

# BAYPORT *Blue Point* GAZETTE

November 2021 Two Towns  One Community

## Thomas J. Reid,



local micro media mogul and beloved community leader, died this past Labor Day, after a long and hard fought battle with Parkinson's Disease. He was 73.

Tom was a leading figure in the early days of the Bayport-Blue Point Chamber of Commerce where he served as President and was responsible for implementing some of the town's most celebrated events. He was instrumental in the creation of the BBP St. Patrick's Day Parade, Chamber Easter Egg Hunt, and Community Expo. But he is perhaps best known for being the founder and owner of the hometown good-news newspaper,

the Gazettes. Established in 1991 with the Irish Gazette, as a means to finance the new St. Patrick's Day parade, the yearly publication has grown to service 22,000 homes over several towns and launched the monthly Bayport-Blue Point and Sayville Gazettes. Over the past 30 years, Tom has compiled stories of his hometown heroes, creating an archive of their accomplishments and leaving a tangible record of lives well lived.

As news of Tom's passing rippled through the community, tributes from near and far began to pour in on social media. "A dear friend who helped begin my love affair with Bayport-Blue Point" wrote Lenore Ringer-Prezioso "Tom was a true servant of this community, whose sense of good made the Gazette the joy it brought to so many." Others spoke of



the lasting legacy he left "Rest In Peace Tom knowing that you made your vision of Two Towns, One Community come true." wrote Bayport Civic founder Bob Draffin. Dorothy Gillespie-Keller added "What an amazing legacy he has left, memories that certainly brought tears of joy into our lives." Local writers, reporters and artists, many of whom launched their careers in the pages of Tom's paper, paused to reflect and give thanks. "Tom recognized the value in my photography and proudly featured my work in his calendars and newspapers. I wish I could thank him again for his generosity." wrote Blue Point's Ted Cremer. The results of the support and artist licence he extended to so many of us, couldn't be understated. "Seeing my photos on the cover of the Gazette for the first time was a moment I'll never forget." said star BBP sports photographer Mikaela Carroll "it was an honor to always be included in such an important part of our community. Mr. Reid made that possible."

Popular artist Timothy Butler was an early writer and photographer for the Sayville Gazette and has remained a steady contributor in both papers for over a decade. He'll miss his long talk with Tom and the friendship they built while working together. "Tom was an asset to the communities of Bayport, Blue Point and Sayville. He always gave generous space to feature the achievements of local kids, as well as landscapes and other events like scouting. I will always be grateful for his professionalism and loyalty." Butler went on to say "I know his paper is in good hands, he provided a solid foundation in a time of electronic media and larger, more impersonal publications. The Gazette is truly a hometown paper and a local treasure."

continued page 15



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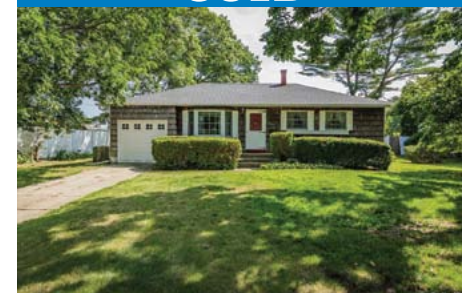
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By Ezra Powers  
On the morning of October 31st, Bayport-Blue Point High School organized a Halloween Trunk or Treat for the second year in a row. The outdoor event, where costumed student volunteers handed out treats in front of decked-out spooky car trunks, was introduced last year as a COVID safe alternative to the school's traditional Safe Halloween. Run by BBPHS Drama Club, it was open to the entire community and resulted in an



impressive turnout. "It was amazing to see everyone come together, especially through the hardships of the pandemic," said 11th grader Cadence Corcoran "All the little kids dressed up in their costumes were adorable and had a great time." Also on hand to help out was BBPHS Principal Mr. Haas and Drama Advisors Mr. McMullen and Mr. Eberhard whose continued support allowed the successful celebration to return.

Photos Kate Berube

# Walter Found Another Cool Bird

What bird could be a better pick for a November issue than a Wild Turkey (Meleagris gallopavo)? When I saw this bird as it walked by my front window, I immediately went for my camera, texting my next-door neighbor along the way. By the time I got outside, the turkey had turned the corner and was making a beeline for another neighbor's bird feeder. I started shooting and my neighbor eventually caught up with his two year old daughter. Miss Penny was delighted at seeing such a larger bird. After I got a few shots off, I went back to my house. I later learned that my neighbors stayed long enough to watch the turkey fly away. I was interested to learn that Wild Turkeys are found in 49 of our 50 states. So if you are planing a trip to Alaska, don't plan on turkey hunting while you're there. However, you could plan on doing so on your next trip to Hawaii! Aloha and Happy Thanksgiving!



Photo Walter Petrule

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## Phantom Pride Displayed At Homecoming

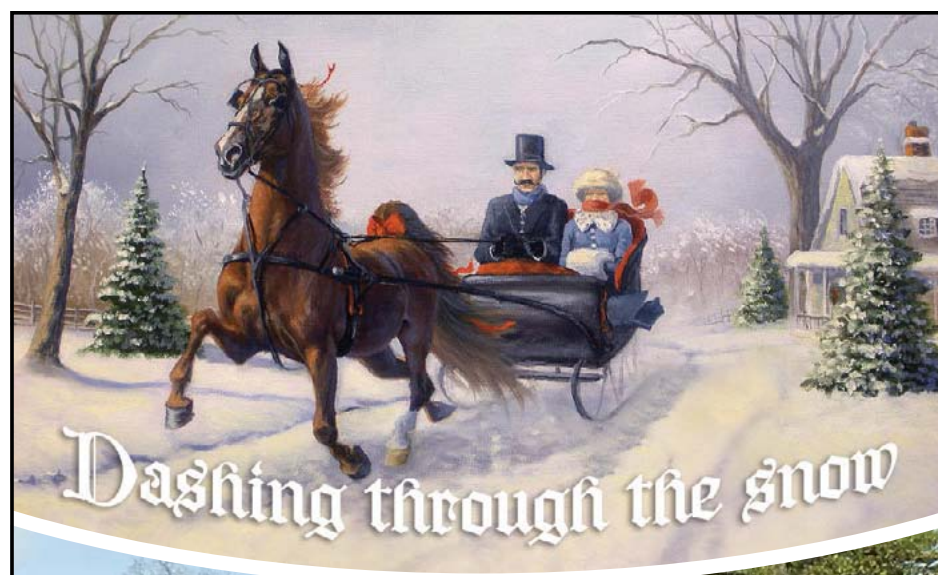
A sensational fall afternoon and community pride was the perfect backdrop for Bayport-Blue Point High School's annual homecoming festivities, held on Oct. 16. The fun-filled activities commenced with a Friday afternoon pep rally and spirit week. Prior to the afternoon game against Shoreham-Wading River High School, the community cheered the students who marched through the neighborhood and down Snedecor Avenue with themed banners, the James Wilson Middle School and high school marching bands, cheerleaders and members of the fire department, police and ambulance corps. During the afternoon, residents, faculty and students packed the bleachers at Bob Sullivan Field and demonstrated their Phantom Nation pride while dressed in school colors and shouting cheers for the home team. During the halftime show, the 2021 Hall of Fame inductees, George Brush (Class of 1991), Glenn Donatelli (Class of 2007) and members of the 2011 boys varsity lacrosse team were announced by Director of Physical Education, Health and Interscholastic Sports Timothy Mullins. After the nominees for king and queen were introduced, Matthew Nilan and Tyonne Bradley were crowned as 2021 homecoming king and queen. The cheerleading team also revved up the community even more with a cheer routine and stunts performed on the 50-yard line. The Phantoms showed spirit and determination throughout the game and lived up to their reputation with a 34-14 win against Shoreham-Wading River High School to the delight of everyone in attendance.



All Photos Kate Berube unless noted







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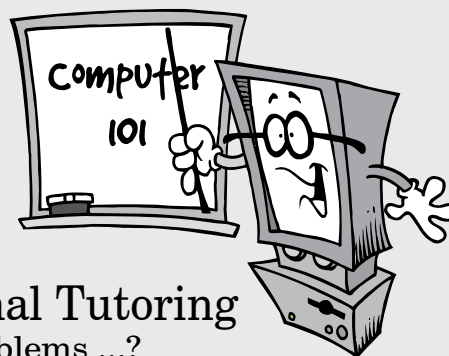
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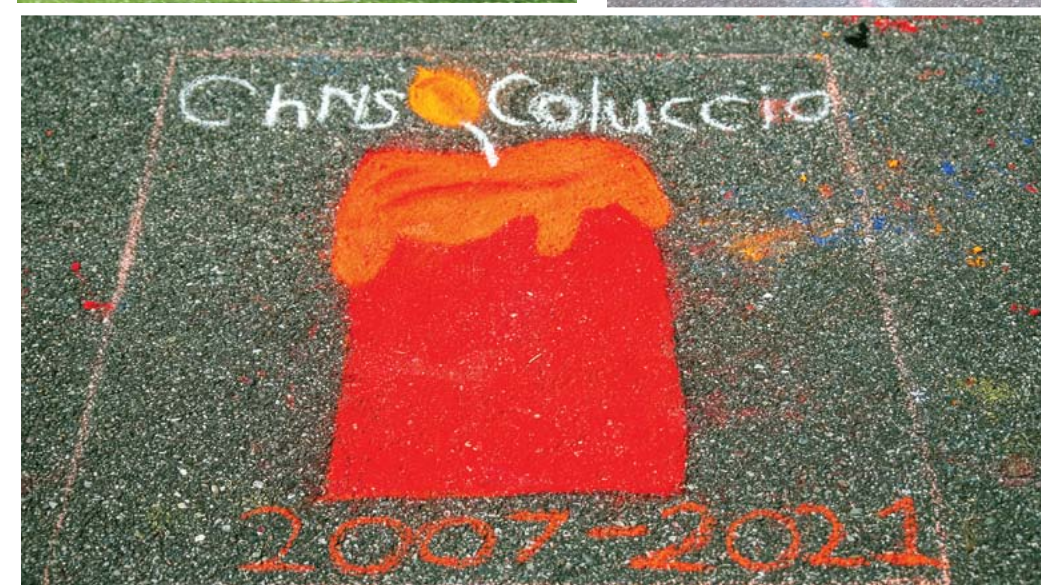
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## A community comes together

The past few weeks have hung heavy on us all.

In the days immediately following the death of our publisher, our home was abruptly rocked by a series of unfathomable tragedies, one after the other. The sudden loss of BBP natives Gabby Petitio and Christopher Coluccio, vibrant young adults with their entire lives ahead of them, devastated us all.

We are a small tight knit community, filled with overlapping connections that intertwine our lives. In a 2.5 square mile radius, it's hard not to feel like everyone knows everyone else. That closeness is what makes BBP special, but it's also what makes times of hardship that much starker. We are all connected.

If you struggled to find words to express the collective grief we feel... you aren't alone. We struggled too. The month of September blended into October passing by in a blur of loss, and as the world looked on, we attempted to make sense of the senseless.

Here at the Gazette, we grappled with how to address these tragedies, as parents, as neighbors, and as a publication. But while we looked for the right words, we began to find something else.

In teal and red bows on every block.

On the backs of football helmets and ribbons tied in the hair of every Phantom.

In the father standing in the Nature Preserve quietly holding hundreds of tealights because he had heard we had run out.

In the local businesses who rushed to help.

In lanterns shining brightly in front of every house.

In the thousands of lights that lined Blue Point Avenue guiding us all home.

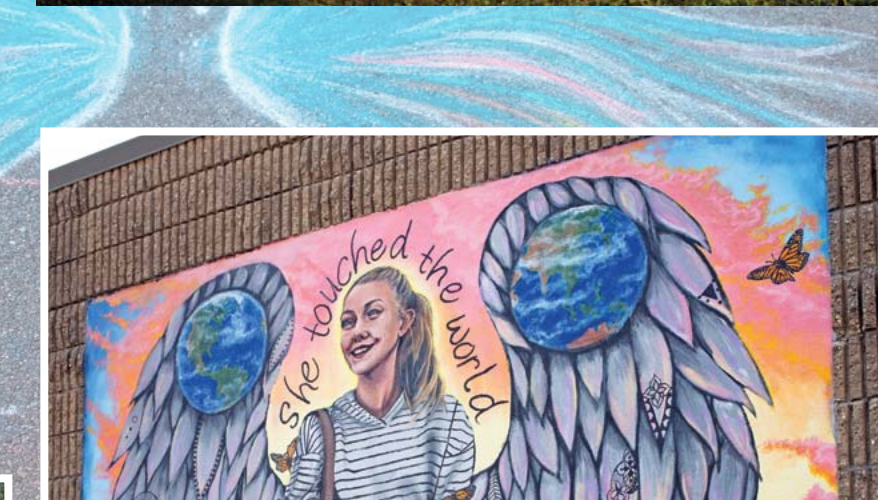
In the love letters left in chalk.

In the donations of our neighbors and the acts of our friends.

In a gorgeous mural of a loved and missed girl who touched the world.

In every expression of grief, every act of kindness, every moment of empathy where we came together as a community, we found each other... and the words weren't needed.

Our hearts are with the Petitio, Schmidt, and Coluccio families now and forever.  
*Once a Phantom, Always a Phantom.*



"Long Island-based artist Tess Parker completed a mural on the side of a building in Blue Point, NY, commemorating the life of 22-year-old Gabrielle Petitio."

Photo Daniel Palumbo





Photos Kate Berube

## Blue Point Elementary Celebrates Halloween

By Kate Berube

Blue Point Elementary kicked off the spookiest month of the year in grand fashion with their annual Pumpkin Patch. PTA volunteers and students gathered outside throughout the gorgeous fall day to hand pick a perfect pumpkin to bring home. "This one's bigger than my head!" giggled first grader Abigail Langlan. The massive orange gourd, supplied by the Bayport Flower Houses, was ideal for carving. "My mom's going to love it!" Abbey confided. The highly anticipated fundraiser is organized by BPE parent Roy Choppin, who graciously sets up and puts away the displays each year.

BPE followed up the adorable harvest with a spooky walk that ran through the Blue Point Nature Preserve into the back of the school where they screened Casper the Friendly Ghost on an outdoor screen. The Halloween classic was selected after receiving the most votes from the students. A dozen BBPHS and JWY student volunteers ensured the night went off without a fright, jumping in to organize games and paint faces to the delight of their younger counterparts. Before settling down with popcorn for the show, pint-sized princesses and monsters adorned with flashing glow necklaces boogied on the blacktop during the dance party, stopping to take pictures at the photo booths scattered around. "The Halloween Ball has always been such a beloved tradition here at BPE" explained Nora Garvey.

"we're so happy to be able to continue it for the kids. Moving the event outside was challenging, but it allowed us to have everyone together having fun, and that's what really matters." If the laughter carrying through the night was any indication, it was a resounding success.



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## Local Author Talks Bayman's Daughter at Meadow Croft Estate

The Bayport Blue Point Heritage Association in collaboration with the Sayville Historical Society and Dr. James Bertsch hosted local author Theresa Dodaro this past Saturday October 30th at the renowned Roosevelt estate Meadow Croft, for an audience discussion about her most recent novel, the Bayman's Daughter. The Baymen's Daughter is historical fiction that draws from Sayville's rich past and was inspired by Dodaro's walks through the Roosevelt Estate. It tells the tale of a young man who mysteriously travels from 2012 to 1912 on the eve of the Harvest Blood Moon, just as Superstorm Sandy begins to batter Sayville. There he meets a woman who changes his life forever. Dodaro explains that together this couple finds "courage, compassion, understanding, and both love and loss; but most of all, they will find a family of their own."

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## Boy Scout Troop-329 12th Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Boy Scout Troop 329's transformed the Blue Point Firehouse this past Saturday for their annual Spaghetti dinner. Each red checkered table was waited on by one of the troop's scouts, serving endless spaghetti and meatballs to the hungry community members who came out to support them. The proceeds from the event help fund important scouting opportunities for the troop.



Photo Kate Berube



Photo Jennifer Dietz

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## Academy Kids Camp Out



Academy Street Elementary School first graders, kindergarteners, and their guests cozied up to a proverbial campfire to participate in the school's Campfire Storytime. Formerly called Bears, Books and Blankets, this year's event was creatively reimagined to include an outdoor camping theme complete with faux fires, tents, and authentic campground sounds. Academy Literacy Chair and fellow book lover Megan Capozzi settled down with each class to read aloud from "The Bear Snores On" to the delight of her captive audience. The driving force behind the yearly event, Capozzi has acted as a liaison between the PTA and the school over the past six years to increase and support literary programs that help foster a love of reading in homes. "Reading is so fundamental to becoming a lifelong learner," Capozzi explained. Principal Kerry Vann reiterated that message to parents during the camp out, emphasizing that reading together as a family develops fluency, helps children attain background knowledge and increases vocabulary. "It is one of the most important things you can do for your child," Ms. Vann said. "Reading with them for five to 10 minutes each day will go so far in helping them grow as leaders."

Bayport-Blue Point librarian Gail Silsbe was in attendance to help families sign up for a library card and share all the wonderful programs that are available to the community, providing another resource to help families cultivate avid readers. Toward the end, students cozied up with their guests in the crisp fall air to read and share snacks as the school day came to a close.



Photos Kate Berube



Tom Reid was neither a traditional publisher, nor did he think of himself as a journalist. He considered the Gazette a way to support local businesses while celebrating the best parts of the home he loved. And a way to look back years later, on how far we've come. He was first and foremost an innovator, whose ambitious visions would later become the town traditions that we could no longer imagine our lives without.

"Tom always thought of Bayport Blue Point first," recalled longtime friend Chris Cavanaugh. "The mark he left on this community has made it the special place it is," explained Karl Auwaerter "Tom pushed us with his crazy but brilliant ideas, always willing to see it through." To those who knew him best, his passing leaves a void seemingly impossible to fill, "Who now will fly in the face of reason?" asked Auwaerter. "Tom used to say to me 'An idea is only as good as the person who's going to do it.'" continued fellow Chamber member Seth Needleman "He was always someone who went out and did it and he inspired us to as well. He made us better, just by being himself."

Before he was an acclaimed publisher, Tom served in the United States Army. In the years after his services, he returned home to Blue Point working in printing during the day and DJ'ing through the night. It was here that he met the love of his life, Diana, who was drawn in by his musical taste and quick wit. He'd spend the next 43 years making her laugh everyday. The steady strength behind Tom's chaotically brilliant drive, Tom often credited Diana with being the foundation on which he built his lasting legacy. Together they raised their daughter Gala, who grew to be the artistic center of Tom's work.

As he settled down he launched his printing brokerage, AGC Printing which counts the school calendar and library newsletter among it's works. Along with Gala, Tom has acted as a book publisher for countless local authors, including Gene Horton's successful collection of regional history. A man of many hats and seemingly endless energy, Tom coached softball, volunteered with local civic organizations, and was an active member of multiple chambers of commerce, all while raising his daughter. He loved vinyl records, good conversations, and the view of the Adirondack Mountains around Schroon Lake.

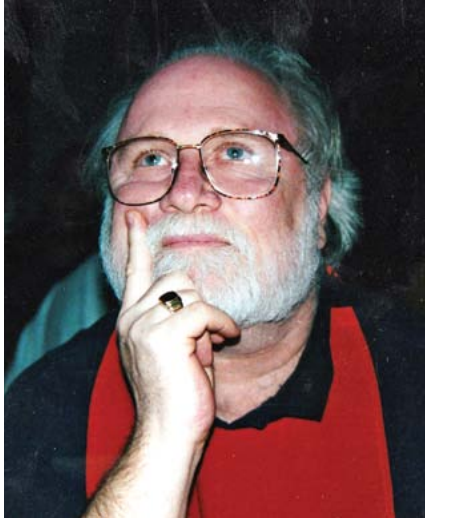
Whichever hat he donned, he did it with characterized joy. "I was the first winner of the Gazette's St Patrick's Day Parade pin contest." wrote Toni Ann Grube. "Tom was almost as excited as I was for my win! Such a wonderful man, always with a smile." "He always had a smile and his talent and generosity were contagious." wrote Teresa Anne Katherine.

But most were reminded of his trademark positivity, a personal trait that was at the center of all of Tom's many endeavors. "Tom, you will be missed by many." expressed tech columnist Rich Vatalaro "I greatly appreciate the opportunity you provided me in writing an article each month for what is the best local paper I have seen. There has never been a bit of negativity in it, only positive thoughts and stories just like you."

Tom fiercely championed the best in each of us. He believed there was a story in everyone, and that that story was worth telling, if only we choose to take the time to pause and listen. He was defined by his boundless creativity, his infectious optimism, and his unwavering dedication to his home and all those who resided in it. There are few people in the surrounding community whose lives haven't been touched, inspired, or lifted up by this remarkable man at some point. We are all the better for it.

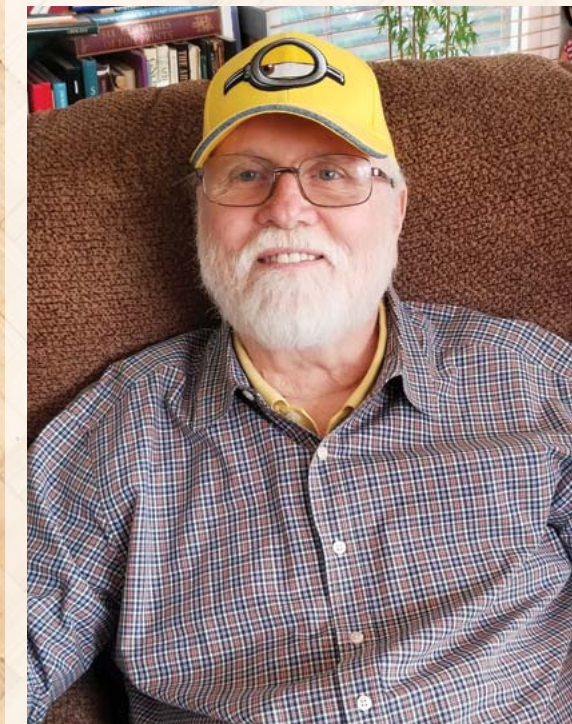
*"Rest easy Tommy, you done good."*

By Kate Berube



**HARBOR CRAB CO.**  
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In a few weeks we will celebrate 20 years at the Harbor Crab. How amazing is that? We opened just a few weeks after that awful day on September 11, 2001. In 20 years we have celebrated countless births, christenings, communions and bat mitzvahs. True to the circle of life we have celebrated an equal amount of hardships and funerals. We have had chefs, managers, and even some partners come and go as happens in the restaurant business. Thousands upon thousands of people have passed through our doors over those 20 years. At times we have done an outstanding job while other times maybe we have missed the mark, but we have provided employment for hundreds of young people who went on to do great things in the world. We survived 9/11, the economic downturn of 2008, the horrific flooding that came with hurricane Sandy, countless other hurricanes and blizzards, and just as we approached the 20 year mark and thought we had seen it all throughout this score.... we then get blindsided by a global pandemic never seen before in our time!!



This issue of the Gazette is in memory of its founder Tom Reid. Tom was my friend. Tom was a guy who valued community and family above all else. Anything positive that was happening in our community, he was involved and often in charge. It was that type of patriotic responsibility that caused him to start a newspaper with good news only. Could you imagine starting anything having to do with the news media and vowing not to report or speak of anything unless it had a positive outcome for that community? In the last 24 months I don't think we've seen any media not driven by negativity. Tom Reid was a patriot who put his community before his wallet.

There have been many mentors throughout my life who taught me the value of giving back. Through Tom and others like him, I learned that a public house such as the Harbor Crab has a responsibility to the community. We are part of the fabric of this waterfront township. We have done our best regarding food and drink while trying to keep our little waterfront restaurant standing... but the one thing I can honestly say that we have been near perfect on is following the footsteps of men like Tom Reid and giving back to the community what has been so freely given to us.

Thank you Tom. You will not be forgotten.

You made a difference.

And that's all that any of us should be judged upon in this lifetime.

Until we meet again-

*Your friends,  
Mark Miller & Frank Mills,  
Mike, Javier, Kathleen, Kristi and all the rest of us at the Harbor Crab restaurant.  
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*Tom Reid, a true friend, long time customer and colleague,  
see you on the other side.*

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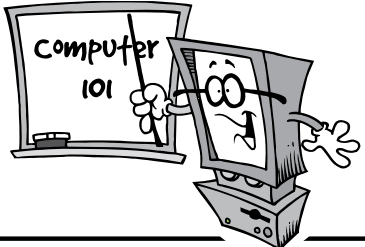
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# pc Help101

By Rich Vatalaro



Hello readers,

I want to begin this month's article by remembering Tom Reid, the founder of this fine newspaper and to say what a good person he was and how much he did for the community. I am deeply saddened by his passing and offer prayers for his family and friends.

This week a reader wrote me and asked what do I do when my laptop or PC "freezes"? I said of course, It only feels like your computer freezes in the middle of the most important tasks. If your computer has slowed to a near-crawl—or become unresponsive entirely—here's how to recover from the problem and prevent it from happening in the future.

If you're performing a particularly CPU-intensive task, sometimes things will hang for a moment, making you think your laptop is permanently frozen even if it's not. If it seems like your computer has completely locked up, give it a few minutes to catch up and finish what it's doing.

You'd be surprised how many times this works, especially if it's a random occurrence and not a chronic problem. Similarly, make sure your mouse is working properly—it could be that your mouse just got disconnected or ran out of batteries, which can give the illusion of your computer freezing.

If Windows doesn't recover or it starts freezing again after it recovers, it's time to break out old faithful: Ctrl + Alt + Delete. Strike this combo on your keyboard and choose the Task Manager option from the resulting screen to see a list of running programs.

If any of them are not responding, select them and click the End Task button. If you're dealing with an isolated incident, that should be all you need. Your OS should snap back to attention as soon as you've closed the program, and you can restart it to continue your work.

If your computer always seems to freeze when that program is running you may need to uninstall it and find an alternative. If the program is so intensive that it's running out of resources, you may even need to upgrade your hardware.

Sometimes, your computer is running fine, but your browser gets stuck on a certain page. And when so much of what we do on computers is confined to the browser, this feels like your whole computer is freezing, when it might just be the page, you're on. In those scenarios, Windows' Task Manager might tell you your browser isn't responding, but if you want more info on why, you must dig deeper. In Chrome and Edge, press Shift + Esc to see the browser's Task Manager. In Firefox, you can click the menu button and go to More Tools > Task Manager. This will show you the different processes running within your browser, potentially giving you some information on what page or extension might be frozen or using lots of CPU and memory.

You may also have a run-of-the-mill conflict with an extension—for example, I recently had issues with the Grammarly extension freezing Google Docs all the time—so try disabling any browser extensions to see if that solves the problem. Hopefully, the developers will issue a fix, as Grammarly seems to have done.

If you can't even open the Task Manager, then your computer is truly locked up and the only way to get it moving again is a hard reset. Press and hold down on the power button for 5-10 seconds until your computer turns completely off, then press the power button again to boot back up from scratch.

If you were working on something important when the freeze happened, you may be able to recover it, depending on the program and how it handles unsaved documents. For example, Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint auto-save backups as you work, and you can often recover them the next time you open the program. You can also navigate to File > Info > Manage Document(s) > Recover Unsaved Document. It won't necessarily work every time, but it's worth a shot—do some digging on whatever program crashed to see if it has a similar feature. If it doesn't, you might be unfortunately stuck doing some of that work over again.

Now that I'm retired after 53 years from the automotive industry, please keep in mind that my work at PC Help 101 continues stronger than ever. I'm always available to offer advice, answer your questions, and access your PC remotely for repairs and tutoring. I continue to make house calls with necessary safety precautions if needed. I have added setup and home automation using Smart Home Speakers, setups of Smart TVs and Smartphones to my list of services. I can install your new equipment and can show you how to use them. I can set up or repair your Wi-Fi or wireless printing. Any situation you encounter or to simply answer a question via an e-mail or phone call I am available. Simply send your questions to: [Rich@PCHelp101.com](mailto:Rich@PCHelp101.com) or call me at 631.590.1469.

Thanks for reading,  
Rich Vatalaro



Phantom's Varsity Field Hockey ended their regular season with a perfect 14-0 record, going undefeated into playoffs. The impressive team was led by Coach Gick and graduated 11 players this year. Team Captain and BBPHS Senior Emily Cortese goes on to play Field Hockey at SUNY Geneseo next year. Good luck to all our seniors and congratulations on a phenomenal season!



BBP Varsity Football finished out a remarkable season 7-1 to enter into the Suffolk County Championship playoff as the number 2 seed in their division. After a 35-0 shutout over John Glenn, the Phantoms go on to face Mt. Sinai on home turf in the semi-finals Saturday, November 13.

Come down at 1PM this Saturday to support our boys in their quest for the Suffolk County Championship



Photos Beth Clark





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