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ELEVEN STUDENTS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS

Submitted by Denis Kelly

Eleven students in the Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) Class of 2021 have been named National Merit Semifinalists, according to information released by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) of Evanston, Ill.

The WHRHS Semifinalists are: Michael Horzepa, Victor Hu, Elizabeth Huang, Charles Margulies, Nora Mehler, Rohil Novani, Paulina Przybylski, Wesleu Tseng, Neha Venkatesh, Valerie Wang, and Tyler Wu.

WHRHS'S 11 National Merit Semifinalists this year are the latest of the 63 WHRHS students who have qualified as National Merit Semifinalists during the most recent seven school years. The year-to-year totals have been: Class of 2015 – 11; Class of 2016 – 6; Class of 2017 – 10; Class of 2018 – 15; Class of 2019 – 6; and Class of 2020 – 4, and Class of 2021 – 11.

As part of NMSC's annual national announcement, about 16,000 Semifinalists have been named in high schools across the country, and that from that number, about 15,000 are expected to be named National Merit Finalists in February.

Students who qualified as Semifinalists did so by taking the 2019 Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) in the Fall of 2019. The annual PSAT/NMSQT serves as an initial screening of program entrants.

"The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest scoring entrants in each state," the NMSC's release states. "The number of Semifinalists is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors."

The release continues, "To become a Finalist, the Semifinalist and a high school official must submit a detailed scholarship application in which they provide detailed information about the Semifinalist's academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received. A Semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, and write an essay."

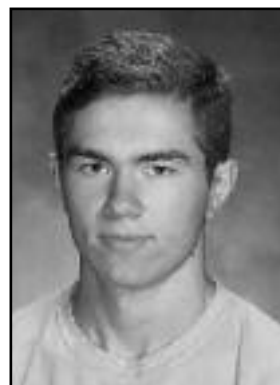
Semifinalists have the potential to compete for National Merit Scholarship awards, corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards, and college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards.



Nora Mehler



Wesley Tseng



Michael Horzepa



Neha Venkatesh



Charles Margulies



Elizabeth Huang



Paulina Przybylski



Rohil Navani



Tyler Wu



Valerie Wang



Victor Hu

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**Organizations
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LONG HILL TOWNSHIP PUMPKIN PATCH SHRED WITH NEIGHBORS

Submitted by Jackie Hurley

Our neighbors, Chuck and Eileen Arentowicz of Heritage Road in Millington, grew two pumpkin patches surrounding their beautiful home. Over a weekend in September, they held a

pumpkin lottery for the children in the Colonial Woods section to come and pick a pumpkin to welcome the fall season. Their kindness and generosity always shines within our neighborhood!



(above) Delaney, Dylan, and Dean Hurley with Mr. Chuck.

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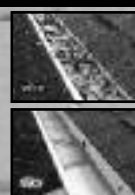
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IMAGINE LAUNCHES SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR NURSES

Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss announced the expansion of its virtual group support programs with one designed to help nurses dealing with the stressors of healthcare work during Covid-19. Imagine, which serves more than 2,000 individuals annually and is nationally recognized for its work helping bereaved children and their families, offers its Peer Support Group for Nurses at no cost. Interested nurses can join the weekly support

group at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays beginning September 30.

When asked about the decision to launch this program, Imagine's Founder and Executive Director Mary Robinson said, "Through the pandemic, we recognized a gap in support for some of the people we rely on most: our nurses. Supporting nurses who are themselves supporting grieving families felt like a perfect fit for our mission."

Robinson, who was named a 2019 CNN Hero, went on to say, "Nurses continue to selflessly care for others despite their own fears about their potential exposure to Covid-19. We need to ensure they have a place to turn to for support."

For many, the anxiety they feel going to work in a healthcare environment comes on top of grief they were feeling before the pandemic even hit.

Talia Sion, a newly minted nurse, had attended Imagine's Young Adult Group for support following the death of her mother in January, and then joined the organization's pilot support program for First Responders when the pandemic hit.

Of her experience, Sion said, "I was quickly overwhelmed with the weight of so many sick and unstable patients, not knowing if and when things would ever get back to 'normal.' Once again, Imagine created a program for me to turn to with people who understood how I feel; people who understood what I was facing on a daily basis at work."

The nature of the program's virtual environment breaks down geographic boundaries for those seeking support. Nurses from New Jersey and throughout the country are welcome to attend.

"New Jersey is no longer a hotspot for Covid-19, but many of the nurses here are processing what they went through and bracing for a possible resurgence," Robinson said. "Meanwhile, there are nurses in other states in similar positions to where we were a few months ago. Sharing these stories, fears, and challenges at all different stages in a peer support model is proven to be an effective way to learn coping strategies."

As with all of Imagine's offerings, this free Peer Group Support for Nurses program will be available year-round for as long as is needed. Those who are interested can register at imagine-nj.org/nurses.

Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss is a New Jersey-based grief support center for children, young adults and families dealing with the death or life-altering illness of a parent, sibling or child. In addition to its peer grief support programs, Imagine provides training through education and outreach programs across the state to a variety of organizations including schools, houses of worship and corporations. Its goal is to create communities where grief and loss are transformed into resilience, empathy and compassion; and where no child grieves alone.



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Nathan Weiser

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Charles Sherrick

★★★★★

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Thank you Spring Grove.



Chrissy Sloan

★★★★★

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WAGNER FARM ARBORETUM BRITE NITES 2020

If it's Fall, then it must be time for Warren's coolest pumpkin event! Returning for an 9th year, it's Wagner Farm Arboretum's spectacular Halloween-themed event "Brite Nites" which showcases an elaborate display of intricately and creatively hand-carved and lighted pumpkins. This year we are going contactless and bringing the displays to your vehicle by making the Pumpkin Path a drive-thru event. Instead of meandering through the Children's Garden path you will be driving by the breath-taking pumpkin sculptures, where the young and younger will be astounded by their complexity and originality. New this year will be a tribute to our first responders and medical heroes. The whole family is sure to be entertained while supporting a local organization, from the safety and comfort of your own car. With your help, we can continue to build out the vision of a world-class arboretum, right here in town.

About Wagner Farm Arboretum: Established in 2004 as a non-profit organization, the Arboretum seeks to enrich, educate and inspire the community by increasing environmental awareness and natural recreational opportunities.

Our programs include the Giving Project where volunteers sow, plant, grow, weed and harvest over 10,000 lbs of fresh produce, in the Giving Garden, the Coddington Plots and the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Farms, to donate to local food pantries. Our Growing to Give program is a staple at the area elementary schools. Last but not least is the one acre Community Garden where area gardeners can try their hand at growing their own produce.

Brite Nites 2020 Dates: October 14-18, 21-25, 28-31, and Nov 1. Entry times start around 6:30pm and end at 9:45pm.

Where: Wagner Farm Arboretum, 197 Mountain Ave., Warren, NJ 07059.

Contact: Eileen Alario at (908) 350-7383, email BriteNites@wfafnj.org

Website: www.britenites.org

Tickets: timed tickets sold online only, in 15-minute intervals, no sales at the gate

Admission: Wed, Thurs, Sun - \$25 per car & Fri, Sat - \$30 per car

Due to the one-way flow of traffic, absolutely no cars without pre-purchased tickets will be allowed to queue up.



Wagner Farm Arboretum Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) Organization

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ANGELO CERULLI

JULY 20, 1920 - AUGUST 22, 2020

Angelo Cerulli died Saturday, August 22, 2020 at his home in Stirling, NJ. He was 100.

Angelo was born in Stirling, NJ on July 20, 1920, a son of the late Assunta (Carlone) and Frank Cerulli, Sr. and was a lifelong resident of Stirling.

He worked as the Maintenance Supervisor for the Passaic Township School System and prior employment included working as the Assistant Chief at the Federal Firefighter General Service Administration from 1948-1974.

Angelo was the oldest current member of the Stirling Fire Company in Stirling, NJ joining in 1941. He served as Vice President, Captain and as Chief from 1962-1971, was awarded the Distinguished Service Award in 1969 and was a Life Member of the Relief Association.

He was a WWII Army Veteran serving from 1942-1946 received the American Service medal, Philippines Liberation Ribon, Good Conduct Medal, WWII Victory Medal, Asiatic Pacific Service Medal and the Distinguished Unit emblem.

He was a member of St. Vincent de Paul RC Church in Stirling, NJ.

Angelo loved to play baseball growing up and was an avid Yankee Fan.

He was pre-deceased by his wife Elizabeth Ann (Granata) Cerulli in 2013.

Angelo is survived by his son Eugene S. Cerulli, a daughter, Debra S, wife of David (2019) Moscara and his granddaughter Melissa and her husband Max Frater.

The Stirling Fire Company posted on their Facebook page "It is with a heavy heart that we announce the death of our oldest member, Past Chief Angelo Cerulli. He was Chief of the Stirling Fire Company from 1962 - 1971, the longest consecutive tenure in company history. In fact, from 1939 through 1978, either he or one of his brothers, Dan, or Frank, served as chief for 30 of those years. He is a life member, and the longest serving member at 79 years. He was the township's first fire marshal and was instrumental in passing the no open burning ordinance after large brush fires in the early 60s. Thank you Chief Cerulli for your service to our township and our country. Thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends, Rest In Peace Chief."



(above) Angelo Cerulli served as Chief of the Stirling Fire Company from 1962 – 1971.

Photo by Stirling Fire Company

CHIMNEY FIRE SAFETY AND PREVENTION

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With the chilly weather we can smell the neighborhood chimneys more and more each day. We want you to stay warm and cozy, but we want you to stay safe as well!

CHIMNEY FIRE SAFETY AND PREVENTION

According to the Chimney Safety Institute of America (CSIA), there are 22,300 chimney fires annually. Without the necessary precautions, chimney fires have the potential to damage structures, entirely destroy homes and even harm your family or neighbors.

WHAT DOES A CHIMNEY FIRE SOUND LIKE?

Indications of a chimney fire include loud cracking and popping noises, a lot of dense smoke and an intense, hot smell. Although chimney fires mostly burn explosively, they can sometimes burn slowly – you may not even notice you have one until it starts to do serious damage.

WHAT IS CREOSOTE?

Smoke, water vapor, gases, unburned wood particles, hydrocarbon, tar fog and minerals are meant to exit the chimney. Once condensation occurs, it creates a sticky, thick residue known as creosote that sticks to the inner walls of your chimney instead. Creosote is highly combustible and a buildup could easily spark a chimney fire.

HOW CAN I PREVENT A CHIMNEY FIRE?

Regularly follow a few simple steps, and it will be much easier keep your chimney safe from catching fire.

Clean your chimney regularly. Getting rid of excess creosote helps ensure that your chimney doesn't spontaneously catch fire. You can do this annually with a simple chimney brush, an extension pipe, and chemical creosote removers, or you can call professionals to deep clean your chimney for you.

Never put trash, Christmas trees or cardboard

in your fire. These items can cause increased smoke and creosote buildup and even spark a chimney fire.

Only use completely dry or seasoned wood. Unseasoned wood requires more energy to burn, which means cooler smoke will flow up your chimney and deposit higher levels of creosote. Moist wood also won't burn as hot and will cause more smoke, accelerating the buildup of creosote in your chimney. As a rule of thumb, it takes about 6 months for freshly cut wood to be dry enough to burn.

HOW DO I PUT OUT A CHIMNEY FIRE?

In the event that your chimney does catch fire, call 9-1-1 immediately.

Only after you call for help should you try through the following steps, provided that it's safe to act:

Alert everyone in the house that there's a fire and direct them to move outside immediately.

Use a chimney fire extinguisher. Specially designed to combat chimney fires, a chimney fire extinguisher is your first line of defense. Carefully read and follow the manufacturer's instructions before use.

Close the doors. Cutting off the oxygen supply may suffocate the fire before it gets out of hand.

Check for sparks outside that may shower out of the top of your chimney. In certain circumstances, the sparks could ignite your roof or nearby combustibles, so it's best to keep the fire localized.

Use a garden hose to spray water around the chimney and reduce the risk of your roof catching fire if firefighters haven't arrived yet and you aren't putting yourself in added danger.

Be Safe!

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MORRIS COUNTY OBSERVES INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY TREE PLANTED TO MEMORIALIZE LIVES LOST TO DRUGS

Morris County, state and federal officials joined families who lost loved-ones due to overdoses and several community organizations on August 31 in Parsippany to recognize International Overdose Awareness Day, an annual event observed to reduce the stigma of drug-addiction and the tragedy of drug-related deaths.

The occasion was marked with a freshly planted, weeping cherry tree, dubbed an “Angel Tree Memorial,” dedicated outside the Morris County Addiction Center off Central Avenue.

“Being present for the dedication of the first Angel Tree Memorial in Morris County gives this grieving mother hope. Honoring my beloved son and angel, Justin, along with all of the angels in Morris County lost to the drug epidemic — those of us who grieve them, and those who continue to fight for recovery — literally breathes life from that weeping cherry tree into a place where it is desperately needed,” said Rebecca Finnerty of Montville, who spoke at the ceremony about losing her son to a heroin overdose in 2016.

Others stories of overdoses were told by a dozen parents, each bearing large photos of the children they lost to drug addiction – including one woman who lost both a son and daughter.

The concern over overdose deaths is more poignant this year as recent data from the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicates drug-related deaths in the United States rose to record levels in 2019 and continue to climb. New Jersey ranks seventh among all 50 states with the highest per-capita rate of deaths due to drug overdose.

“We have lost far too many lives in communities across New Jersey and the country due to opioid abuse and drug overdose,” said Senator Bucco. “This day will serve as a humble reminder across our state of the work that needs to be done to protect innocent lives and raise awareness to the issue that impacts families of every creed. If we as a community come together

to better understand, inform, and educate about the scourge of substance abuse and overdose, we can work to find better ways to help the most vulnerable among us and save lives.”

The senator introduced legislation recently approved by the state Senate and Assembly to establish every August 31 as Overdose Awareness Day in New Jersey. The rise in annual addiction-related deaths has surpassed record annual highs for auto accidents and it is the leading cause for a reduction in the nation’s life expectancy, according to the CDC.

The CDC issued a preliminary report in July indicating nearly 72,000 Americans died from drug overdoses in 2019, marking a sharp increase over 2018, when the nation had been experiencing a decrease.

“On International Overdose Awareness Day we honor those lost. Every day that we advocate for those actively using and those with substance use disorders, we have those that we have lost in our heart,” said Kelly Labar, Peer Recovery Specialist at the Center for Addiction Recovery Education & Success.

NJ Cares, also known as the state Office of the New Jersey Coordinator for Addiction Responses and Enforcement Strategies, reported 1,595 suspected drug-related deaths in the state as of June 30. That puts the state on a pace to equal or exceed the 3,021 drug-related deaths the agency counted in 2019.

“The heroin and opioid epidemic continues to be a scourge on the residents of New Jersey. The Narcan program in Morris County is a critical component to our multidisciplinary approach in combating this epidemic. Other components include a strong focus on public education and

Operation Helping Hand, a cooperative law enforcement initiative where substance use treatment is offered to those arrested for possessory drug offenses, for those determined to be eligible,” said Morris County Prosecutor Fredric M. Knapp. “The Morris County Prosecutor’s Office will continue to collaborate with our law enforcement and non-profit partners to save lives and connect those struggling with substance use to treatment resources immediately after overdoses are reversed.”

In Morris County, NJ Cares counted 89 drug-related deaths in 2018 and 86 for 2019. So far this year, 54 deaths have been registered in Morris County.

Morris County has been a leading force in combating addiction, adopting a Stigma Free policy years ago while launching multiple programs to deal with the rising phenomenon of drug overdoses through the Morris County Department of Human Services, the Mental Health Association of Morris County, the Community Outreach and Planning Section in the Sheriff’s Office, Morris County Prevention is Key and their Center for Addiction Recovery Education and Success.

The Morris County Addiction Recovery Response Team and the Morris County Sheriff’s Hope One Mobile Response Unit were launched in 2017, with the ARRT offering peer-recovery support to overdose survivors in hospital emergency departments and follow-up counseling. The Hope One outreach program, which is a mobile recovery access center, travels throughout Morris County to provide critical support to people struggling with addiction to prevent overdoses and deaths.



(above, l-r) Rebecca Finnerty of Montville, standing with her daughter Chloe, spoke about losing her son to an overdose. Next to her were Sen. Anthony Bucco, Sheriff James M. Gannon and Freeholder Director Deborah Smith.



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When asked about the decision to launch this program, Imagine's Founder and Executive Director Mary Robinson said, "Through the pandemic, we recognized a gap in support for some of the people we rely on most: our nurses. Supporting nurses who are themselves supporting grieving families felt like a perfect fit for our mission."

Robinson, who was named a 2019 CNN Hero, went on to say, "Nurses continue to selflessly care for others despite their own fears about their potential exposure to Covid-19. We need to ensure they have a place to turn to for support."

For many, the anxiety they feel going to work in a healthcare environment comes on top of grief they were feeling before the pandemic even hit.

Talia Sion, a newly minted nurse, had attended Imagine's Young Adult Group for support following the death of her mother in January, and then joined the organization's pilot support program for First Responders when the pandemic hit.

Of her experience, Sion said, "I was quickly overwhelmed with the weight of so many sick and unstable patients, not knowing if and when

things would ever get back to 'normal.' Once again, Imagine created a program for me to turn to with people who understood how I feel; people who understood what I was facing on a daily basis at work."

The nature of the program's virtual environment breaks down geographic boundaries for those seeking support. Nurses from New Jersey and throughout the country are welcome to attend.

"New Jersey is no longer a hotspot for Covid-19, but many of the nurses here are processing what they went through and bracing for a possible resurgence," Robinson said. "Meanwhile, there are nurses in other states in similar positions to where we were a few months ago. Sharing these stories, fears, and challenges at all different stages in a peer support model is proven to be an effective way to learn coping strategies."

As with all of Imagine's offerings, this free Peer Group Support for Nurses program will be available year-round for as long as is needed. Those who are interested can register at imagineenj.org/nurses.

Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss is a New Jersey-based grief support center for children, young adults and families dealing with the death or life-altering illness of a parent, sibling or child. In addition to its peer grief support programs, Imagine provides training through education and outreach programs across the state to a variety of organizations including schools, houses of worship and corporations. Its goal is to create communities where grief and loss are transformed into resilience, empathy and compassion; and where no child grieves alone.

FAITH LUTHERAN SUPPLIES MORE THAN 20,000 SANDWICHES TO ST. JOHN'S SOUP KITCHEN

Submitted by Larry Holt

Since the upsurge in coronavirus cases in mid-March, each Thursday Faith Lutheran in New Providence has been contributing about 800 sandwiches to the soup kitchen of St. John's Roman Catholic Church in Newark. The sandwiches are made by members and friends of Faith. Included with each week's delivery are snacks, fruit and homemade baked goods.

In response to a special request from St. John's, Faith also donates children's and adult diapers, socks and washcloths.

This initiative has been organized and managed by Sally Reier, ministry associate of Faith, and Rev. Jane McCready, pastor of Faith. The latter makes the delivery each Thursday morning.

St. John's Soup Kitchen has been providing food for over forty years to those who have none in the Newark area. For thirty-seven years, on two Saturdays a month, a group from Faith has donated, prepared and served a comprehensive hot meal at St. John's. Few people know what it is like to go without food but every day men, women and children, who have fallen on hard times, come to the kitchen to eat.

Due to the economic problems caused by the coronavirus, the number of guests at St. John's has increased greatly. Kitchens and pantries in the

area have been forced to close because of the risk the virus presents. St. John's has remained open and done everything possible to streamline its service and reduce the risk for its guests and volunteers. It is determined to continue its mission. Everyday people tell the administrators at St. John's how grateful they are and they do not know what they would do if the kitchen no longer provided them food.

If you wish to learn more about making sandwiches for St. John's, please call Faith's office at 908-464-5177 or email the office at family.faith@verizon.net. Faith is located at 524 South Street in New Providence. The web site is famfaith.org.



(above) Tony of St. John's Soup Kitchen and Rev. Jane McCready, pastor of Faith, with recent delivery of 800 sandwiches and other items.

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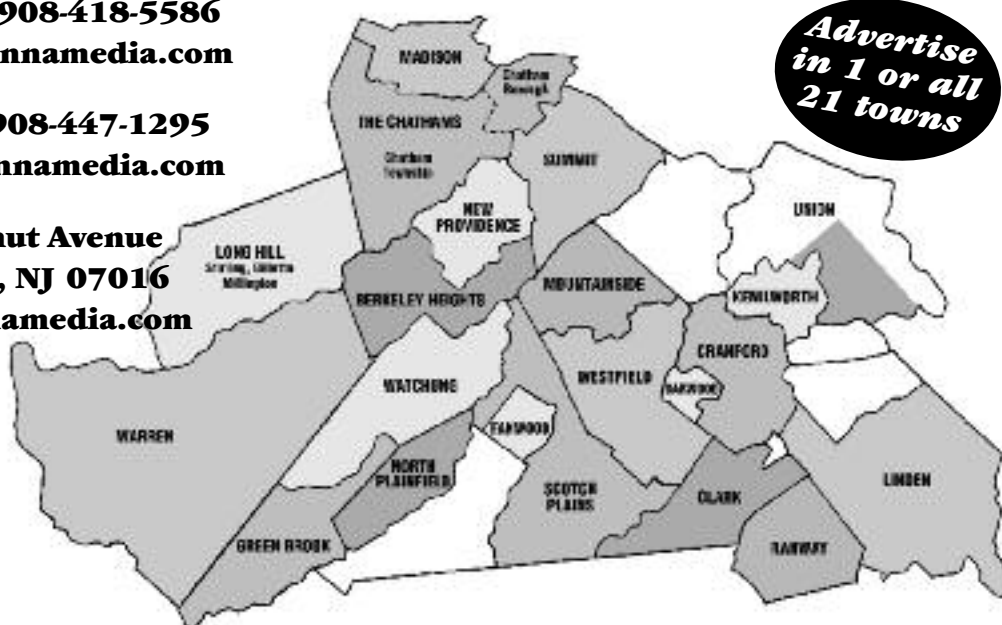
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4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700
6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400
12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700
18 FULL PAGE	10" x 14"	\$400	\$1000	\$1400	\$1800	\$2200	\$2500	\$2800	\$3000
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- Website Audit/Analysis and recommendation plan:\$250
- Website creation/update:.....\$2,400
(Cost for average website: 12 pages,
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- Website Hosting:\$300 per year
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monthly website content updates
- SEO Services:.....average cost \$1,000 - \$2,000 per month
Custom tailored solutions:
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