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Watchung's Hometown Newspaper

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**ISSUE 92 • JUNE 2020** 

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#### POETRY INSPIRATION CHALLENGE DURING DISTANCE LEARNING

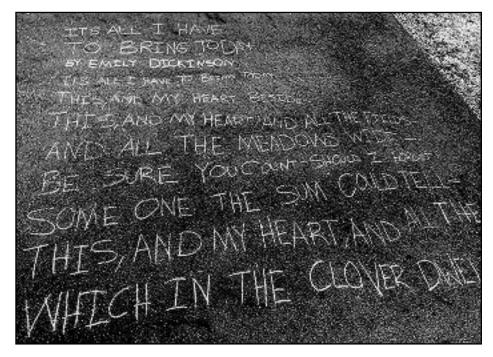
Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) English Teacher Jana Battiloro and her students discovered the use of a different kind of chalk board and a "Poetry Inspiration Challenge" during the Covid-19 Pandemic. The exercise helped students explore one way to harness the power of their own inner poet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

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

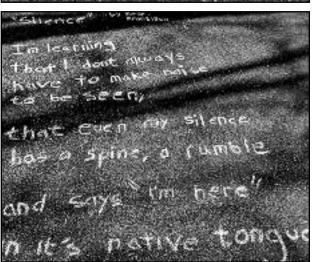
"The Tuesday before Spring Break, I left a 'challenge' for them on Google Classroom," Battiloro explained. Her challenge coincided with National Poetry Month.

"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.

Photos by WHRHS

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#### Watchung Post

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## JERALYN LAWRENCE INSTALLED AS 1ST VP OF NJ BAR ASSOCIATION

Jeralyn Lawrence, founder and Managing Partner of Lawrence Law, was installed as the First Vice President of the New Jersey State Bar Association. The ceremony took part, virtually, in connection with the New Jersey State Bar Association's Annual Meeting held on Tuesday, May 19, 2020. With this installation, her term as Second Vice President has concluded.

Lawrence says, "I am honored and humbled to be elected as First Vice President of the New Jersey State Bar Association. I look forward to working on behalf of the Association's members



(above) Attorney Jeralyn Lawrence of Watchung was installed as the First Vice President of the New Jersey State Bar Association.

Photo by Lynn Goodwin

Jeralyn Lawrence, founder and Managing and doing all that I can to advance our mission."

A resident of Watchung, Lawrence devotes her practice to matrimonial, divorce and family law. She is First Vice President of the New Jersey State Bar Association, slated to be President in 2022 and Vice President of the New Jersey Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. Lawrence is on the Board of The Women's Political Caucus of New Jersey. She is certified by the Supreme Court of New Jersey as a Matrimonial Law Attorney. She is a trained Family/Divorce Mediator, admitted to the rosters of Mediators for Economic Aspects of Family Law Cases and of Custody and Parenting Time Cases for Somerset County; is certified by the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, the preeminent family law association in America, as a Family Law Arbitrator; and is a graduate of the National Institute of Trial Advocacy and she recently argued as amicus before the New Jersey Supreme Court on a family law issue. Lawrence is also a trained collaborative law attorney. She has worked with clients in every area of matrimonial and family law, including divorce litigation and mediation, custody and parenting time, alimony and child support, separation and property settlement agreements, adoption and guardianship, domestic partnership matters, domestic violence and sexual abuse, and palimony. Lawrence handles highprofile matters for celebrities, professional athletes, and governmental officials. She takes immense pride and care in helping her clients through these difficult personal matters. Lawrence earned her bachelor's degree from Kean College and her law degree from Seton Hall, where she graduated second in her class.

Lawrence Law, with offices in Watchung and Red Bank, New Jersey, is a boutique firm devoted exclusively to the practice of matrimonial and family law.

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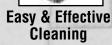








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(above) Alexandra "Lexi" Jacobson, a Freshman at Watchung Hills Regional High School, organized a group of over 80 people to write letters to the residents at the Chelsea in Warren, a nursing home in Somerset County.

#### STUDENT COORDINATES LETTER WRITING **CAMPAIGN TO SENIORS**

Alexandra "Lexi" Jacobson, a Freshman at Jacobson said. 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'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."

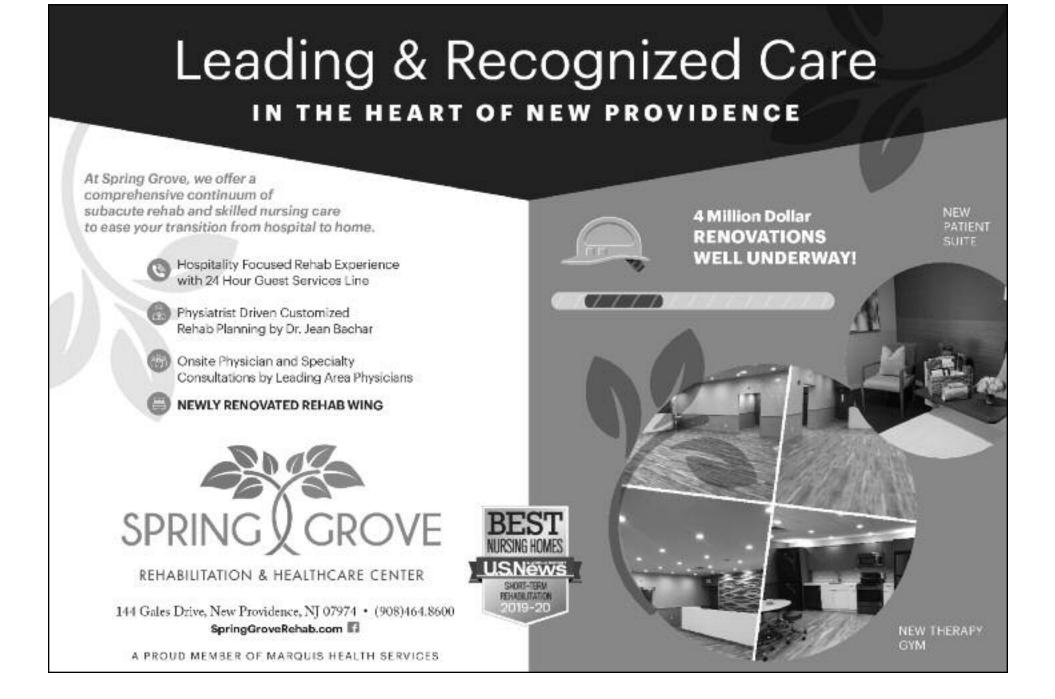
After delivering the letters, Jacobson received a call from the Chelsea about how much the residents appreciated the letters.

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!"

#### FISH AT WATCHUNG LIBRARY ARE DOING FINE

The popular goldfish at the Watchung Library have an addition to their tank - a fresh white clam shell that opens and closes, sending up flurries of bubbles. Like the other branches of the Somerset County Library System, the Watchung Library is temporarily closed because of the Covid-19 pandemic. During the closure, the fish are being well cared for and appear to be in good health. They have given no signs, however, of being impressed with their new clam shell.











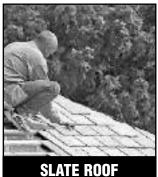




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#### WHRHS MAY ATHLETIC COLLEGE SIGNING DAY

Nineteen student athletes in the Watchung • Tanner Rokosny of Green Brook, Lacrosse, 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.;





- 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 (CCCAA).

#### 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.

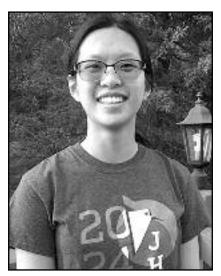
On Wednesday, Nov. 13, an additional seven WHRHS students announced their intentions to attend and play at Division I or Division II colleges.

#### AT DIVISION I COLLEGES:

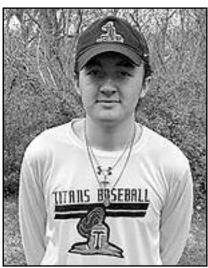
- Chloe Ferreira, Soccer, Monmouth University, West Long Branch;
- Laura Baeyens, Cross Country and Track & Field, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.;
- Bradley Jelmert, Track & Field, Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, Ark.;
- Mahogany Jenkins, Track & Field, University of Indiana, Bloomington, 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.



(above) Maya Zhang Fencing, Johns Hopkins



(above) Ryan Krug Baseball, CCM



(above) Elizabeth Killeen Volleyball, Montclair



(above) Joseph DeNave Lacrosse, Muhlenberg



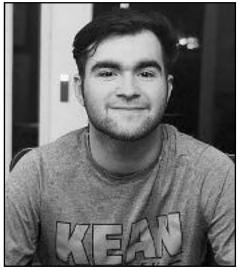
(above) Clement Carfaro Football, Rowan



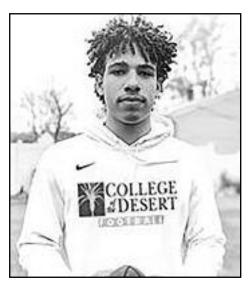
(above) Maurice Kirchofer III Volleyball, Ramapo



(above) Scarlett Glasser-Nehls Basketball, Arcadia



(above) Tanner Rokosny Lacrosse, Kean



(above) Terryn Stephens Football, College of the Desert



(above) Michael Morin Football, Salve Regina



(above) Anthony Leone Lacrosse, Kean



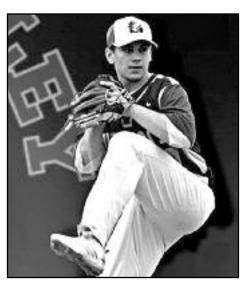
(above) Vivian Zhang Swimming, CalTech



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



(above) Jayden Baltuch Basketball, Emory



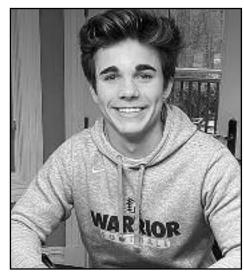
(above) Christopher Miller Baseball, RVCC



(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

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#### **CASA SHAW CONTINUES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE DURING COVID-19 CRISIS**

Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties (CASA SHaW) is one of the nonprofits in our region that is doing its part to make sure that vulnerable children and families have items they can utilize as they cope with our new social realities during the COVID-19 crisis.

"Child abuse and neglect increase when schools are closed, caregivers lose their income. and worries about bills, food, and family stress builds. Due to the current crisis we all are facing and our new social realities of being quarantined, many foster children do not have ready access to their regular stabilizers and safety nets. We have been delivering items to help these kids and their families by letting them know they are not forgotten during this time," said Tracey Heisler, Executive Director of CASA SHaW.

In addition to helping children in foster care, CASA SHaW has also been delivering items like First Night bags, toiletry kits, birthday bags and boxes, nightlights, books, pajamas, school supplies, crayons and coloring books, backpacks, puzzles, games, and socks to other families in the community who need support. Staff also made "comfort bags" for medical personnel at local hospitals with donations from the Bound Brook Women's Club. These donations came to CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates of SHaW from friends like St. John of the Mountain Church in Bernardsville, New York Life in Lebanon, the Jack and Jill Club of Central New Jersey, numerous women's club groups in the tricounties, and many other community partners.

Heisler recently received a heartwarming message from a grandmother of a foster child indicating that her very depressed 13-year old grandson, of whom she has custody, was elated to have received a birthday bag, a birthday box, and a First Night bag from CASA SHaW. "She told me, 'it has been years since I have seen him as excited as he was going through his birthday bag and the other things you brought," Heisler said. "It is truly amazing what we can all do collectively even during times of uncertainty and fear," said Heisler.

CASA of Somerset, Hunterdon, and Warren Counties is part of a statewide network of community-based, non-profit programs that recruit, screen, train and supervise volunteers to "Speak Up for a Child" removed from home due to abuse or neglect. CASA is the only program in New Jersey that uses trained volunteers to work one-on-one with children, ensuring that each one gets the services needed and achieves permanency in a safe, nurturing home. To find a local CASA program in your county, visit casaofnj.org.

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#### CHRISTINA TILLINGHAST NAMED VALEDICTORIAN AT MOUNT SAINT MARY

Student Services at Mount Saint Mary Academy in Watchung, has reported that Christina Tillinghast of Watchung has been named Valedictorian for the Class of 2020.

"I plan to attend Villanova University this fall," said Christina. "I received their Presidential Scholarship, which includes full tuition, room and board, general fees, cost of textbooks, a meal plan, and an invitation to the honors program, and I am very excited!"

"I am immensely honored to be the Class of 2020 Valedictorian," she continued. "It has truly been a privilege to learn and grow alongside and because of the brilliant young women I am lucky enough to call my classmates and sisters."

In addressing her fellow seniors, Christina said, "The past weeks have been really difficult, but, like usual, I am in awe of your resilience. I am so grateful for the power we are able to draw from each other, no matter how far apart we are.

Sofia Santos, Director of the Office of It is this power that has driven and will continue to drive me to be the best I can be. Though I have received this distinction, I owe much of my success to the incredible support so characteristic of the Mount community and the strong relationships I have developed here over the last four years. Thank you to everyone who has believed in me, inspired me, and helped me along the way. Thank you to my classmates, my teachers, and my family for being my biggest supporters and for always challenging me to work to my greatest abilities."

Christina is an editor of the Echoes Literary Magazine and a Peer Minister at Mount Saint Mary Academy. Prior to the COVID-19 quarantine, she helped teach a first-grade CCD class, was an Assistant Captain of the Forensics Team, was a member of the Rutgers Oncology Olympiad team, and a member of Model United Nations.

Ms. Santos said, "Christina is truly remarkable young woman who is gifted, talented and driven. She has a general curiosity for life and is a consummate student who learns for the sheer joy of it. Above all, Christina is known and cherished for her genuine and welcoming nature. Those that know Christina know that they will always be greeted with a warm and welcoming smile. Students of Christina's caliber are few and far between!"

Christina is the daughter of Gemma and George Tillinghast of Watchung.



(above) Christina Tillinghast of Watchung has been named Valedictorian for the Mount Saint Mary Academy Class of 2020.



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Back cover, front page hanner and front box reserved on first come, first served basis. Current advertiser has right of first refusal.

#### PREPAY FOR 6 MONTHS AND GET 1 FREE

RATE FOR

ANY 12

NEWSPAPERS

\$400

\$600

\$1100

\$1400

\$1800

\$2200

Make Checks payable to Renna Media, 202 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016

Visit RennaMedia.com for online publications. Photo albums, video and advertising opportunities.

## Howdy Partners! 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.

It is only \$250 and can save you time, money and headaches.

Thank you. - Joe Renna

### **Full Service Online Marketing**





#### **Online Marketing Items**

Website ads and Social Media Posts, Classified ads .....\$20 per item
 Special bulk price......Block of 20 items \$100 Including: Press releases / Classified Ads
 Web Page / Calendar Event / Monthly Banner ads

#### Extra Boost:

- Blast your online ad or press release to a targeted market: .....\$100
- National Press Release Distribution to 300 to 500 news outlets ......Budget choice from \$300 to \$500.

#### Website / SEO services

- 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
- 30-minute show \$1,500
- 3-hour shoot \$2,000

## Do not commit to a service unless you have a solid marketing plan and budget.

Your plan should work on paper before you spend dime one. Don't waste money just trying something. There is no magic bullet. **Call Joe for a free consultation.** 

Call Joe Renna 908-447-1295 Email: JoeRenna@RennaMedia.com Check out Joe Renna's Hyper Local Network on You Tube. Call 908-447-1295

if you want your business featured on line and in print. See sample show below.



#### JENNIFER ALARCON -THE INSPIRATION BEHIND MEXICAN SPICE

I was born and raised in Mexico City, and now a happy resident of Chatham NJ for the last 13 years, I have searched for what I would call authentic and delicious Mexican food. Disappointed with my local findings, I decided to start my own little catering business to my friends and neighbors.

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-amazingfun-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.

## SCAN QR CODE TO OPEN OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL



#### Call Today for a Free Estimate! 🗵 855.624.6655















ROOFING | SIDING | WINDOWS KITCHENS | BATHROOMS | BASEMENTS MASONRY | DECKS | PORCHES

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