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P.J. Keating Company hits a home run for Fairhaven High School softball infields

FAIRHAVEN _ Being an integral part of the communities in which P.J. Keating Company facilities operate is an important part of the company's overall philosophy according to Jim Reger, president of P.J. Keating Company. It is that company mindset that benefited Fairhaven High School when P.J. Keating Company responded to a request for a significant donation of stone dust to help transform two softball infields into more manageable ones.

"We needed to do the renovation for a variety of reasons, mainly field usage. Where our fields are located (previously swamplands) it does not drain very well," said Scott Francis, athletic director for Fairhaven High School. "The previous field was clay and would hold water for a longer time than stone dust. In the summer, the clay was so dry that the wind would constantly blow away certain areas, creating voids and low spots."

Francis said with such a shortage of manpower, manning the field properly was not possible. He added that his decision to change the infields was threefold and based on being able to start the season sooner. By changing the infields to stone dust from clay, during rainy weather the stone dust would drain better, the fields would be easier to maintain through the seasons, and stone dust was also less expensive than clay to annually recondition the fields.

"Robert Roderiques of Fairhaven Excavating and Mark White, of D.W. White Construction, Inc. asked if we would get involved," said Mike Trant, material sales manager of P.J. Keating Company South, adding that the company also received a formal request for the materials from Francis.

"We were happy to be able to help out the school and give these girls infields that are more conducive to a longer playing season," Reger said.

"They (parents, players and coaches) appreciate the fields, and the students enjoy playing more now because we usually do not have rained out conditions," Francis added.

"Working to help our communities is an integral part of our company. Having that 'community mindset' and being a good neighbor is something P.J. Keating Company takes very seriously," Reger said.

Since 1923, P.J. Keating Company's primary business is quarrying stone, manufacturing Hot Mix Asphalt and the construction of Asphalt Paving Projects. The company is headquartered in Lunenburg, MA, with locations in Dracut, Acushnet and Cranston, Rhode Island.