A different kind of commencement

Fairhaven High School senior class president Abigail Bernardo literally jumps for joy after receiving her diploma on 5/31/20 at a different kind of commencement ceremony that included face masks and social distancing due to the COVID-19 restrictions. See page 10 for story. Photo by Beth David

First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Judge Murray Gurfein, Pentagon Papers case, June 17, 1971:

“The security of the Nation is not at the ramparts alone. Security also lies in the value of our free institutions. A cantankerous press, an obstinate press, a ubiquitous press must be suffered by those in authority in order to preserve the even greater values of freedom of expression and the right of the people to know.”
The Editor
WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.

Well, this is it. The big graduation issue. The seniors have graduated and are on their way to the next phase of their lives.

It was different this year. But it was still lots of fun. The kids are jumping for joy (literally, see the cover); the parents are crying, and lots of people are there to cheer them on....oh, wait, that sounds like a pretty traditional commencement ceremony, huh?

Well, it was different, but some things just don’t change, right?

They didn’t get to walk across the field, but, then again, on rainy days the ceremony takes place in the squeezeatorium anyway.

I meant to come up with some brilliance for this space this week, but the extra large issue (40 pages!) just ate away all my time. So, here I am at the last minute again.

I will say this, so that you may benefit from my 63 years of experience living a life that is not exactly traditional. Live your best life. Be true to yourself. Find a world view that fits in with your values and live your life accordingly. Stick with your principles, but don’t be cruel. It’s okay to make fun, but only if you can take a joke, too.

Go out into the world, little grasshoppers. Make us proud.

Our special issue for the seniors also includes the speeches...er...written remarks by the superintendent, principal, valedictorian, salutatorian, and a pretty good send-off in writing, to the two retiring teachers.

And, we even have other news this week. We aren’t ignoring ALL of it. We have meeting coverage and a couple of other gems in here...got that recipe in, yup, I did.

We have elections in Fairhaven on Monday (see page 4), COVID update (okay, it’s tiny) on page 37; and we even have other news this week. We aren’t going to publish the work submitted. Any claims of copyright infringement will be referred to the contributor, who will also be responsible for any and all costs associated with said claims.

Advertising: Call or write for rate card and sample issue or visit our website at www.NeighbNews.com.

The Fairhaven Neighborhood News, LLC, reserves the right to refuse advertising and editorial for any reason. The Neighb News will not assume any liability, financial or otherwise, for errors in ads or in editorial content submitted by contributors. The Neighb News will run a correction on the inside front cover to rectify any misprints or errors in the previous week’s issue. Readers, advertisers, and writers are responsible for notifying the Neighb News of any inconsistencies or errors in the paper. Advertisers are responsible for all claims made in their ads. The Neighb News is not be liable in any way for claims made by advertisers. Advertisers are responsible for their own content. We will, to the extent reasonable, try to verify any claims that seem unreasonable or unlikely to be true. Readers are encouraged to report any problems with our advertisers.

Subscriptions are available for 6 months (24 issues) or one year (48 issues) at $1.75 per issue for a total of $42.00 or $84.00 respectively. Also available for free online at www.neighbnews.com. For free email subscription, send to NeighbNews@comcast.net and include your first and last name.

Copyright 2020 Elizabeth A. David

Support local journalism
No one does local like a local newspaper. And it does not get more local than the Neighb News. Any small amount will help. Just clip the coupon and send check or money order to Fairhaven Neighborhood News, 166 Dogwood St., Fairhaven, MA 02719. Ask for a bumper sticker that says “I Support the Neighb News.” And thank you for reading the little paper with a big voice.

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
City/State/Zip: ______________________________________
Email: ____________________________________________
Do you want to receive the paper by email? Y  N

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS
Nothing? Really? That’s a whole week in a row!
Saying “farewell” to two retiring Fairhaven HS teachers

Paula Jardin

It is with great sadness, yet a tremendous amount of appreciation that we acknowledge the retirement of Paula Jardin from Fairhaven High School. We are so thankful to have had the opportunity to learn from her, laugh with her, and to have been cared for by her for so many successful years. Any student who has been fortunate enough to have been taught by Mrs. Jardin, and any staff member who has had the good fortune to work with her, is immediately struck by how thoughtful, hardworking and dedicated she is — qualities we all strive for. She has been an advocate and a pillar of strength for everyone in the Fairhaven school community.

Along with her dedication to teaching, devotion to her students, and nurturing nature, Mrs. Jardin is also known for some of her colorful colloquialisms. Anyone who has ever been in a meeting with Mrs. Jardin has at one point been reduced to tears of laughter. Whether it be talking about all the possibilities by saying, “And if my grandmother had wheels, she’d be a wagon,” or someone’s state of confusion by commenting, “they don’t know if they’re on foot or horseback,” any conversation with Mrs. Jardin is one that we will not soon forget (even if we are still trying to figure out exactly what she meant by “someone finding themselves in some pretty tight sneakers” or what a “Dutch Uncle” is).

Mrs. Jardin’s passion for history and her seemingly endless supply of knowledge is rivaled only by her care for others. No holiday, or in many cases department meetings, went without some of Mrs. Jardin’s tremendous treats and her culinary expertise. This was not only limited to her staff, but students as well. One of the highlights of any of Mrs. Jardin’s A.P. U.S. History classes was the end-of-year feast. Mrs. Jardin worked her students hard, but the feast was her way to reward her students while at the same time giving them the opportunity to relax, converse as equals, and not stress-out too much before the big test. Luckily, most of the history department is located on the third floor so we’re able to work off some of the weight we’ve gained from Mrs. Jardin’s baking.

The Fairhaven High School History Department will miss her passion, her work-ethic, her cheer, and her love for others. Though we are sad that we will not be seeing Mrs. Jardin in school next year, we are so blessed and eternally grateful for our experiences with her. We know that Mrs. Jardin will always be available to help colleagues and students long after she retires, so long as it doesn’t interrupt her time with her beloved pup “Oskah.” We’d also like to thank her loving husband Ron and her son Ian for sharing Mrs. Jardin with us. She is the definition of the backbone of a community. The history department has big shoes to fill and we cannot wait until we get to take Mrs. Jardin to the Pasta House and celebrate her retirement together.

Congratulations Mrs. Jardin — you have earned it. Fairhaven High School congratulates you and will miss you dearly. Thank you for being you.

Matt, Ben, Mike, Greg, Rob, and Nick

Phil Harding

Qualities:
- Caring
- Hardworking
- Dedicated
- Driven
- Advocate

Favorite Sayings (Paula-isms): (Those random old idioms that we crack up at)
- And if my grandmother had wheels she’d be a wagon.
- He (or she) doesn’t know if they’re on foot or horseback.

Retire: cont’d on page 24
Fairhaven Historical Society announces scholarship winner

Press Release

The Fairhaven Historical Society is pleased to announce the winner of the 2020 Enrique Goytizolo Scholarship. Matthew Elliott, a senior at Fairhaven High School, will receive the $1,000 scholarship which will go towards his expenses in college this coming academic year. He was selected by a committee who anonymously reviewed the essays which were submitted.

Matthew has been in AP classes since his sophomore year, is the captain of his soccer team, a member of the tennis team, and also volunteers his time with local charities. Awarded by the Fairhaven Historical Society annually, The Enrique Goytizolo Scholarship recognizes a Fairhaven-resident graduating high school senior planning to pursue study at an accredited institution of higher learning.

The scholarship is given in honor of Enrique Goytizolo’s dedication to preserving the history of the Town of Fairhaven and his vital role in leading the Fairhaven Historical Society for many years.

The Fairhaven Historical Society, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of Fairhaven’s historically-significant items and the promotion of the history and cultural welfare of the Town of Fairhaven.

For more information, visit https://www.fairhavenhistory.org, or email historicalsocietyfairhaven@gmail.com; P.O. Box 212, Fairhaven, MA 02719.

Fairhaven votes Monday: Wear a mask, bring your own pen

Due to restrictions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the town of Fairhaven postponed its election. But, election day is finally around the corner. Fairhaven votes Monday, 6/8, polls are open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Town Clerk’s office has instituted strict cleaning/sanitizing protocols at all polling places, including disinfecting spray, paper towels, masks and gloves for poll workers, plexiglass at the check-in/check-out tables. Each booth will be wiped down after someone votes.

Voters are asked to bring their OWN pens, black or blue ink only; and will be required to wear masks.

Signage and floor markings will help to keep voters at least six feet apart from each other. The number of voting booths at each polling place has also been reduced to keep within the social distancing guidelines.

Town Clerk Carolyn Hurley said that absentee ballots have been “rolling in.” “It’s fantastic,” she said. Absentee voting will help cut down the number of in-person voters at the polls. She said they have mailed out about 270 absentee ballots and have received about 165 back. Usually, she gets about 50 absentee ballots.

Technically, it is not too late to vote by absentee ballot, but as a practical matter, it probably will not work. Deadline to get an application is Friday, 6/5, at noon. But, because no one is allowed inside town hall due to the pandemic, the application has to be mailed, then mailed back to be counted, ALL by Monday. Call the 508-979-4023, Ext. 3 with questions.
Town meeting will be shorter, remote

By Jean Perry
Special to the Neighb News
Fairhaven Town Meeting members will tackle a much shorter warrant than originally planned when they remotely attend Fairhaven’s first-ever virtual Annual Town Meeting on 6/27.

The Fairhaven Selectboard on May 28 approved Town Administrator Mark Rees’s proposal to shorten the warrant from 53 articles to just 19 in order to streamline the unprecedented and otherwise untested virtual town meeting process.

The updated warrant will focus on articles that are time sensitive and deemed essential, Mr. Rees said. One of those essential articles features the fiscal year 2021 budget, which Mr. Rees said would likely be affected by an uncertainty of revenue stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The remote town meeting itself could also affect the FY21 budget should logistical challenges arise and town meeting need to be rescheduled. In preparation, the board approved Mr. Rees’s strategy of adopting a “one-twelfth” FY21 budget as a contingency should something go wrong or if town meeting is ultimately postponed.

A one-twelfth budget is the result of taking the FY20 budget and dividing it by 12 in order to formulate a budget that can at least cover the expenditures for July, the first month of the fiscal year.

With that approved, Mr. Rees said he would prepare a “one-third” FY21 budget for Town Meeting to adopt, to maintain town services for four months into FY21.

A special town meeting could later be held to adopt a final FY21 budget after social distancing measures are further loosened.

The Selectboard decided to hold a meeting on June 3 to review the warrant and make article recommendations for TM members.

The 2020 Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, 6/27, at 9:00 a.m., and town meeting members will attend the meeting via Zoom.

In other matters, Mr. Rees said that the town is preparing for an anticipated June 8 reopening of Town Hall and other municipal buildings to the public.

Mass. Governor Charlie Baker must first approve starting Phase 2 of the state’s reopening plan, which could be decided over the weekend as long as COVID-19 cases continue to decline.

Preparations for reopening at Town Hall include Plexiglas shields at public counters, hand sanitizer dispensers installed throughout the building, and a number of social distancing markers on the floor to ensure a six-foot distance for those waiting in line.

“I think we’re in a good position,” Mr. Rees said. “But we have not heard any finalization of that [June 8] date.”

Fairhaven Health Agent Mary Freire-Kellogg said COVID-19 cases continue to rise in Fairhaven, predominantly within congregate residential housing communities.

“Everybody seriously needs to pay attention to social distancing,” said Ms. Freire-Kellogg adding that if you cannot stand six feet from people, wear a mask. “It’s very, very important. We’re seeing multiple cases in the same location, basically … where people are congregating together.”

Ms. Freire-Kellogg said the Health Department has given the Police Department additional masks to distribute to residents that need them, and the Housing Authority now has masks and thermometers available for housing tenants.

“And we have more to give out if we need to,” said Friere-Kellogg. “We’re just trying to keep up with the changes. It changes every minute of every day, so … we adjust accordingly.”

CONGRATULATIONS
CLASS OF 2020
Thomas Livesey Memorial Club Proudly Announces
The 2020 Scholarship Recipients:
RYLEE Sniezek • ASHLEY HILLER • BOSTON RODRIGUES
QUINN ALLAIRE • MEREDITH SILVA (GNBRVTHS)

11 Hopkins Street • Fairhaven
A message from the superintendent to the class of 2020

From Robert N. Baldwin
Superintendent,
Fairhaven Public Schools

Now more than ever I will have to keep this Commencement Address short and to the point because you will have the opportunity to fast forward right through this part of the ceremony. It has become tradition that every year I do not write my speech until the morning of the graduation ceremony. So here come some random thoughts that pertain to your class on the morning that I will give this speech.

First of all, I want you to know that out of all of the students affected by this once-in-a-century pandemic, I was most heart broken for you.

But my last lecture to you will emphasize using what you have learned as opportunity and not dwelling on the negativity a crisis like this one could create. You can choose to use it to complain. You can choose to use this to make excuses for falling short of your ambitions. Or you can choose to use this to blame others for why you didn’t accomplish what you set out to accomplish.

But you need to think of that story of the two twins in the dung heap that I recently shared with you. Because you have learned that not everything that you plan for in life goes as designed and that you need to deal with adversity with integrity, that you are one step ahead of the rest, because here at FHS you have been taught about grit and culture and attitude being the difference makers.

In the fall of 2018 alone, you experienced 11 true rainouts, with multiple days of impact following each. There were 27 rescheduled events, mostly due to standing water and unplayable conditions on our fields. You were placed at a competitive disadvantage because we could not and cannot practice on rainy days, or snowy starts to spring. Soccer practices were condensed to a basketball court, and field hockey was confined to Zumba workouts in the Performing Arts Center.

Coupled with the constraints of the schedule from opposing schools, this continues to force our teams to play in marginal conditions, or in multiple back-to-back scenarios, like playing seven field hockey games in 10 days, including senior night. This impacts both competitive advantage and player safety, and ultimately diminishes the outcomes of what you work so hard for.

The EEE threat impacted your 2019 fall season as well. You had to endure a Dusk to Dawn curfew for all outdoor practices and games, no team practices prior to 7:30 a.m., and all practices and games were completed by 6 p.m.

A fitting way for future students and past alumni to see first hand how you personified our ideals of ambition, perseverance, and integrity during your tenure here at FHS is to name the proposed turf stadium field, “The Class of 2020 Field.”

The process for this dedication was proposed to the Fairhaven School Committee On April 8, 2020. The Fairhaven School Committee directed me to begin the Naming/Re-naming Policy process. A group of individuals representing a cross section of the town’s interests met on April 30, 2020, to unanimously recommend to the Fairhaven School Committee the naming of the new athletic turf field at our stadium the “Class of 2020 Field”.

BALDWIN: cont’d on next page
Baldwin: cont’d from previous page

In the short term, a once-in-a-century pandemic has derailed your senior spring. For the long-term, I cannot think of a better symbol of your contribution here than to leave your high school much better than you left it by naming the turf athletic field on your behalf!

I recently shared with you that it has been 40 years since my class graduated from Fairhaven High School. I spared you the lettermen’s jacket today. Our class song was by Heatwave. It was called Always and Forever. We loved it and believed fully that the words were guideposts for our future lives.

“And I know tomorrow will still be the same cause we have a life of love that won’t ever change.”

The song lyrics that I share with you today are more realistic. Class of 2020, I believe that we are channeling our inner Hannah Montana, because the song lyrics that I chose for your class are from The Climb by Miley Cyrus.

There’s always going to be another mountain
There’s always going to be an uphill battle
It’s not about how fast you get there…
It’s about the climb
Keep Movin
Keep Climbin

Keep the Faith
It’s about the climb
And finally my last call to you. Class of 2020…

This is Dr. Baldwin Superintendent of Schools. Because you have learned first hand when your school buildings were closed in the Spring of your senior year, I am informing you that On May 31, 2020, the day of your graduation from Fairhaven High School your lives are wide open to follow all of your opportunities, dreams, and goals for the rest of your life.

Please stay safe!

A message from the principal

From Andrew Kulak
Principal of Fairhaven High School
Good Afternoon
Welcome — family, friends, staff, and especially the class of 2020.

Class — You are Now Graduates — and alumni of this remarkable high school

In your journey through high school, you have persevered and achieved a significant milestone in your life.

Be Proud of that achievement.

Graduating from high school is a challenge and you have done it with grace and dignity.

I am sure that when you began high school four short years ago, you never thought that your senior year would end in the middle of a pandemic.

Things can change in an instant and history is made.

Life is like that — So — Spend more of your time looking ahead to the wonderful things life has to offer.

Engage and enjoy Life — And when you do look back, you can do so with a smile.

So as you move on, into the world, remember to
Be well
Be safe
Be strong
And Be Remarkable
Congratulations Class of 2020
Carpe Diem
Ad Astra

Congratulations

to our

Fairhaven High School graduates:
Andrew, Brody and Jack

From the First Congregational Church, UCC, Fairhaven

34 Center Street • Fairhaven, MA • 508-993-3368
Valedictorian: We’re rolling with the punches, adapting

By Jean Perry

Special to the Neighb News

The “drive-through” graduation ceremony preceded by an unprecedented school semester of online learning from home was certainly unconventional, but as Fairhaven Class of 2020 Valedictorian Olivia Maciel pointed out in her prepared speech: “We’re probably the only graduating class in recent history that’s going to have a story to tell like this.”

Typical high school years are challenging times, which Maciel acknowledged are fraught with pressure to acquire academic achievement and social success, and the inherent loneliness of one’s inner struggle to feel “good enough.”

But the “suffering” high school induces, said Maciel, is what prepares one to become the person they are destined to be. Suffering in the form of, as Maciel recalled, “sitting through painfully long presentations on The Odyssey helped us improve our public speaking. Our first week of finals helped to prepare us for multiple three-hour AP sittings.

“You didn’t make the cut for varsity? You learned from it. You practiced harder. And maybe you landed a varsity position the next year,” said Maciel. “The times we experienced suffering gave us a chance to look into ourselves and see where we could improve.”

Maciel urged her classmates to reflect on any negative experience from the last four years. For Maciel, it was a three-day suspension during her junior year that, at the time, felt like the end of the world.

“As far as I was concerned, my high school days were over,” said Maciel, worried at the time that her college applications would be rejected and scholarships denied “because I had wiped clean my last three years of mild success with this one, albeit huge, mistake.” But looking back, said Maciel, “It motivated me to be better and to start moving past some things I thought I could never move on from.

“...And here I am today,” she said, adding, “All of us have felt that way... but look at who you are now. You made it here. You’re thriving despite all of the past expectations that...”

As Maciel sees it, “High school made us all suffer because there were so many avenues and so much time for that suffering to occur.” And she listed the myriad blocks of time that comprise the five-day school week that runs on a seven-day school schedule — at least until Covid-19 came.

“We’re the first graduating class to transition the end of their senior year entirely onto some beaten up Chromebooks with a graduation made possible by petroleum,” said Maciel. “Really, this sucks for all of us and I would hate to pretend like it doesn’t.

“We’re missing the things we all thought we were going to have by now — the elaborate prom, the normal graduation, ... the last few warm, summery days in the halls of our beloved school, gone.”

But even while missing out, Maciel said the graduates have also gained a lot.

“We’ve learned how to learn online, MACIEL: cont’d on page 35

Congratulations to the FHS Class of 2020

From Fairhaven sophomore Diego Perry

Congratulations, Jenna!!

We are very proud of you!

Love, Gary, Pattie & Gracie
I am running for re-election to the Fairhaven Board of Selectmen in the Monday June 8th Annual Town Election. My opponent for this seat has repeatedly made statements that are incorrect or misleading. Please allow me the opportunity to set the record straight.

Despite what my opponent claims, the Town Administrator is not requesting a full time Assistant Town Administrator. Before the COVID health emergency, the Town Administrator's proposed budget included the additional responsibilities to the current Director of Human Resources to provide cross training, apply for grants, and provide back-up capacity to the Town Administrator. The Town Administrator's pre-COVID recommended budget established a reserve of $10,000 only to be spent if, after careful analysis, reclassifications were warranted for both the Assistant Town Administrator/HR Director and Finance Director positions. This request has not yet formally come to the Selectmen for a vote. Given the COVID-19 emergency, the Town Administrator is working on a revised FY21 budget that has withdrawn the request for these reclassifications in favor of conserving resources to maintain current staffing levels.

While my opponent does not say which employees he does not want to have vehicles to drive to their home, he is referring to the current Building Commissioner and Board of Health Agent. What he neglects to say is that both these employees are on call 24 hours a day to respond to emergencies and that individuals who held these positions previously were also provided with vehicles for this purpose.

My opponent also states he is against spending $40 million dollars for a new public safety facility “when there are other avenues to pursue at much less cost,” which he clearly fails to detail! The preliminary estimates for this facility are based on what we need to provide our first responders so that they can do their job in protecting the residents of Fairhaven. All must be done in compliance with state procurement laws, public construction building codes and prevailing wage law. Obviously, due to COVID-19 budget issues, this project is on hold. Regardless, your voice would be heard through public hearings and at town wide vote.

Finally, when my opponent says he is opposed to dividing Town Hall positions, he is speaking about the Conservation Agent/Sustainability Officer. Previously, the prior Building Commissioner was paid a stipend to work approximately 10 hours a week as the town's conservation agent. We then decided this was not a sufficient dedication of resources to protect our very important wetlands and our town’s great assets: our beautiful ocean front, tidal marshes and in-land waters.

I am proud to say that I supported the creation of the Conservation Agent/Sustainability Officer position which in the short time it has been in existence, in addition to protecting our critical natural resources, has also brought in $283,000 in grant funding.

Let me tell you what else I am proud of:

• Adding four new firefighters/EMTs (paid mostly from ambulance fees) and replacing a 34-year-old ladder truck to the Fairhaven Fire Department to ensure that when you have an emergency, we are able to respond quickly with sufficient personnel and reliable equipment.
• Restructuring the command structure of the Police Department to improve operations. This has helped the Fairhaven Police Department in being certified by the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission, demonstrating adherence to the highest levels of professionalism in police work.
• Supporting the budget requests of the Fairhaven Public Schools, including the addition of a second School Resource Officer (Police Officer) which has resulted in our schools being among the best in the South Coast.
• The adoption of a five-year capital plan that has allowed us to better maintain our buildings, equipment, streets and sidewalks, improve our water front including improvements to Union Wharf and a comprehensive dredging program and address environmental mandates.
• The $4.3 million dollars in grants the town has received in the last three years that has paid for much of these infrastructure improvements, but also allowed the town to come into the 21st century in regards to technology and modern operating policies and procedures.
• Strong financial management that has resulted in the town's bond rating from having a “negative” outlook to AA+, one step below AAA. We have built up over the past few years financial reserves to $11.4 million dollars which will allow us to weather the coming economic downturn as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. All of this has been achieved while keeping your property taxes as low as possible. Last year the average single-family tax bill in Fairhaven ranked 303 out of 351 municipalities the Commonwealth, a position (plus or minus one or two points) we have held for the last 9 years.

My opponent's campaign slogan is “Change is in your hands”. Change has always been in your hands. A vote for me will continue the “change” that started when I was first elected your Selectmen 12 years ago, to provide a more professional, effective government focused on improving services to our residents in an efficient and cost effective manner.

I respectfully ask for your vote on Monday June 8th, 2020.

Yours in Service, Charlie
A different kind of graduation sends FHS seniors into world

By Beth David
Editor

The word “awesome” got bandied about quite a bit at the non-traditional commencement ceremony for Fairhaven High School graduates on Sunday, 5/31/20. Parents, school officials, and even students seemed a bit surprised at how much everyone seemed to love the event, which consisted of a parade from Acushnet to Fairhaven High School in a route that took students to Fort Phoenix and past all their elementary schools.

Members of the community in Acushnet and Fairhaven lined the whole route. Parents, students, and school staff all expressed amazement when the event wrapped up at the high school.

Students rode up in the passenger side, walked one by one through a balloon arch with their masks on; picked up their diplomas instead of having it handed to them; then took off their masks for a photo; then headed back to their cars at the school entrance.

During the parade and as they drove by the school, drivers honked their horns, students hung out the windows giving fist pumps, with cell phones recording, and the public lining the road followed suit.

The procession went to Fort Phoenix, then passed by the two elementary schools, then went to the middle school where the cars regrouped for the ride to the high school to pick up their diplomas.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the FHS seniors were not able to have the traditional ceremony so beloved by FHS alumni, parents, and school staff. The school building has been closed since March 13, so seniors finished out their senior year remotely.

“It’s been a challenge,” said FHS principal Andrew Kulak. “But it also creates an opportunity to do things a little differently.”

He noted that the institution of school has not changed in more than 100 years. It is, however, also a little early to know if those changes are good or bad.

With some students, it was “well received,” he said, but it has been a “challenge” for others. He said he is hoping they will be able do things better in the future.

“The kids will adjust and adapt to doing things a new way,” he said.

It is unclear if students will be allowed in the building in the fall. He is waiting for the guidelines.

“I imagine we will be in school. I hope we will be in school,” said Mr. Kulak, but acknowledged it will more likely be a combination of remote learning and classes in the building.

“The safety element is key,” for students and staff, he said.

“Out of crisis comes opportunity,” said superintendent of schools Robert N. Baldwin. “As a community, there has not been a whole lot of opportunity for us to come together. What better way to come together than to celebrate our kids?”

He stressed “everyone,” saying that it was a Herculean effort by the police and fire departments in both towns to work out the logistics. And the staff and faculty at each elementary and middle school were also there to greet the students.

They also had to clear the plan with the town’s health agent.

Some people, however, wanted to wait until the end of summer to hold a traditional ceremony.

“Of course, it’s unchartered waters,” said Dr. Baldwin. “The kids deserve to graduate on time.”

He said an August event would just not be the same. By then, the graduates should be “looking in the windshield,” he said, not the rearview mirror.

“They will be looking at what’s next. We had to provide closure now,” he said.

“This is unforgettable. The whole town is celebrating the graduates,” said Selectboard chairperson Charles K. Murphy, Sr. “I think it’s awesome that so many people came out to cheer on the graduates.”

School Committee chairperson
To Ali & Dory
(our two favorite seniors)

Congratulations!
We are so proud of you & so excited for your next adventures!
We love you!

Love,
Robin, Scott, Colin, Rebecca, Ray, Mari, Hugo, & Leo

Claire,
we are so proud of you.

Congratulations on your graduation from FHS and best of luck at James Madison
We love you, Mom, Dad, Sadie, and Laura
CONGRATULATIONS to all graduates!

Well done, class of 2020!

774-451-4521 • ronslawns.rr@gmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS to the GRADUATING CLASS of 2020

From your friends at Southern Mass Credit Union

508-994-9971 | www.southernmass.com
Fairhaven | Fall River | New Bedford

DURAND INSURANCE AGENCY

Congratulations to the Class of 2020

Lifestyle Plaza • 270 Hurtleston Avenue • Fairhaven
Congratulations **OWEN**!

You came into This World
Such A Quiet Happy Kid,
You Found Joy And Entertainment
With Everything You Did.
As Time Went On And You Began To Grow
Your Potential Was Obvious To See.
And As Your Parents Watching You
We Are Prouder Than Anyone Could Be
You’re A Shooting Star Amongst Common Stars
With A Path You’ve Lit So Bright.
Your Drive, Your Strides, All Your Achievements
Have Prepared You For This Flight...

We Love You So Much And:
We Are All So Very Proud Of You!
Love, Mommy, Daddy, Leah, Kaylee, Lucas,
Granovy and Auntie!!

---

Congratulations **Quinn**

You have proven that no matter the obstacle you can rise above it and achieve anything you set your mind too. We are so proud of you and love you very much

Mom and Dad

---

Congratulations **Gabby Girl**!

You did it without a doubt! Can’t wait to see what the future holds!

We are so proud!

---

**THANK YOU!**

Fairhaven, Acushnet and all Police, Fire and EMS for such an amazing procession for our FHS 2020 Seniors. It truly was an amazing day.

Lots of Love,
Mom. Kevin Memere, Pepere Destiny, Diesel, & Chase Tante & Jason
Congratulations Boston!
We are so proud of you & can't wait to see what your future holds!

Love,
Mom, Dad & Ainslee

Congrats Emily
You’re going to do wonderful things.
We love you!
Mom, Dad, Reagan & Alex

Congratulations, Graduates
Best wishes as you follow your dreams

Fall forward.
Every failed experiment is one step closer to success.
You’ve got to take risks.

Denzel Washington

Your education is a dress rehearsal for a life that is yours to lead.

Nora Ephron

HOURS: Mon.–Fri., 8 a.m.–7 p.m. • Sat., 8 a.m.–2 p.m.
196 Huttleston Ave. • Fairhaven, MA • 508-509-2292
Roofing Contractor

40 years in the business
Detailed workmanship
Attentive, personal service
Certified Owens Corning Preferred Contractor

Offering extended warranties available only through an Owens Corning Certified Preferred Roofing Contractor

Marc A. Gadbois • 508-992-0226

Materials Supplied by ABC Supply Company
MA Const. Sup. Lic. # 003000
MA Home Imp. Lic. #127675
EPA Lead Safe Certified
Fully Insured

Congratulations Graduates

Go confidently in the direction of your dreams.
Live the life you have imagined.

Henry David Thoreau

It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all.

J.K. Rowling

Fairhaven Neighborhood News
Beth David, Publisher/Editor

Phone: 508-979-5593 • Fax: 508-991-5580
166 Dogwood St., Fairhaven, MA 02719
NeighbNews@comcast.net • www.NeighbNews.com
Acushnet Selectboard changes date of Town Meeting again

By Pattie Pacella
Neighb News Correspondent

The Acushnet Selectboard continued with their weekly meetings on Tuesday, 5/27/20 using Zoom Conference Video.

Town Administrator Julie Hebert advised the Board that she has been discussing with Board of Health agent Joe Correia a change of date for the Annual Town Meeting. The original postponement date was Monday, June 22; however, they discussed holding it on Saturday, June 20, 2020.

Mr. Correia was present on the Zoom call and stated that he and Building Commissioner Jim Marot had been reviewing and analyzing the protocols they needed to put in place, due to COVID-19 at both the elementary and middle schools and felt it was best the Annual Town Meeting was set up for a Saturday meeting at the Ford Middle School.

Mr. Correia said that once the gymnasium is set up per the social distancing requirements, it would be easier to clean and disinfect after the meeting.

“I’m thinking the maximum capacity with social distancing would be approximately eighty people,” Mr. Correia said. “That includes finance committee, Selectboard, and a camera man.”

“We’d be hard pressed to get eighty at a regular Town Meeting,” Selectboard member Kevin Gaspar said.

The Selectboard voted to hold the Annual Town Meeting on June 20, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at FMS.

The Selectboard also voted to allow any board or committee that needed to hold a public hearing to use the same venue, practicing the same social distancing if needed. The vote will allow the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting on June 9, and a Planning Board meeting on June 18, to be held at FMS.

The board also had a brief discussion on the upcoming PJ Keating Hearing, scheduled for June 9. Selectboard chairperson Roger Cabral stated he felt they have exhausted public hearing comments at previous meetings and did not think additional conversation for public comment was warranted.

He said he was satisfied moving forward with a virtual meeting.

The board agreed, and the meeting will take place via Zoom on 6/9.

Mr. Cabral stated he still wanted to see a valid decommissioning plan from PJ Keating and that the Selectboard needs to think about adding additional conditions to the Soil Board Permit. He stated they informed PJ Keating of a few of the conditions they were contemplating, especially to the noise and operating hours and have not heard anything back.

In other business, the board discussed the reopening of Town Hall.

Mr. Cabral stated that they have been paying people to stay home for the last eight weeks and

“If we have to move it back another four, or five weeks then we may want to look at furloughs,” said Mr. Cabral.

“I don’t want to do that, but it looks like it might be the reality.”

“That’s a change of heart, Mr. Chairman,” Mr. Gaspar said. “I think I’m having a heart attack right now.”

“It’s a lovely segue into the reopening plan,” Mr. Cabral said.

ACUSH: cont’d next page
Board member David Desroches stated he would like to see a reopening plan from the Department of Public Works.

Mr. Gaspar stated he was getting “dizzy and nauseous” over Governor Baker’s reopening plans.

“I just can’t make heads or tails of it,” he said.

The Selectboard received a reopening plan from the Acushnet Library and the Council on Aging and Mr. Gaspar said he felt those two, being the most “vulnerable” venues, should defer to the June 8, 2020 opening date.

“The plans are good ones, so I thank the two ladies for their pre-opening plan, but I’m not in a rush to open either venue at this time.”

Mr. Cabral said: “We need to figure out opening Town Hall and providing services to our residents.”

Ms. Hebert stated she has been working with department heads to put a definitive plan together to open up town hall.

Mr. Gaspar agreed that Town Hall needs to reopen sooner than later: “Our residents need to know they can come into the Town Hall safely instead of playing peek-a-boo through a drive-through window.”

Mr. Desroches agreed saying he would like to see what Department heads come up with.

Mr. Cabral agreed that Department of Public Works needs to be a part of that reopening. He said they need to get back to a regular shift as there is a lot of work that can be done around Acushnet with small crews. The board agreed to work with the Board of Health and the Town Administrator to come up with a reopening plan.

In other business, the board continued to review Town Meeting Articles and the FY21 budget. Building Inspector/Town Planner Henry Young was on the conference call and briefly spoke about the Floodplain and Stormwater Amendment articles that had been on the warrant. He said they had removed a few “non-controversial” by-law amendments.

Mr. Gaspar noted that Mr. Young is the part-time Town Planner as well as the “Special Projects Manager” through the Selectboard. He said that in his mind he does not distinguish one from the other.

“I do a lot of overlap,” Mr. Young said, adding that the Special Projects Manager was part of his job to pursue and write grants on behalf of the Town.

He said he has been doing a lot of “overlap work for the last two decades.”

Mr. Gaspar said he thought the Selectboard should always be asking what services are being rendered for the salary that Acushnet is paying for. He said he is not stating that Mr. Young is not doing anything additional for the money, but he wanted a better idea of what he was doing.

“I just think we need to stay on top of what we are paying extra for and find out what people are doing to earn that salary. I hate to see someone getting paid for a job and not doing it,” Mr. Gaspar said.

The Selectboard will meet at 5 p.m. on 6/9, just prior to the PJK meeting, scheduled for 6 that day. •••

MAC’S SODA BAR & CUSTOM CATERING

116 Sconticut Neck Road • Fairhaven
508-992-8615

Congratulations to the Class of 2020

from

Wayne

Electric & Alarms
508-997-5600  508-758-3068
www.walarms.com

Serving Bristol & Plymouth Counties for over 35 years

BOUTIQUE FOR DOLLs

625 Main St. Acushnet  508-728-4366

Adults & Children

FACE MASK

3 layers washable various patterns & colors

Call for Hours

THIS WEEK’S SPECIALS: June 4–7

• Steak Tips
• Shepherd’s Pie
• Chicken Parmesan
• Chicken Pot Pie
• Pork Chops
• Pam Seared Scrod
• Portuguese Style Littlenecks

OPEN FOR TAKE-OUT SERVICE ONLY:
Thurs. • Noon to 8 p.m.
Fri. & Sat. • 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sun.: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (except 5/24, see above)
The dining room will be closed until the ban is lifted.

We are still offering complete, inexpensive family meals on Thursdays.
Select from: Baked Stuffed Chicken, Chicken Parmesan, Pork Chops, Meat Loaf and Shepherd’s Pie.
$9.00 plus tax
Meet the Class of 2020

Anya K. Aadland
High Honors

Quinn M. Allaire
High Honors

Kylie A. Alves Costa
Honors

Tahlia R. Amaral
High Honors

Elizabeth A. Arruda
High Honors

Elizabeth R. Arruda
High Honors

Ross J. Backstrom

Jacob W. Baiardi
High Honors

Stephanie G. Barton
High Honors

Kyle W. Beaulieu
High Honors

Abigail R. Benjamin
Honors

Abigail E. Bernardo
President
Highest Honors

Olivia C. Bernardo
High Honors

Athena R. Borges
Honors

John T. Bowen, Jr.

Rachel A. Braga

Jack A Burr

Ryan M. Campos

Dylan J. Cantara
High Honors

Brandon M. M. Carbin

Dylan T. Cardoza

Nicholas T. Cardoza

Miranda O. Carson
High Honors

Madelyn E. Casey
Honors

Jason J. Castelo

William E. Castillo
Guillen
Honors

Julian J. Castro

Owen C. Cebula
Honors

Hannah C. Chan
Highest Honors

Shawn J. Conlon

Jenna S. Correia
Historian
Highest Honors

Katelynne E. Correia
Honors

Arianna N. Cosmo

Kelsey M. M. Cosmo

Erinn G. Costa
Honors

Mason S. B. Costa
Honors

Christian P. Cote

Lauren J. Crowley
High Honors

Kenna M. Cruise
High Honors

Emily-Grace J. Cunha

Brendan C. DaSilva
High Honors

Emily K. Dasneves
Highest Honors

Photos courtesy of Mare Studios
Meet the Class of 2020


Honors

High Honors

Sabrina T. Duarte  Emelia B. Dube  Tabbetha L. Dube  Arianna N. Dwyer  Christina A. S. Eckenreiter  Matthew A. Elliott  Kylie E. Ellis

Highest Honors


High Honors


High Honors

Lacey M. Freitas  Fionna Furtado  Francheska Furtado  Owen R. Gallagher  Kalvin O. Garcia  Kandice F. Garcia  Aiva E. Gonsalves

Honors

Francheska Furtado  Emma S. Gonsalves  Madison N. Hebert  Anthony D. Helmerson  Ethan D. Henriques  Gabrielle A. Heroux  Ashley C. Hiller

High Honors

Gabrielle A. Heroux  Ashley C. Hiller  Claire K. Hubert

Highest Honors

Meet the Class of 2020

Cassandra L. Lavigne
Honors

Victoria A. Lazaro
Honors

Ines A. Ledo
Honors

Caroline G. Lemieux
Highest Honors

Myles F. Lopes
Honors

Troy J. Lopes
Honors

Charton J. Lowney

Olivia E. Maciel
Valedictorian
Highest Honors

Garret M. Magalhaes
Highest Honors

Madeline C. Major
High Honors

Colin J. Matton

Jarrick J. O.
Mazerolle-Camara
High Honors

Mackenzie J. McCree

Dominic C. Medeiros.

Max W. Medeiros
Honors

Olivia J. Medeiros
Honors

Gabrielle M. Mello
High Honors

Quinn A. Milligan

Cassidy M. Milan

Aidan K. Molleo

Haley M. Moniz

Kayleigh E. Morris
Honors

Matthew J. Morris
High Honors

Hunter D. Nadeau

Marcio S. Nery

Madison J. Nightlinger
Honors

Trevor M. Oliveira

Tommy C. Ortiz

Trevor P. Pacheco

Madelyn L. Pereira
High Honors

Mason R. Pereira

Tyler C. Pereira
Highest Honors

Joshua J. Perry

Mikenzie N. Perry
High Honors

Victoria I. Perry

Alexis R. Petty
Highest Honors

Kayla A. Picard

Kelsey Pimental
Honors

Kayla R. Plante

Natalie F. Renehan
High Honors

Collin D. Roderiques

Boston D. Rodrigues
High Honors

Photos courtesy of Mare Studios
Meet the Class of 2020

Sofia V. Rodrigues  
*Highest Honors*

Jenna R. Roth

Kacy J. Ryan  
*High Honors*

Corey A. Saucier  
*High Honors*

Cameron G. Sauve

Erik A. Senna

Jacob J. Silva

Juliette S. Simmons  
*Highest Honors*

Madison R. Skrutski

Kalvyn K. Smith

Rylee K. Sniezek

Kassie L. Soares

Jewelya R. Souza  
*High Honors*

Melissa A. Souza

Paige N. Souza

Duncan F. Stewart  
*Honors*

Alexandra A. Stuessi  
*Highest Honors*

Dorothee K. Surprenant  
*Secretary  
Highest Honors*

Cheyann M. Tavares

Jordan A. Tavares  
*Honors*

Madelyn R. Taylor

Helaina E. Thomas

Jake E. Tichon  
*High Honors*

Jeremiah L. A. Torres

Makalya R. Turgeon

Victoria L. Turner

Ariana J. Vargas

Corbin C. Veitch  
*Treasurer  
High Honors*

Daphne E. Veitch  
*Honors*

Braley L. Viera  
*High Honors*

Zachary M. Viera

Cassidy L. Vuolo

Athena E. Xifaris  
*High Honors*
Dear Class of 2020,

We are so proud of all you have overcome and achieved. You have matured and learned more in the past months than many learn in a lifetime. Best of luck in your future endeavors and always remember you are a Blue Devil!

Sincerely,
The Fairhaven School Committee

“

There is no education like adversity.”
- Benjamin Disraeli

“Congratulations FHS Class of 2020!”

Devin Anthony Fonseca

We are so proud of you and your success in High School. We have watched you grow into such a fine young man. We admire your strength, determination, loyalty and compassion. We cannot wait to see what lies ahead of you as you enter into a new chapter of your life. Stay strong and always stay true to yourself.

We love you!
Mom, Dad & Zack

Dylan Anthony Fonseca

Words cannot express how proud we are of the fine young man you have become.

We look forward to watching you exceed all your dreams. As you continue your journey and approach new chapters in your life stay true to who you are, whatever comes your way...

Keep smiling.

We love you!
Mom, Dad & Zack
Phil Harding

Phil Harding is a staple in the town of Fairhaven. With the exception of a few years away at college and one year at Dartmouth High School as a young teacher, Phil has been walking the Halls of Ivy as a student or a teacher for his entire lifetime. Born and raised in Fairhaven, he is the truest definition of someone who “Bleeds Blue!” And now the time has finally come to bid adieu to Mr. Harding in his retirement year. Somehow and someway, we do not believe that Mr. Harding will actually be able to stay away from Fairhaven High, but we will work to ensure that his legacy will live on in the years to come.

Here are a few words from his colleagues within the math department at FHS.

“Mr. Harding was my Geometry teacher, football coach, and mentor while I was a student many years ago. He has since been my colleague, supervisor, and career mentor as we have worked together for some 15 years. Some of the more memorable experiences in my career have been with Phil Harding: co-teaching two of our math classes together in room 7, beating King Phillip on the football field, and never having to explain our relationship — you know, he being my boss at the same time I was his boss — will always be special to me. I am going to miss the mentor I’ve had for so long, and I can only hope to pass along some of that knowledge to the younger generations of educators moving forward.”

— Scott Francis

School. He has been my Geometry teacher, basketball coach, and football coach during my time as a student at Fairhaven High School, and now for the past 20 years he has been my co-worker, boss, and a friend. As the leader of the math department, he has helped create a selfless, technologically savvy team that works and wants to help each other improve. It is an atmosphere that makes me enjoy going to work everyday. Mr Harding, as you head off into retirement I wish the best and want to remind you to sit back, relax.”

— Donnie Joseph

“I joined the FHS staff 14 years ago as a new teacher with big dreams and huge goals. Mr. Harding quickly became a mentor and friend, someone who put in time and effort to help me become a strong teacher. Early on, we taught a common course, so we worked together quite closely. I quickly realized how privileged I was to be learning from him for all these years.”

— Courtney Girouard

“Mr. Harding was my Pre-Calculus teacher in high school. In his class I felt inspired by his passion for mathematics, and his dedication to his students. After college, I too returned to FHS to teach, following in his footsteps. Although I never had the opportunity to be coached by him, I have been able to watch him coach, where his leadership, attention to detail, and love of athletics shine bright. I only have had the pleasure of teaching alongside him for two years, but I am so grateful for the knowledge that he has passed on to me. I admire his ability to be a strong leader, but also connect so personally to everyone around him. I will miss sharing my goldfish crackers with him during meetings, but most importantly I will miss his wise advice that he has for any situation. He is truly an inspiration, and FHS has been so lucky to have him for all these years.”

— Kathy Pittsley

Phil has been walking the Halls of Ivy as a student or a teacher for his entire lifetime.

What we will miss:

- Paula’s passion
- Her cheer before the holidays
- Our end of the year luncheon

HARDING: cont’d on page 32
Virtual Graduation
Virtual graduation event begins on Sat., 6/6, at noon. Join the party throughout the afternoon. Commencement speakers: President Barack Obama, Michelle Obama, BTS, Lada Gaga, Sec. Robert M. Gates, Sundar Pichai, Sec. Condoleezza Rice, Malala Yousafzai; with special appearances by ASAPSceinces, Alicia Keys, Chloe x Halle, Kelly Rowland, Kenny Washington, The Try Guys, Zendaya, Mr. Kate, Dude Perfect, Jackie Aina, Zane Hijazi.

Find “Dear Class of 2020 Commencement Address,” Sat., 6/6, at 3 p.m., at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rxpTjcouaeQ

Pirates & Privateers
Pirates & Privateers Presentation, Friday mornings, 10:00 a.m., June 5 through September, Fort Phoenix, south end of Fort St., Fairhaven, MA. Tour begins at fort flagpole. WEATHER PERMITTING

For Public Safety, all audience members must wear masks and maintain six feet of separation.

This fun interactive presentation includes a demonstration firing of a black powder swivel cannon, a demonstration of early medical practices and more.

There is no charge for the Pirates and Privateers presentations, but donations are accepted for the Tourism Gift Account.

You may visit Greybeard & Companie’s Facebook page here: https://www.facebook.com/GreybeardCompany/

Huttleston Marketplace
Saturdays, 6/6 through Sept. 12, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Fairhaven Visitors Center Lawn/ Fairhaven High School Lawn., 141 Main Street, at Route 6, Fairhaven

The Huttleston Marketplace has adopted safety protocols and rules for the 2020 season and beyond. The new rules may be viewed at https://fairhaventours.com/huttleston-marketplace-health-precautions/

Huttleston Marketplace is an outdoor bazaar featuring vendors selling select hand made arts and crafts, quality antiques and vintage collectibles, upcycled items, fresh farm produce, and locally prepared foods. It is a MDAR certified farmers market, allowing certified farm vendors to accept WIC and Senior FMNP coupons. It is held rain or shine.

At the recommendation of the Health Agent of the Town of Fairhaven, only farm produce, plants, honey and related food products and farm products may set up until such time as the Governor lifts the ban on non-essential businesses.

Visit https://fairhaventours.com/huttleston-marketplace-weekly/ for a list of vendors and other information.

Read-Along with the Obamas
Read The Bear Ate Your Sandwich with Michelle and former President Barack Obama at https://www.stageofreedom.org/forum/make-new-friends/read-along-with-michelle-barack-obama

Mosquito Control
The Fairhaven Health Department reminds all residents to contact Bristol County Mosquito Control to ensure all properties have been properly sprayed for mosquitos. As we reflect on last year’s problematic encounter with EEE, our awareness must be heightened during the upcoming summer months.

A note from Bristol County Mosquito Control: Residents can find information on our website www.mass.gov/eea/bristolcountymosquitocontrol including a tentative spray schedule for which towns are done each day. Also daily, an updated list of street names will be posted for residents to see if their location is on the schedule for the following spray day. All of this information is weather dependent and can change if needed due to mosquito populations or virus detections.

Bristol County Mosquito Control may be reached at (508) 823-5253.

The Fairhaven Health Department strongly recommends following these precautions to protect against the threat of EEE:

- Use bug repellant (the CDC recommends using products that contain DEET, Permethrin, Picaridin, or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus)
- Wear light-colored clothing and long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outside between dusk & dawn
- Avoid outdoor activity between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active
- Use mosquito netting on baby carriages, strollers and playpens for extra protection

Donate Convalescent Plasma
Southcoast Health enrolled in the Convalescent Plasma Expanded Access program through the Mayo Clinic and the American Red Cross. We are now encouraging patients who have fully recovered from COVID-19 to donate plasma through the American Red Cross to help current COVID-19 patients.

There is evidence that people who have fully recovered from COVID-19 have antibodies in their plasma that can attack the virus. This convalescent plasma is being evaluated as a treatment for patients with serious or immediately life-threatening COVID-19 infections, or those judged by a healthcare provider to be at high risk of progression to severe or life-threatening disease.

You may qualify to donate plasma for coronavirus patients if you meet specific convalescent plasma and regular blood donation eligibility requirements.

If you’re fully recovered from a new coronavirus infection and meet the above criteria, please fill out the Donor Eligibility Form (https://www.redcrossblood.org/donate-blood/dlp/plasma-donations-from-recovered-covid-19-patients.html#donorform). A Red Cross representative will follow up with prospective candidates to confirm eligibility.

Visit Southcoast.org/covid19 for more information about our response to this public health crisis.

Boston Pride Virtual
Even though we won’t be able to be out in the streets together this June, Pride exists in all of us. We look forward to celebrating Pride with you this June. Start with the flag raising on Fri., 6/5, noon, that will be livestreamed. Visit https://www.bostonpride.org/2020-virtual-pride/
My name is Mike Ristuccia and I am a candidate for the Board of Health. As a means of introduction for those who do not know me, I am a long time resident in this Town, possess an innate desire to help others through Public Administration and am sincerely concerned about the financial future of this Town. I served the Town as a Board of Public Works Commissioner for a period of six years and was elected as Chairman for more than half of my tenure.

If elected, I plan to use the skills I learned while on the BPW to ensure that our residents are well served by the Board of Health both operationally and fiscally.

Congratulations to the Class of 2020

Best wishes to each of you as you follow our dreams into the future.

FULL SERVICE DEPT. OPEN

Custom Auto Sales & Service
14 So. Main Street • Acushnet, MA 02743
508-984-5667
Fairhaven police take a knee with protesters

By Beth David
Editor
The Black Lives Matter protests causing upheaval in cities across the country have not ignored this area. But, so far, local protests have been peaceful. A group protesting against police brutality in response to the death of George Floyd, made its way to Fairhaven on Monday, 6/1.

The group of about 60 people started in downtown New Bedford and eventually made its way up Coggeshall Street to Benoit Square, where protesters were greeted by Fairhaven police and other local law enforcement agencies. But there were no clashes. Instead, several Fairhaven officers took a knee with protesters, who assembled in Benoit Square, then turned around and marched back to New Bedford, around 7:30 p.m.

Lt. Kevin Kobza, Fairhaven Police spokesperson, said the department re-routed traffic to give the protesters...
GRAD: cont’d from page 10

Brian Monroe said it was “overwhelming to see all the smiling faces.”

He said this year “will probably go down as the most special graduation in Fairhaven High School history.”

He said fire and police departments from all over the region participated. It made the event even more special, but the students deserve it.

“This is historic. We’re living history right now,” said Mr. Monroe. “It was totally awesome.”

Assistant superintendent Tara Quirk Kohler said the whole crisis has allowed people to “refocus on priorities.”

“The simple things,” she said. “And not taking things for granted.”

And, after it was over, the diplomas handed out, the crowd gone, Dr. Baldwin made a simple observation.

“That was a good day,” he said. “That was a good day.”

In the middle of the event, as cars were driving up, parents and family members also voiced their approval of the non-traditional event.

“They did a great job,” said Cathy Melanson when the family car drove by as her granddaughter received her diploma. “This was awesome.”

And, just in case you thought that the day lacked the emotion of the traditional ceremony, fear not, there were plenty of tears along the route.

Jeremiah Torres (LEFT) and Matthew Morris (RIGHT) hold up their diplomas in triumph on 5/31/20 at a different kind of commencement ceremony that included face masks and social distancing due to the COVID-19 restrictions. *Photo by Beth David.*

---

**Congratulations Katie and the FHS Class of 2020**

We are so proud of you, for everything that you’ve accomplished over the years. We wish you the best of luck as you begin the next chapter of your life.

Love, Papa, FHS ’76, Grandma FHS ’78, your mom Christine, FHS ’94, Auntie Kimberly, FHS ’97, Auntie Sarah, FHS ’08, Auntie Sammie BSHS ’09
We are so very proud of you Ashley Hiller!

You have worked so hard for this moment so make the best of it!!
Congratulations on your graduation!!

We love you!
Love, Mom, Matt, and Emily

Congratulations Seniors from Captain Todd

Althea, You did it!
We are so proud of you.
Your hard work and dedication have paid off.
We can't wait to see what you will accomplish next.

Love, mom, dad,
Owen, Meco,
BB and Moochie.

Congratulations, Grace!

Remember that you can never cross the ocean until you have the courage to lose sight of the shore. You are smart, you are beautiful and you are important — stay humble along the way! We could not be more proud of you and your accomplishments.
Keep reaching for the stars!
We love you so very much!
Mom, Dad and Sam XO

Congratulations Class of 2020

Best Wishes to the Class of 2020

Materials Supplied by ABC Supply Company

Marc A. Gadbois • 508-992-0226

MA Const. Sup. Lic. # 003000 EPA Lead Safe Certified
MA Home Imp. Lic. #127675 Fully Insured
Emelia, you continue to make us so proud. You have exceeded all expectations and remain an inspiration to all who know you. You are smart, talented, beautiful and kind-hearted.

Congratulations on the first of many accomplishments! We love you so much.

Love, Dad, Mom, Phin and Jolee.

Congratulations Kylie!

We are so incredibly proud of you for all that you have accomplished. You have proven that hard work does pay off. We wish you the best of luck at Quinnipiac this fall. We will miss you but we know you will do well. We love you!

With love from
Mom, Dad, Amanda and the whole family

Congratulations Kayleigh

Keep your spirit and your fire in your soul. Keep your drive, your passion and your determination. Tell your story! We are proud of you and your accomplishments. Stay sweet, stay fierce, and most importantly, stay you!

Love, Mom, Dad, Jenna and Justina

WE CAN DISINFECT YOUR WORKPLACE
LOCALLY AND INDEPENDENTLY OWNED
Call Anthony for a free estimate: 508-400-4494

Proudly serving Greater New Bedford for 40+ years
Cyclone: a name you can trust.
Grad Speech: Salutatorian congratulates the FHS class of 2020

By Emelia Dube
Fairhaven High School Salutatorian

Good afternoon family, friends, faculty members, and of course, graduates. I am Emelia Dube, and I’d like to start off by thanking those who have offered their advice, instruction, and support these past few years. I would like to say a special thank you to the Fairhaven School Committee, Chair Brian Monroe, Vice Chair Pamela Keuchler, as well as members Kyle Bueno, Donna McKenna, Stasia A. Powers, and Colin Veitch. I want to thank Doctor Baldwin, Mrs. Kohler, and Diane Sullivan for their involvement and dedication to our educational journey through high school.

Thank you to the board of selectmen and guidance department, in addition to our principal, Mr. Kulak, and our assistant principals, Mrs. Millette and Ms. Giannandrea. I’d especially like to thank our teachers who worked diligently alongside us to ensure that our knowledge and understanding continued to grow as the years went on.

Last, but definitely not least, I want to give a huge “thank you” to all the parents, families, and friends. I know I can confidently say that the guidance and encouragement of my parents and close friends helped carry me to where I am today. Too often it takes getting to the end of a journey to become fully aware of the gratitude we have towards our biggest supporters along the way. So to all those who helped this year’s seniors cross the finish line, thank you.

Next I would like to congratulate the Class of 2020. I bet I can speak for all of us and say that we’ve been waiting for this day for a long time. Many of us dreamt of our high school graduation. I know for me walking in as a freshman, this day felt so far away. We were always told that high school would fly by, but things like that are hard to believe until it actually happens. Four short years later and here we are today preparing to go our separate ways.

Our class has learned a very important lesson. One that we will certainly take with us throughout our lives. We have learned that nothing on this earth is ever really promised to us. We never would have thought we would be told that we couldn’t hang out with our friends, go out to eat with our families, or simply shop around the mall on the weekend. Now that these things were taken from us at the end of our last year as high school students, I speak on behalf of my peers when I say that we have taken for granted many precious things in our lives.

I know that as seniors, we were a little shocked when we found out that March 13th had indeed been our very last day of high school. I wish I had held on to that day a little tighter, appreciated Fairhaven High School a little more. Right now we have a unique opportunity to pause and reflect on what gives our lives meaning and purpose. For me, that is the God who created the world and everything in it. Despite life’s uncertainties, I am comforted knowing that God is with me.

The Class of 2020 will most definitely make history. Not only did we work hard throughout our years at Fairhaven High, but we also persevered through these uncertain times and finished the school year strong, in spite of our classes being suddenly switched to online. Even though the end of this year doesn’t look like we expected it to, we can make the best of it and reflect on the many memories we will cherish forever, embracing the laughs and even the tears.

At this time I would like to introduce Olivia Maciel, someone who has worked very hard, excelling in each one of her classes. Through her brilliance and dedication to learning, we watched her surpass us all. She is a committed student, and I am confident she will go far. That being said, she undoubtedly deserves the position she has earned. It is my pleasure to introduce Olivia as this year’s valedictorian.

Congratulations FHS Class of 2020

We are proud of each and every one of you for what you have accomplished this year. We wish you a great future.

Hats off to the class of 2020.
Remember we are here for you any way we can help out.

God bless from the family of Cottage Street Motors, Inc.
Ray • Sue • Karen

Buy here, pay here: We will work with you to get you behind the wheel of the car you love!
508-992-1490 • Ask for Ray or Sue • 589 Cottage Street • New Bedford
More than 20 years in the same location

The People Pleasers
me tremendously in my first three years of teaching. Mr. Harding is a very realistic, honest person who has given me such important feedback that has helped me learn so much in the three years I knew him. Mr. Harding, I and the math department will miss you next year, but I am sure we will see you around!"

— Allyson Collette

“During my first three years at Fairhaven High School as a Math Teacher I have been able to learn so much from Mr. Harding. From day one his welcoming attitude made me feel like I belonged here at Fairhaven High School. Mr. Harding has not only inspired me to achieve as a math teacher but as a coach as well. We share a similar love for coaching, and through that he showed me that you can connect coaching within the classroom to make yourself a better teacher. I look up to how Mr. Harding represented Fairhaven High School not only as a teacher and coach, but as a role model. The countless hours he put towards reaching out to students was something I always looked up to. From passing his office in the morning and seeing students arriving early for extra help every day, to always expecting to see his face during any sporting event. The math department will be losing a crucial member this year, and Mr. Harding will be truly missed by all. Once again, thank you Mr. Harding for all you have taught me over the past three years.”

— Cody Rodrigues

“I have been working alongside or under Mr. Harding for 17 years. The impact he has had on my life both personally and professionally has shaped me into the teacher I am today and I certainly haven’t thanked him enough for that. His love of teaching runs deep and rubs off on those around him. You can’t help but love math or Fairhaven High when you are in his presence. He has taught me to teach with a passion and love what is bigger than myself and most often very loud. He has taught me to push myself and the students of Fairhaven just beyond what we think we can handle and then some. His passion to push people to be their absolute best both as a teacher and student is something I hope I can continue in his honor.

He taught me that it was okay to relax and be myself

[Kathy Pittsley]

As a supervisor Mr. Harding led by example and his actions always spoke louder than his words. Whether you were a first year teacher or a 25-year veteran, Mr. Harding supported and respected you so you could become your best self for the students of Fairhaven. Whether he was your mentor or not he always had an open door for you with an open ear and wise advice. I know it was always open for my passionate, two-minute, arm flailing, vent sessions every now and then. Mr. Harding treated each and every one of us with the utmost respect and expected us to do the same. Under his guidance, support, and mentorship he has built a math department that can fight, celebrate, laugh, fight again, celebrate harder, and always end in lots of laughter and love for each other. If you can’t take some good constructive criticism, a good poke from all, or being held to high standards, then the FHS math department is not for you. He has taught us it’s ok to agree to disagree and still be, not just colleagues, but friends. The memories of our PLC’s and impromptu meetings whether at FHS or at Sweet Ginger will always have a special place in my heart because of him. Mr. Harding has made coming to FHS every day an absolute joy and his leadership will be greatly missed.

In my third year teaching Mr. Harding gave me a gift. I don’t even know if he remembers since it was almost 15 years ago now, but it was a small gift with a grand gesture and I still have it today. He gave me a mug with the words ‘Role Model’ on it. That small gesture meant so much to me at the time and still does today. What I hope Mr. Harding does know, is that it’s he who has been the true role model for myself, his students, the math department, and his friends and colleagues.

Thank you Mr. Harding for giving me the confidence to be the teacher I am today. I wouldn’t be who I am without you and your guidance. You have certainly left a huge mark on FHS and myself that will last a lifetime. You will be missed is an understatement. I wish you all the best in your retirement and expect that you will join us for our future Sweet Ginger outings. Enjoy retirement!”

— Julie Sunderland
Congratulations Emily-Grace Josephine and the Fairhaven High School Class of 2020.

We are so proud of you and the young lady you have become. Always remember to hold onto the memories you’ve made these last 4 years and take them with you on your next journey. Enjoy your next big adventure at Bridgewater State University.
Remember to live life to the fullest, enjoy every moment, never stop learning, and always continue to be yourself.

All our love
Mom, Dad, Jack, Nico, Vó and Grandpa

---

Congratulations Katie!

Today is your day.
You’re off to Great Places!
You’re off and away!
You have brains in your head.
You have feet in your shoes.
You can steer yourself.
Any direction you choose.
You’re on your own.
And you know what you know.
And YOU are the guy who’ll decide where to go.

-Dr. Seuss

We Love You! Mom, Dad, Brianna, and Hillary
Congratulations, Josh.

We are so proud of you.

Love, mom, dad, Heather

Congratulations Myles!!!

We are so proud of you!
We all love you so very much and we wish you a very successful future!

Love Mom, Dad and sister Aaliyah!

Congratulations to our amazing daughters!

We are absolutely thrilled that all of your hard work has paid off! May your next chapter be adventurous, bright and full of new friends and opportunities. You were both born to do great things in this world, and we can't wait to see all that you both will accomplish.

Our Alexis, you are a force to be reckoned with, and I will be in awe of your strength for the rest of my life. Always taking the hardest classes and pushing yourself to excel, your intelligent beyond, creative, kind, and always compassionate. We are so proud of you lovebug!

Our Quinn, you are wildly entertaining, driven and whip smart! An athlete with a sarcastic sense of humor that overcomes all obstacles, we are so proud of you Q!

URL...here they come! We love you girls to the moon and back! You both did it!!!!!!!

Congratulations Elizabeth!

We are so very proud of both of you and your accomplishments
We love you, Mom & Dad

Congratulations Elizabeth! I am beyond proud of you. Can't wait until I see you get your first Academy Award! The world is your oyster! Love you, Mom

Congratulations to our 2020 Graduates!

Madison & Trevor Oliveira

We are so very proud of both of you and your accomplishments
We love you, Mom & Dad

Madison & Trevor Oliveira
2. Notice that a meeting will be held by the Board on below:

3. **Notice of Public Hearing**

**Rezone application: RZ 2020-01 – Crow Island**

**Crow Island, Map 44, Lot 1 (2.29 acres)**

The application is on file at the Department of Planning and Economic Development, Town Hall. Due to the present coronavirus situation, visitors are not allowed at Town Hall. For information on the project go to: https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/planning-board/pages/rz-2020-01-crow-island-rezone-mixed-use

You can call the Planning Department at (508) 979-4082, Ext. 9 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, to discuss the application and ongoing measures to adopt to the situation.

John Farrell, Chairman, Fairhaven Planning Board

Recipe of the Week

**Graduation Caps**

24 miniature peanut butter cups
1 tube (6 ounces) decorating frosting in color of your choice
24 small thin mints
24 milk chocolate M&M’s in color of your choice or 24 semi-sweet chocolate chips

Remove paper liners from peanut butter cups; place upside down on waxed paper.

Place a small amount of frosting on each peanut butter cup; center a mint on each.

Using frosting, make a loop for each cap’s tassel. Place an M&M on top of each loop.

**Cute treats for your graduate.**

From TasteOfHome.com

---

**Lenny Fleurent & Sons**

MASONRY CONTRACTORS

508-996-0861 • 774-271-4556

OVER 55 YEARS’ EXPERIENCE

CONGRATULATIONS

CLASS OF 2020

MAY ALL YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE!

Lenny Fleurent & Sons

Insured • Residential • Town Approved • Lic. # 013997

Sylvia Electric

**Congratulations to the Class of 2020**

Sylvia Electric – Powerful Service

774-849-0425

Licensed Electrician for 24 Years • Lic: 13901A
CLASS OF 2020
CONGRATULATIONS!

The entire Team at Howe Allen Realty would like to extend our congratulations to the graduating class of 2020!

Although we know that your final year was cut short due to COVID-19, we truly believe that this pandemic has better prepared you for all of the twists and turns of life.

Behind you, all your memories
Before you, all your dreams
Around you, all who love you
Within you, all you need

43 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719 | 888.491.9993 | howeallen.com
COVID-19 update: Phase 2 next week

By Beth David
Editor

Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker said this week that businesses on the “Phase 2” list, slated to reopen on 6/8, can begin preparations inside their stores to open in the next phase.

Workers will be allowed in to prepare businesses and get them ready for the many changes necessary for the phased reopening.

Retail stores will be allowed to let customers inside, but will have to limit occupancy. Youth Sports programs will also be allowed to begin, but with restrictions, including the number of participants and prohibiting contact drills.

Restaurants will also be allowed to provide outdoor dining services with restrictions at the start of Phase II. Indoor dining may be allowed after Phase II is underway if there is a “continued positive progression of public health data.”

Visiting long term care facilities resumed this week, but with a lot of restriction: only two people at a time; the visit must be pre-arranged, and it must be outside, and visitors must wear masks and stay six feet away from the person they are visiting.

For more information visit www.mass.gov

Mr. Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man, died of asphyxiation after he was handcuffed behind his back, placed on his stomach, and a white police officer knelt on his neck for more than eight minutes, in Minneapolis, MN. His death prompted days of protests, some violent and ending in riots, across the country.

In Fairhaven, though, the protest was peaceful and respectful.

Lt. Kobza said they knelt, shook hands, and then both sides said “thank you very much.”

He said there was no damage to any property.

“They appreciated that we were not supporting what happened,” said Lt. Kobza. “When they left, there wasn’t even a piece of trash left behind.”

Fairhaven Meetings
Board of Appeals
Tues., 7/7, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Board of Public Works
Mon., 6/9, Arsene St., 6 p.m.

Election
Monday, 10–8, see page 4

Finance Committee
Thurs., 6/4, Arsene St., 7 p.m.

Selectboard
Thurs., 6/11, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Town Meeting
Saturday, 6/27, Remote, 9 a.m.

Acushnet Meetings
Board of Appeals
Tue., 6/9, Senior Ctr, 6 p.m.

PJ Keating Meeting
Tues., 6/9, Senior Ctr, 6 p.m.
Virtual via Zoom ONLY

Planning Board
Thurs., 6/18, Ford MS, 6:30 p.m.
Public Hearing, in person with social distancing protocols

Selectboard
Tues., 6/9, Senior Ctr, 5 p.m.

Town Meeting
TM has been postponed to June 20 (NOTE NEW POSTPONEMENT DATE)

Fairhaven Neighborhood News Thursday, June 4, 2020
All your dreams can come true if you have the courage to pursue them. — Walt Disney

Love, Mom, Wayne, Gab, Colin & Brooke

---

We are all so proud of Stephanie who has been a great student at FHS participating in Soccer, Spring & Winter Track & Field, Concert Choir & Drama Club. She has earned through her diligence, induction into the National Honor Society and the National Art Honor Society. She has been a Peer Mentor and spent many hours volunteering at CP7 Soccer Camps, Sea Lab as a Teacher's aid, Gifts to Give and the FHS Looming Experience.

We love you so much Stephanie. And wish you all the best this world has to reward your continued efforts toward a brighter future.

Love Mom, Angella & Noah

---

Congratulations!!
CORBIN & DAPHNE

From your first day of Preschool at FSH to your Graduation, it has been an adventure

We love you and are so proud of you!
Mom, Todd, Miller & Sarelle

---

Congratulations
FHS Class of 2020

Best wishes from FHS Class of 1968

“Dream the Impossible Dream”

We are all so proud of Stephanie who has been a great student at FHS participating in Soccer, Spring & Winter Track & Field, Concert Choir & Drama Club. She has earned through her diligence, induction into the National Honor Society and the National Art Honor Society. She has been a Peer Mentor and spent many hours volunteering at CP7 Soccer Camps, Sea Lab as a Teacher's aid, Gifts to Give and the FHS Looming Experience.

We will be attending URI to study Wildlife & Conservation Biology to make a positive impact on our natural world and all its habitats.

We love you so much Stephanie. And wish you all the best this world has to reward your continued efforts toward a brighter future.

Love Mom, Angella & Noah
Congratulations to the Class of 2020

and we welcome you as the newest members of the

FAIRHAVEN HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

www.fairhavenalumni.org
https://www.facebook.com/fairhavenalumni
I hope everyone is safe, well and continuing to stay positive. Thanks to the dedication and diligence of the Town Clerk, the Town election is finally going to take place next week. She has worked hard to ensure that the polls will be efficiently sanitized for the protection of both voters and poll workers.

Throughout my campaign I have stated repeatedly that change in administration is imperative to secure the financial future of Fairhaven and I am dedicated to making this happen. The triple A rating that my opponent boasts about makes it sound like Fairhaven should have no concerns financially. But how does the Town obtain a Triple A rating? Debt, that’s how. Granted the Triple A rating indicates the Town is paying the debt, however the debt continues to increase thus increasing the rating. And what does debt cause….financial instability. Unnecessary irresponsible spending, unnecessary hiring and excessive wage increases have lead to taxpayers reaching deeper in their pockets. Can you continue to afford this?

If you want change, the time is now.

THE CHANGE IS IN YOUR HANDS

VOTE
KEITH SILVIA
FOR
SELECTMAN
MONDAY, JUNE 8th

CONGRATULATIONS
GRADUATES OF 2020

PAID FOR BY KEITH SILVIA