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Two Towns

One Community

An Irish Pub, a Parade, and a Paper

By Kate Berube

On a March morning in 1990, 6 guys wandered into Cavanaugh's Irish Pub in Blue Point at an ungodly hour. Chris Cavanaugh, just unlocking the bar at the time, was surprised when it came out that the group of early risers was stopping in on their way to the Westhampton St. Patrick's Day parade. Well hell, Chris thought watching them leave, why don't we have one of those?

The very next March, the first annual Bayport-Blue Point St. Patrick's Day Parade, thrown together by a young and ambitious Chamber of Commerce, kicked off, marching through both towns and concluding at Cavanaugh's Pub. It's said that that first year was little more than a bagpiper, a fire-truck, and some girl scouts with a wagon. What was lacked in experience was made up for in enthusiasm, but really how were we to know that someone was going to have to pay for all those Pipe Bands?!

If we meant to continue, and we did, we needed the means to finance all those grand ideas. Tom Reid, already a printer by trade, suggested we print ourselves a paper with paid advertisements. Back then, what would become the Irish Gazette, was little more than a three-page fold-out. Local

continued page 16, 17



Photos Walter Petrule, Danielle Golden-Giglio, Tom Reid

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Diana Reid



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~Irish blessing

St. Patrick's Day

By Jean Blewett

There's an Isle, a green Isle, set in the sea,
Here's to the Saint that blessed it!
And here's to the billows wild and free
That for centuries have caressed it!
Here's to the day when the men that roam
Send longing eyes o'er the water!
Here's to the land that still spells home
To each loyal son and daughter!
Here's to old Ireland—fair, I ween,
With the blue skies stretched above her!
Here's to her shamrock warm and green,
And here's to the hearts that love her!

Oh, it's little that we hold
Of dominion or of gold
In the blessed isle that saw us first a nation,
But we made all lands our own
As we spread from zone to zone;
So, come all o' ye! an' share our jubilation.
Oh, the music in the air!
An' the joy that's ivywhere—
Shure, the whole blue vault o' heaven is
wan grand triumphal arch,
An' the earth below is gay,
Wid its tender green th'-day,
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~T. A. Daly, "The Day We Celebrate,"
Carmina, 1906



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One Moment Premieres at BIFF to Top Awards

By Kate Berube

One Moment, written and directed by local indie filmmaker Deirdre O'Connor, made its long-anticipated world debut at the Fifteenth Annual Beaufort International Film Festival on Wednesday night to great acclaim.



Shot in the streets of picturesque Blue Point in the long summer days of 2019, One Moment is the heartfelt story of 4 adult siblings grappling with raising their own children while they attempt to care for their recently widowed aging father.

Deirdre O'Connor skillfully draws from her Long Island roots, growing up in a large Irish Catholic household, to weave a family dynamic as recognizable to anyone here as the background shots of Corey

Beach that scroll across the screen. O'Connor literally invites you into her home (much of the filming was done at her own house) as she tackles the complexity around aging in a world where we bear children later and live longer, with a wealth of levity that has been conspicuously absent from much of 2020 yet sorely needed. It's that warmth and humor, layered into the dialog and brought to light by One Moment's delightful cast, that so successfully resounds with audiences.

Starring legendary veteran actor Danny Aiello, of Moonstruck fame, as Joe McGuinness alongside Adria Tennor and Frankie Ingrassia as Joe's grown daughters, who's time together pack a charismatic punch. Audiences are also introduced to 2016 BBP graduate Sasha Georgette and BBPHS Junior Andrew Brooks, in their breakout roles.



Danny Aiello tragically passed away the winter after filming completed, leaving behind a cast and crew forever altered by their experience with the star, and making One Moment the final feature film of his long and storied career. "It was as if he really was my grandfather, always rooting me on and telling me how great I did," explained Sasha Georgette, who played Joe's granddaughter Maddie in the film, "he was an amazing actor, but he was also an amazing human and that time with him I'll hold onto for the rest of my life." Aiello was posthumously awarded Best Actor for his performance, where O'Connor accepted the honor on behalf of the Aiello family.

As the curtain closed in South Carolina on the annual film festival, Deirdre O'Connor and fellow producer

Jodi Weiner packed up and started home for Blue Point, bringing the award for Best Comedy with them.

Follow Little Red Purse Productions for updates on the possibility of a larger film release in the future.

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AROUND TOWN

The BAFFA Beat Goes On

The next presentation of The BAFFA Beat Goes On is a virtual exhibit of mixed media art by the Bell Street Artists.

The Bell Street Artists group was formed in 1973 and is made up of a diverse group of artists who are skilled in many different types of artistic media. Bell Street has exhibited at The BAFFA Art Gallery for many years. Due to the current pandemic, they have chosen to present this virtual online exhibit at The Gallery. The exhibit may be seen beginning on March 17th at www.baffa.org, the BAFFA Facebook page, or on YouTube. For further information: (631)589-7343.

The newest video edition of The BAFFA Beat Goes On presents the BAFFA Symphony Orchestra's 2017 performance of Mozart's Overture to the Marriage of Figaro. Orchestra conductor, Dr. Richard Wright's delightful commentary about the opera describes how chaotic and hysterically funny this three-hour-long opera actually is. His commentary will definitely put a smile on your face!

The performance can be seen at www.baffa.org, the BAFFA Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/Bay-Area-Friends-of-the-Fine-Arts-Long-Island-119373981450378>, or on YouTube beginning on March 3rd.

For further information: (631)589-7343.



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Bayport Blue Point Gazette

Who We Are

Bayport-Blue Point Gazette

The People Involved

Editor: Tom Reid

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Bayport Blue Point Chamber of Commerce President Celebrated as Local Businessperson of the Year



By Kate Berube

Users of Alignable have come to realize what residents of BBP have long known, Carol Seitz-Cusack is incredible. The popular networking app has named BBP Chamber of Commerce President and VP of Therm-A-Trol the Local Businessperson of the Year for 2020-2021. Seitz-Cusack's strong leadership was instrumental in helping local businesses throughout the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. On top of her impressive resume, Seitz-Cusack is also involved in multiple community initiatives that contribute to our wonderful home. Congratulations Carol, it's well deserved!

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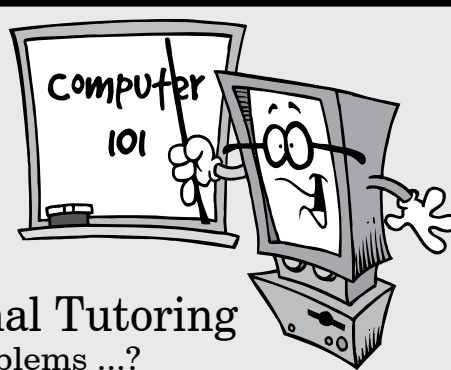
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A Sunday at Loughlin

By Kate Berube

The journey to Loughlin’s is as wonderful as the destination. There’s a charming ambiance that recalls a bygone era of simplicity, when the south shore of Long Island was unpaved roads, oyster shanties, and grand manor homes. While there’s a relatively small space for parking available, and you can certainly drive there, one only gets the full experience on foot, where you can soak in the old-world charm of Meadowcroft. Hidden in the back of the estate, almost as if you stumbled upon it by accident, is where you find Loughlin’s Vineyard. Founded by Barney Loughlin, a World War 2 veteran with deep ties to the Roosevelt land, the vineyard is currently owned and operated by his daughters Beth, Patricia and Mary Ellen. Weather permitting, Loughlin vineyard is open year-round 1-4pm on the weekends. Outside food is welcome, and with a cozy fire always going, it is an ideal location for a winter picnic. While there are dozens of local establishments that offer takeout fare, nothing goes quite so well

All photos Belinda Randolph Mills

with Sunday afternoon merlot as vanilla bean cake, and no one does that better than Meryle Alden of Meryle’s Cookies in Blue Point. Meryle credits her incredible baking skills to her 99 year old grandmother Mary Milone, who is at the heart of everything she creates. “I have all her recipes, and every time I take them out it’s a trip down memory lane.” Her creations are as delicious as they are beautiful. Ordering was easy, finishing the cake was even easier. We were fortunate that brilliant local Sayville photographer Belinda Randolph Mill was on hand to take these gorgeous shots before there was nothing but crumbs left. On most weekends you can find Barney’s granddaughter Brittany manning the tasting room with an easy smile and an infectious laugh. The Loughlin women as a whole are a vibrant and gracious bunch, known for their Irish hospitality. Perfect for the spring days ahead is their Pinky Rosé, a Provençal styled dry rosé named after the vineyards resident donkey who used to freely roam the property years ago. Stop in for a glass, or take home a bottle. Whether you come for the wine, you will almost certainly return for the companionship.



4 Phantoms Ranked in Top 100 LI Lax Players

By Kate Berube

The rankings are in and 4 Bayport-Blue Point Phantoms have been named to the top 100 Boys Lacrosse Players on Long Island by LI Lax Journal! As they prepare to take the field for a long-awaited return to spring sports, Sean Druckenmiller (Defense), Gavin Locascio (Midfielder), and Matt Nilan (Goalie) all earned coveted spots within the top 80 in a region known nationally as a lacrosse powerhouse. Appearing in the top 20 is Jameson Smith, a strong midfielder, who plays for Team 91 Lacrosse as well as

BBP. Smith became a triple varsity athlete in his sophomore year, securing a starting position on both the football and basketball team in addition to lax. It’s that versatility that’s attributed to his standing as a multifaceted scorer on the lacrosse field. Known as a player who’s loyal and goal-oriented, Smith’s work ethic is evident both on and off the turf in his academics and leadership. Following graduation in 2022, Smith will take the field as a Blue Jay for Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Congratulations boys, and good luck this season! We’re all rooting for you.



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George Mitchell: A Remembrance

by Bob Draffin

While it would be impossible for me to summarize the 94 years of my friend George Mitchell’s life in this short space, everyone who knew him would agree that he was both a role model and a Gentlemen’s Gentleman. He was a proud WWII Veteran, a Bayport Aerodrome Society Founder, a Sayville Yacht Club member and a proud Congregant of the Bayport Methodist Church. A spiritual man, George taught bible study and was an avid horologist (clock maker). A pilot and aviation enthusiast, George was a member of both the Long Island Early Fliers and the Antique Airplane Club of Greater NY. And where I got to know him best, George was a Charter member of the Bayport Civic Association, the recipient of the 1st Annual BCA Civic Pride Award and a mentor to me throughout.

Legend has it that George piloted a plane before ever driving a car. He spoke calmly of an emergency landing of his newly bought plane in the Long Island Sound and swimming to safety. Or the time he was hopelessly trapped above cloud cover, running out of gas and had to put his plane into a spin, descending through the clouds in hopes of finding a safe landing below. George always put his fate in the hands of the Lord and it served him well all through his days. George’s aviation exploits took him all the way to the moon, where as a Grumman engineer he worked on the Apollo 11 lunar excursion module (LEM)!

George’s love of flight dated back in the mid 1940’s. He married his wife of some sixty years, the late Rigmor (Re), and initially settled in East Patchogue. After winning a Scholarship in Physics to Adelphi College, they moved to Carle Place and began raising their three children, John, Kirsten and Paul. Soon after graduating, in 1960 George decided he wanted to move his Family back east, and sold his wife on a beautiful little town called Bayport. While Re initially thought of Bayport as a nice place, she couldn’t quite figure out George’s insistence on living there. However, she would shortly learn George’s little secret, that Bayport had its own Airport! Through the years, George enjoyed his flying and all that Bayport had to offer. Then in the mid 70’s word was out that the Edwards Family wished to sell the airport, and developers were interested in the property. George and his fellow pilots sprung into action forming the Bayport Aerodrome Society whose mission was to preserve and protect early-20th century aviation at a representative turf airport, in an effort to save this jewel. By 1977, the Aerodrome Society succeeded in persuading the town of Islip to buy the airport and keep it in its existing form, with a special thanks to then Supervisor Peter Cohalan.

Fast forward then to 2002 when the rumors again started that the Aerodrome might be sold to developers. That’s when the surrounding neighbors like myself, my wife Janet, Sue Lauper, Rich Wyeroski and Bob and Mary Smith began to meet to discuss ways to once again save our Aerodrome. I had known George through his son Paul who I went to high school with and later as a fellow member of the SYC, but it was his connection with Aerodrome Society that led us to reach out to him for his help. By the time we held our first meeting at the BBP Library in 2003, George had enlisted several Aerodrome Pilots to attend and lend their support. Pilots like Gene Leavy and Harry Gunther would become longstanding members of the BCA. George Chaird “The Preservation of the Aerodrome Committee”, our number one Agenda item since day one and still is. Needless to say, we were victorious in saving the Aerodrome once again and have since added another layer of protection by gaining National Registry of Historic Places status in 2008. The hope is that we’ll always have this Crown Jewel to cherish, but that is due in no small part to the efforts of George Mitchell.

I’ll always be grateful to George for always being the first one there to set up for our meetings and the last one to

leave and turn out the lights. George helped us find a home at the Bayport Methodist Church after we had been wandering from place to place trying to hold our meetings. George was always my first call on the morning of meeting day, and I can never thank him enough for all his efforts.

George leaves behind his loving wife Constance and in addition to his three children, three cherished grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. The family has asked that if anyone would care to make a donation in George’s name that it be made to the Bayport United Methodist Church 482 Middle Rd. Bayport, New York 11705. Godspeed George Mitchell.



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Eagle Scout Builds New Benches and Bat House's At The Soon To be New Bayport-Blue Point Library



Written by friends and family

Jack Baron, a junior at Bayport Blue Point High School and Boy Scout with Troop 130, recently set out to create his Eagle Scout Project. "Knowing the location of the new Bayport Blue Point Library a light bulb suddenly went off." Baron recalled "I knew exactly what I wanted to do for the community." A few years ago, a family friend who lived off Middle Rd near the wetlands asked his mother if she knew anyone who could build a bat house as a way to handle the over-

whelming mosquito population. "Her husband was being eaten alive," Baron explained "When I heard the story, I jumped for the job, and started my research."

With the new library set to be built in this location, Baron knew it would be the perfect project to help his community. He developed the concept with a small amount of help from his father. The idea was to create bat houses and community benches outdoors at the new library location. Hopefully the bats would nest there and eat the surrounding mosquitos, thus preventing the mosquitos from eating the library patrons while they enjoy the benches on the gorgeous new library grounds.

The two benches and two bat houses were installed in early January. "I was hoping to get it completed earlier but the process slowed down when the pandemic hit and should be done in a safe matter." Baron said "The benches and Bat houses were handcrafted by my fellow boy scouts of Troop 130 as I directed. I have to say Cade Nasca was there from start to finish with me, with the craft work. During the pandemic, my fellow boy scouts showed up ready to work, masks on and 6 feet apart. We worked mostly in the evenings, sometimes under lights. Some nights were bitter cold but progress continued with some laughs. I couldn't be prouder of the benches and bat houses. Thank you to a great team of boy scouts: Cade Nasca, Tyler Teufel, Zachary Teufel, Robert Honey, Jack Schoenhaar, Alfonso Zavala, Jack McNeill, Matthew Bacheck, Logan Robertson, Brayden Robertson, and Mr. McAward."

Jack Baron would also like to thank Mike Firestone, Gary Gonzalez and Gary Block for their continued support with his Eagle Project, especially for the wonderful words of encouragement and for providing approval and access to the new library location. "The benches and the bat houses look great, good job!" praised Mr. Block.



Hunter Kramer - senior bowler.

All photos Mikaela Carroll

Winter Sports Wrap Up

By, Karen Costa

With our 3 condensed sports seasons this year, we have already reached the end of the first one, which was winter sports. On Jan. 4 winter track, bowling, fencing and boys swimming began their season and on Feb. 10 (after a 2-day snow delay) boys and girls basketball and wrestling were able to join in. While there was some COVID quarantines and delays, overall, all the seasons were all played and everyone was happy to get back to work. Even without spectators, the energy and enthusiasm of the athletes was apparent on the events that were live streamed for all of us to watch.

Boys swimming ended their season sending 4 swimmers to counties – Aidan Cameron, Alfonso Zavala, Chris Cody and Emilio Diaz all participated in the tournament on Feb. 20. Our swim team is combined with Sayville and each year we get more BBP students involved. Bowling finished up strong and had 2 bowlers achieve post-season honors: Hunter Kramer was named as an All-County bowler and Jack Walch was named as All-League. The BBP/Sayville combined fencing team finished

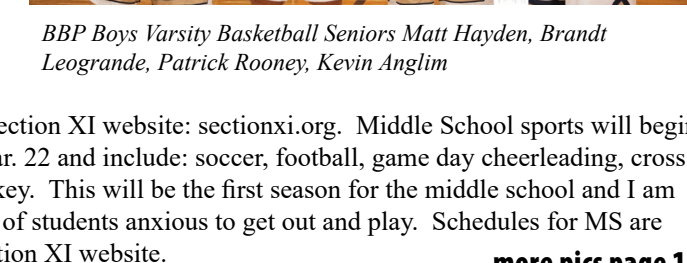
with an 11-0 record and lost in the championships to Newfield. BBP has 1 fencer, Bobby Newbeck, on that team.

Wrestling got off to a late start due to some COVID delays and they finally got their meets in at the end of February. They finished their season with a 2-2 record. For basketball, the varsity and JV teams got in all their games. Boys varsity ended with a 3-3 league record and girls varsity ended with a 2-4 league record. There were lots of really fun, close games for all 4 teams. Boys and girls winter track were able to compete in 3 outdoor meets in January. These are some hardy kids who are running, jumping and throwing outdoors in January.

Looking forward, the traditional fall sports will be played in the next season starting Mon., Mar. 1. As of this printing, all sports are approved to move forward by Section XI and by our school district. The only exception to this is boys golf, which is pushed back 2 weeks and will begin Mar. 15. As per AD Tim Mullins, Section XI has not yet provided information about whether spectators will be allowed. The fall sports include: volleyball, girls swimming, field hockey, cross country, boys golf, girls tennis, soccer and football. Schedules are available on the Section XI website: sectionxi.org. Middle School sports will begin their fall sports on Mar. 22 and include: soccer, football, game day cheerleading, cross country and field hockey. This will be the first season for the middle school and I am sure there will be lots of students anxious to get out and play. Schedules for MS are also found on the Section XI website.



Girls Varsity Basketball Seniors (left to right) Maddigan Miller, Alexis Niblock, Annie Zoller, Alexis Valerius, Rebecca Hoek.



BBP Boys Varsity Basketball Seniors Matt Hayden, Brandt Leogrande, Patrick Rooney, Kevin Anglim

more pics page 19



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"Sha-Boom" – Winter Sports Breakout Stars

By, Karen Costa

While our basketball players worked hard this winter season and gave us lots of exciting moments to watch on live stream, there were 2 break out stars that weren't even on the court. Juniors Brendan Most and Matthew Nilan decided to team up and announce the home games for the boys varsity team. They were so popular and in demand, they were asked to host the last girls varsity home game as well as the last JV boys home game. Matt was the play-by-play announcer and Brendan co-hosted as the color guy. They kept their audience very entertained with their back-and-forth banter, their "fun facts" about the players and Matt's signature catchphrase for a 3-point shot: Sha-BOOM. The 2 longtime friends explain how this all came about.

Matt said he was always interested in sports commentating and said he even does so when he watches games on tv without even realizing he's doing it. These opportunities don't come up often in our high school, and he thought it may be difficult to do, but he said "it turned out it only took a brief email along with a quick virtual meeting to set up a plan." He contacted his friend, Brendan, who

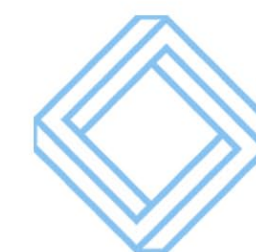


Matt Nilan and Brendan Most, two juniors behind the mic, on BBP Basketball live streams. Giving play by play, stats, and fun facts to listeners and watchers at home!

was hesitant at first, but knew that Matt was the perfect person to work with. They said that our AD, Tim Mullins, was instrumental in setting this up for them along with fellow student Mikaela Carroll and TD Sports who ran the live stream. Both Matt and Brendan said that had a great time doing the play by play. "Commentating with my partner Brendan was more fun that I thought it would be by a landslide" said Matt. Brendan added, "Looking back on it now, I am so thankful that Matt asked me to do it and I got nothing but positive feedback from it." They had note sheets on the players and the fact that these were all of their friends on the court made the commentating even more enjoyable. When asked if anything was more difficult than

they expected, they both said that things went pretty smoothly. "Mr. Mullins and the cameraman made it super simple for us" Brendan said.

I think all of us can agree that watching our kids play in person is best, but for this shortened season when spectators were not allowed, having Matt and Brendan's play by play made these live streams very entertaining. Both of them said without hesitation that they would do this again, but Brendan will be playing golf in this next season and Matt will be playing lacrosse in the spring, so it's unclear if there will be another opportunity for them this year. Said Brendan, "I recommend other students of BBP High School give commentating a shot." The decision hasn't been made whether to allow spectators for the next season, but until that happens, students like Matt and Brendan helped provide a much-needed diversion.



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Parade from page 1

businesses, made up of our friends and neighbors, sent their ads on scraps of paper and backs of napkins over to the Chamber. Tom worked his magic, typing them up to be printed out alongside the parade lineup and route. All the proceeds from those advertisements paid for the second parade... and we have, more or less, continued on that way ever since.

Until now. The difficult decision was made to forego mass gatherings this spring in an effort to keep the people and place we love safe. This is the first March in 30 years that we will not send the Irish Gazette to print. It was not a choice made lightly. Over the years, Parade Day has taken shape in ways that were unimaginable in 1991. Families have come to build their own traditions around the event, and for many in our tiny beachfront community, this is how we wake up from a long winter.

While the Gazette has grown in size and scope, now delivered to 22,000 homes in the surrounding community, the heart of the paper through the years has stayed true to this fundamental fact... we are a collection of good stories about good people inspired each month by the place we are blessed to call home. Being able to watch the parade grow, from an idea among friends in an Irish pub to a regional event that brings 15,000 people a year to our small community, has been both a privilege and an honor.

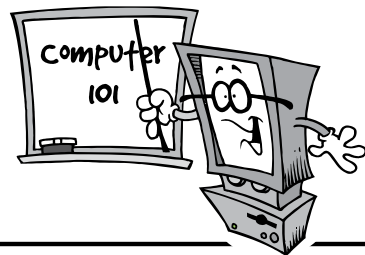
We can't wait to see everyone in their green next year, The Gazette

Photos Walter Petrule, Danielle Golden-Giglio, Tom Reid



pc Help101

By Rich Vatalaro



Hello readers,

What do you do when you open your computers browser wanting to check your email or surf the web and the page displays page can't be found or something similar, in a nutshell you can't reach the internet? The first thing is to check for outages in the area. If you're not reaching the internet call Optimum at 631-348-6700 to find out if there are any outages in your area. Next step you do is the obvious, make sure everything is plugged in and all

connections are tight. Assuming this is all ok which most probably it is the final thing to do is reboot your equipment. Follow these few steps and most probably you'll be up and running.

Modem (non-Altice One)

1. Unplug your modem from the power by pulling the power cord from the back of the modem.
2. If you have a router, unplug the power from your router by disconnecting the power cord from the back of the router.
3. Plug the power back into your modem and wait a couple of minutes until all the lights have cycled back on.
4. If you have a router, plug the power back into your router and wait a couple of minutes until its lights cycle on.
5. Check your Internet connection by opening a new web browser window.

Altice One

1. Press and hold on the front panel of the box for 10 seconds.
2. Check your Internet connection by opening a new web browser window.

Most people rent their modems from Optimum at approximately \$10-\$12 per month. You can purchase a modem online and save the monthly fee. They are approximately \$100. Doing the math, in less than a year. Please keep in mind that if your modem goes bad it can be replaced by Optimum if you rent it, but if you purchased one you would be on your own either troubleshooting it or replacing it. Same thing goes for routers. Optimum can supply one that gets the job done in many instances but if you have a larger home, multiple levels, or many devices requiring wi-fi then purchasing your own is the way to go as the open market routers are much more robust than the units that Optimum offers.

In closing, I hope everyone is continuing to stay safe and COVID-19 free. If you're eligible hopefully you have received your vaccination or at least have it scheduled and that we all continue to do our part by wearing our masks, socially distancing, and limiting ourselves to small groups. Remember I am always available to offer advice, answer your questions, and access your PC remotely for repairs and tutoring. I am back to making house calls again with the necessary precautions. I have added Smart Home Speakers such as Alexa and Google Home to my list of services from setup to automating your home. I can install your new equipment and can show you how to use them. I can set up your Wi-Fi or wireless printing and show you how to use your new Smartphone. 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 or call me at 631.590.1469.

Thanks for reading,
Rich Vatalaro

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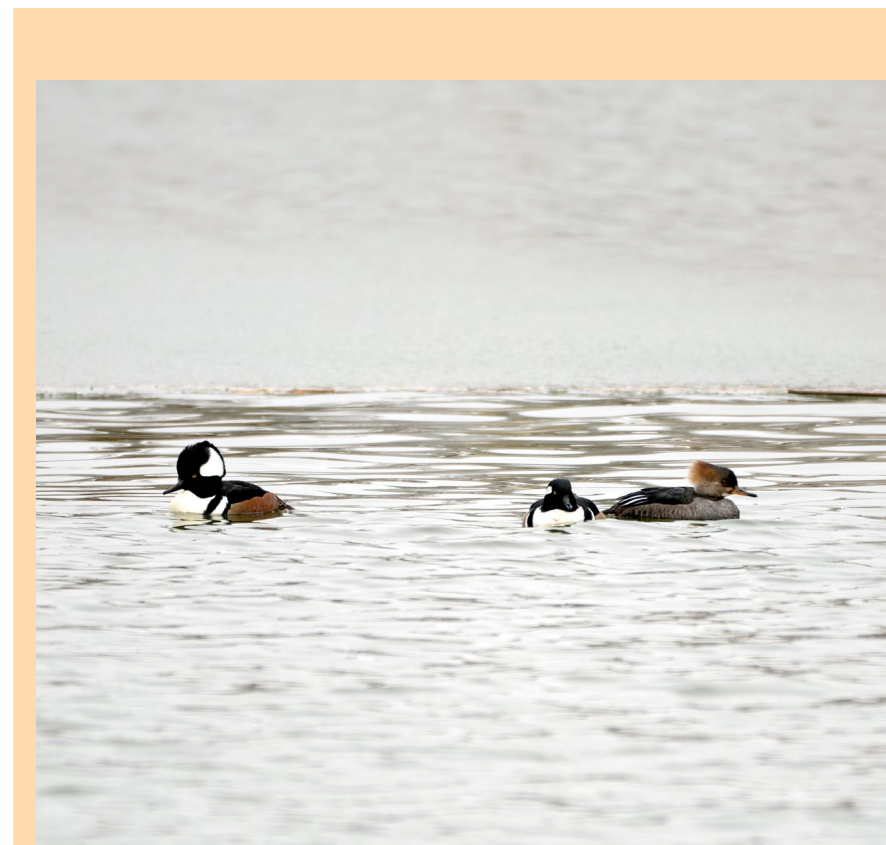
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Walter Found More Cool Birds

Winter can be bit slow for those who prefer their birds in trees or at feeders, as many of our favorite and most colorful feathered friends make the migration south. However, it is still possible to see a variety of birds who summer in Canada and even in the arctic but winter on Long Island's ponds, lakes, bays and tidal creeks. In addition to our most common duck, the Mallard, our waters play host to wigeons, ring-necked ducks, shovelers, pintails, scaups, loons and mergansers. Seen here are two males and a female Hooded Merganser. Like all mergansers, the Hooded Merganser is a diving duck that feeds mainly on fish and crustaceans. They have serrated bills that help capture and hold their prey. The males have a white crest that can be opened and closed like an old-time folding fan. When lowered, it looks like a white bar behind their eyes; when raised, it looks as if the back half of the head is white. Some Hooded Mergansers may stay here to breed. However they nest in tree cavities, so during the spring and summer they will more likely to be founded upstream in wooded creeks.



All
photos
Mikaela
Carroll

*Keira Rooney,
Sophomore,
looking for an
assist, at game
vs ISLIP*



*Junior Gavin LoCasio with a trick shot
against Miller Place*



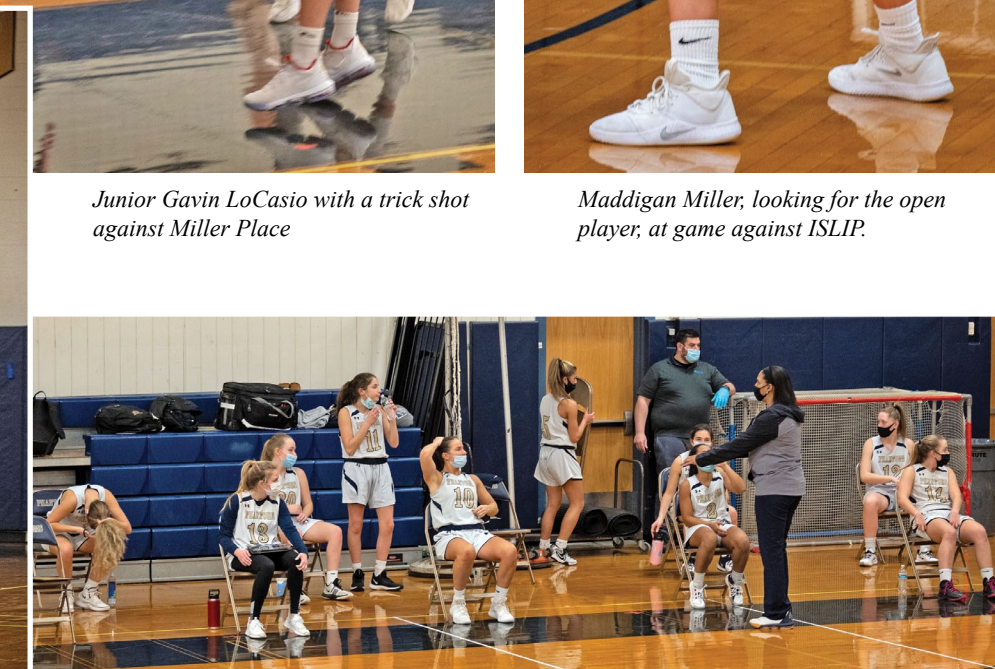
*Maddigan Miller, looking for the open
player, at game against ISLIP.*



*Junior Calvin Dickinson scores
against Miller Place*



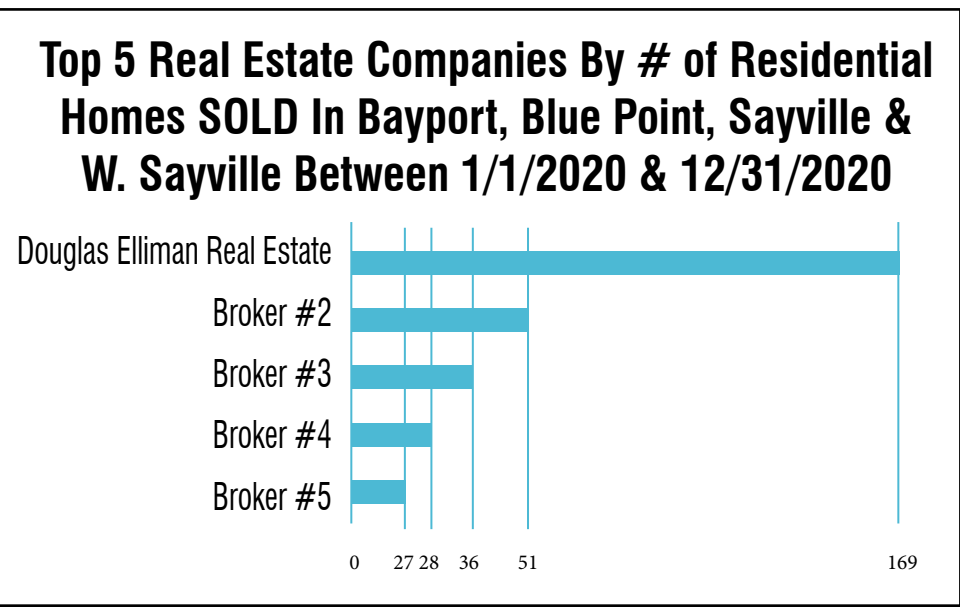
*Junior, Jameson Smith dribbles downcourt,
helping Phantoms pick up the pace at game
vs Miller Place*



*BBP bench seats six feet apart to comply with
social distance rules.*

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