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THE AMERICAN LEGION MEMORIAL DAY SPEECH

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. Since local Memorial Day celebrations have been canceled due to Covid-19, the Legion's national headquarters distributed the below speech to commemorate Memorial Day 2020. The writer wishes to remain anonymous.

Every crisis has new heroes. During the 9/11 attacks, they were the first responders running into burning and crumbling buildings as others ran out. Now, during the Coronavirus pandemic, the most visible heroes are the health care professionals, who are saving others and risking their own lives while doing so.

These heroes have much in common with the people that we honor today – America's fallen veterans. They are men and women who have sacrificed their own lives so others could live. They are both elite and ordinary. They are elite in the sense of character. Giving your life so others could live is the ultimate definition of selfless.

They are ordinary in the fact that they represent the diverse fabric of our country. They are rich and poor, black and white, male and female. They come from every ethnicity and background. In short, they looked like anyone of us.

As we celebrate the selfless and untiring performances of the healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, it brings to mind the military medics, doctors and nurses who sacrificed their lives while treating others on the battlefield.

One such hero was Pharmacist Mate Third Class Jack Williams. The Navy Reserve corpsman was only 20 years old when he landed on Iwo Jima 75 years ago.

On March 3, 1945, James Naughton, a Marine in Williams' unit, was wounded by a grenade. While under intense enemy fire, Williams dragged Naughton to a shallow depression and treated his wounds. Williams used his own body as a screen and was shot four times. Yet he continued.

After he treated Naughton, Williams dressed his own wounds. He then proceeded to treat another Marine, despite his own immense pain. While heading to the rear, he was hit by a sniper's bullet and killed. For his actions, Petty Officer Williams was awarded the Medal of Honor.

We also remember Army veterans like Lieutenant Sharon Lane.

According to her biographer, Philip Bigler, Lt.

Lane threw herself into her work as a nurse. While serving in Colorado, she requested a transfer to Vietnam.

"There, at least, you are busy 12 hours a day, six or seven days a week," she said in a 1968 letter to her parents.

Her dedication was obvious, even as she treated enemy Viet Cong soldiers who would return the favor by kicking, cursing and spitting at their American captors.

In the early morning of June 8, 1969, Sharon's tour of duty ended. A Soviet-built rocket struck the hospital. Lieutenant Sharon A. Lane was killed in action at age 25.

If she were still here, her skills as a nurse might still be benefiting us during the current crisis. But not all of the heroes working during the COVID-19 pandemic are in the healthcare industry. Grocers, first responders, delivery workers and drive-through restaurant employees are just a few of the many people that we rely on to provide vital services for society while risking their own safety.

The military also has heroes in every occupational field. Truck drivers, cooks and administrative clerks have all paid the ultimate price. At sea, on land or in the air – military service requires great risk.

Roy Knight, Jr. was a pilot in the U.S. Air Force. On May 19, 1967, he was shot down while attacking a target on the Ho Chi Minh trail in Laos. He was posthumously promoted to colonel. Last year, a joint team from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency discovered and later identified Col. Knight's remains.

When his remains arrived at Dallas's Love Field, a crowd had gathered to witness the dignified transfer of the flag-draped casket from the Southwest Airlines jet into the receptive arms of the military honor guard. One observer reported that the entire crowd fell silent.

The Southwest flight was piloted by another Air Force veteran, Col. Knight's son, Bryan. Bryan Knight was only five-years-old when he said goodbye to his father as the elder Knight left for Vietnam.

This is yet another legacy that these heroes leave behind. A legacy that includes their sons, daughters, grieving parents, grandparents and friends.

Their heroic acts are sometimes performed to protect those with whom they serve. Corporal Jason Dunham was a squad leader with the Third Battalion, 7th Marines in Iraq.

On April 14, 2004, his squad approached a

Toyota Land Cruiser. After his squad discovered AK-47s in the vehicle, the enemy insurgent exited and engaged in hand-to-hand fighting with the unit. The driver dropped a grenade.

To save his fellow Marines, Corporal Dunham made the ultimate sacrifice. He threw himself on the grenade and tried to use his helmet to shield the blast. Severely wounded by the grenade's fragments, Cpl. Dunham was taken off life-support eight days later.

Corporal Dunham died so other Marines could live. He, too, was awarded the Medal of Honor for his gallantry.

Approximately one million men and women of the U.S. military have lost their lives in defense of our nation since the founding of this great Republic.

Not all have died from enemy fire. Some have died from diseases that have too often festered around war zones. Often times, deaths from disease and accidents outnumbered casualties caused by enemy weapons.

During the Spanish American War, 60 soldiers of the all-black 24th Infantry Regiment volunteered to serve as nurses. Thirty-six of them would later die of yellow fever or malaria.

A generation later, the flu would kill nearly 16,000 U.S. soldiers in France during World War I. Another 30,000 American servicemembers died in stateside camps. These men and women could have isolated safely in their homes. But they knew they had an important job to do. A mission to accomplish. They were all on a mission to serve.

Even when the enemy is an invisible virus or a microscopic germ, the sacrifices made are just as meaningful. The U.S. military has already lost servicemembers to COVID-19.

This Memorial Day as we continue to honor those who fell for us in battle, let's also pause to remember those who have also sacrificed their lives while serving others.

May God bless them and may God bless you for remembering them here today.

Thank you.



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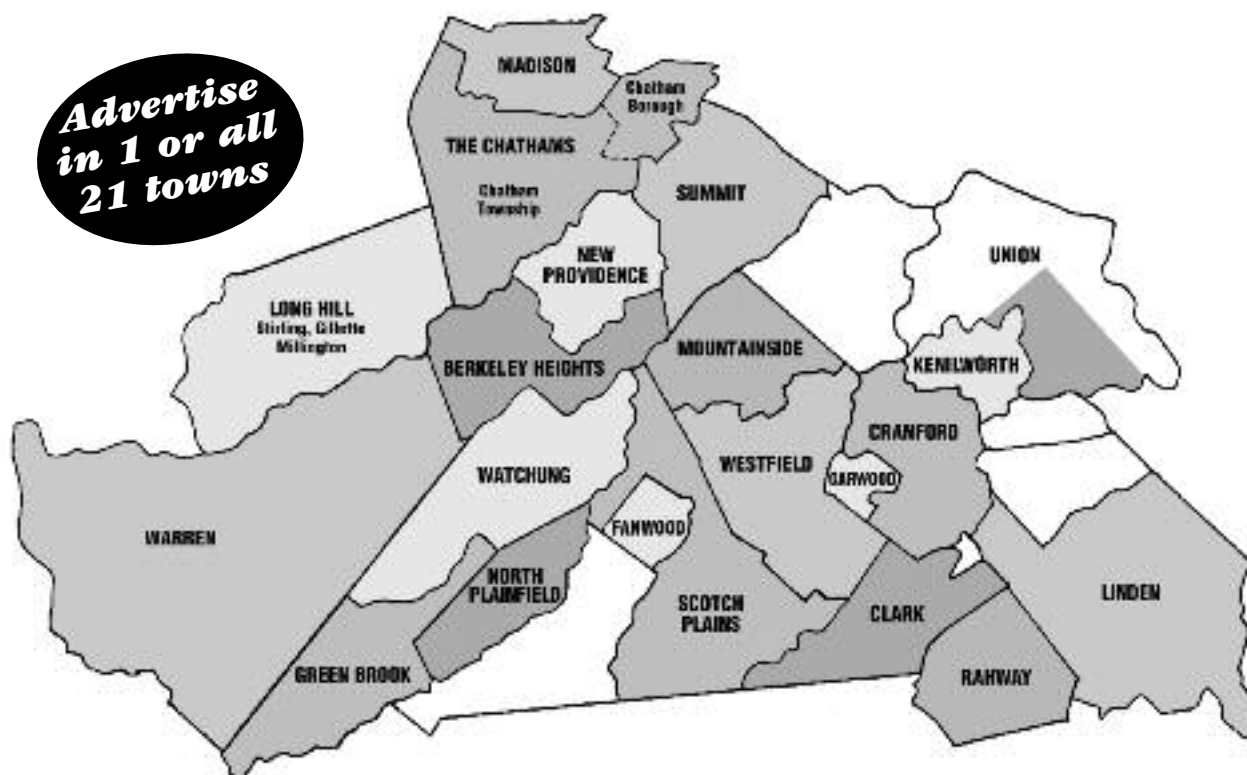
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Online Marketing is like the Wild West

Too many carpetbaggers are exploiting business owners, making empty promises that don't materialize.

Too many businesses are stuck in contracts with no return on investments, no way to check if the work is getting done, and needing to invest more to make things right.

The following is a guide to Renna Media services and costs that you can compare to your present provider.

I highly recommend doing an independent audit of your website!

Contact Walter Watson at walter@www-online-enterprises.com

He does a great job analysing and making recommendations.

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Thank you. - Joe Renna

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to 300 to 500 news outletsBudget choice from \$300 to \$500.

Website / SEO services

- Website Audit/Analysis and recommendation plan:\$250
- Website creation/update:.....\$2,400
(Cost for average website: 12 pages,
contact form, SEO friendly, responsive design)
- Website Hosting:\$300 per year
Includes website hosting, software updates,
monthly website content updates
- SEO Services:.....average cost \$1,000 - \$2,000 per month
Custom tailored solutions:
Google Ranking, Local SEO, Social Marketing

Video advertising

Production:

- Product placement \$250
- 30-second commercial \$500
- 3-minute spot \$1,000
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JENNIFER ALARCON - THE INSPIRATION BEHIND MEXICAN SPICE

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Business took off amazingly! In a matter of 3 years I went from making Salsa Verde in my own kitchen, to setting up a commercial kitchen, growing the team (or better said, building a team), participating in local Farmers Markets and catering countless events and parties.

We are now at two brick-and-mortar locations, and have exciting plans for continuing to grow.

Oh and did I mention the super-chic-amazing-fun-classy-fabulous Food Truck? Mexican Spice has a Food Truck which is the cutest little thing and we take it around New Jersey to cater special events like birthdays, weddings, and of course, to the local Food Truck Festivals.

I am passionate about the Mexican culture, the infinite flavors, colors and traditions, and I love that I am able to share "A little taste of Mexico" with the community.

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