



Volume 41

Issue 1

Established 1975

THE Rowe Goal Post

January 2022

Winter Solstice



photo by Meredith Sokol

Town Clerk
Submitted by Paul McLatchy III

Office hours are on Friday evenings from 6:00-8:00, or by appointment. I try to check into the office multiple nights a week, so if you call or email me, I will try to get back to you within a day or so.

The annual street list and dog license forms went out at the end of December. It is very important to fill out the street listing, as it provides information for our emergency services, school enrollment, and voter registration. Voters who do not return the street listing after a certain period will be inactivated as voters, and if they remain inactive long enough, can even be removed from the voter rolls. It's also annoying for you to re-activate when you go to vote, so it's easier to just return them before it gets to that point.

Dog licenses will be available on January 3rd. Fixed dogs are \$5 and intact dogs are \$10. A valid rabies vaccination must be provided if not already on file. I am hoping to plan a vaccine clinic in either February or March- details to come as they are figured out.

Nomination papers are available as of January 3rd as well. To qualify for the ballot, you will need to first contact me to obtain a set of papers. After, you will need to have twenty (20) registered voters sign the nomination papers and return them to either myself or a registrar by March 26th.

The following officials' terms are up this year, and must be re-elected in May to continue serving:

Board of Assessors	Herbert Butzke
Board of Health	Margaret Rice
Board of Selectmen	Edward Silva
Cemetery Commission	James Williams
Finance Committee	Daniel Pallotta (Appointed)
	Wayne Zavotka
Library Trustees	Karen Soviecke
Moderator	Robert Clancy
Park Commission	Christopher Hyytinen
Planning Board	Charles Sokol
School Committee	Mary Paige

Below are the offices that are up for election and a brief description of their responsibilities. The word “oversee” is repeated a lot to emphasize that many of the tasks handled by departments are often performed by hired staff, with the elected body focusing more on setting general policy rather than the day-to-day workings. All stipend amounts are based on the current fiscal year’s approved budget as voted at the Annual Town Meeting in June.

Office Name: **Board of Assessors**

Seat(s) Open: One (1). 3-Year Term.

Annual Stipend: \$1,784.66

Meeting Frequency: Three meetings per month; approx. 100 meeting hours per year

Additional Hours: Required for research, site visits, association meetings, etc.

Requirements: DOR Certification required to perform statutory duties

Basic Duties: The Board of Assessors' are municipal finance officers responsible for assessment administration concerning property ownership, mass appraisal, certification standards, Proposition 2½, property tax classification, the tax rate setting process, personal property, abatements, exemptions and motor vehicle excise. They work together as a municipal finance team with the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee to finalize the town budget (both revenue and expenditures). The Assessors must complete MA DOR Course 101 to perform their statutory duties.

Office Name: **Board of Health**

Seat(s) Open: One (1). 3-Year Term.

Annual Stipend: \$1,646.00

Meeting Frequency: Biweekly

Basic Duties: The Board of Health oversees several town programs, including the Refuse Garden/Transfer Station, the town nurse, and the general health department. Members get involved in areas such as water testing, percolation tests, health inspections, etc.

Office Name: **Board of Selectmen**

Seat(s) Open: One (1). 3-Year Term

Annual Stipend: \$1,976.00

Meeting Frequency: Biweekly, sometimes more if needed.

Basic Duties: The Board of Selectmen serves as the chief executive officers of the town. A complete list of items that could fall under their purview would be lengthy, but an overview includes: general oversight of the town's administrative officials, serving as the chief financial officers of the town, making annual appointments, calling town meetings/elections, crafting an annual budget, hiring/firing of employees, annual appointments of around one hundred officers in town, overseeing emergency services, overseeing the DPW, employing and conferring with town counsel, and overseeing the Goal Post.

Office Name: **Cemetery Commission**

Seat(s) Open: One (1). 3-Year Term

Annual Stipend: None

Meeting Frequency: As Needed

Basic Duties: The Cemetery Commission is the public body charged with managing the town's three public cemeteries. This includes hiring maintenance staff, setting general cemetery policy, and occasionally assisting in the preparation of a plot for a burial.

Office Name: **Finance Committee**

Seat(s) Open: Three (3). One 3-Year Term, One 2-Year Term, and One 1-Year Term.

Annual Stipend: None

Meeting Frequency: Usually once per month between July and November, more frequently between December and June

Basic Duties: The Finance Committee is responsible for preparing the annual town budget (in cooperation with the Board of Selectmen), make recommendations for/against town meeting articles and financial policies, and controls the Reserve Fund.

Office Name: **Library Trustees**

Seat(s) Open: One (1). 3-Year Term.

Annual Stipend: None

Meeting Frequency: Usually Monthly

Basic Duties: The Library Trustees manage the town library, set general policy, and are the oversight body for the library staff.

Office Name: **Moderator**

Seat(s) Open: One (1). 3-Year Term.

Annual Stipend: \$439

Meeting Frequency: N/A (Not a board/committee)

Basic Duties: The moderator's primary duty is to run town meetings by managing the flow of discussion, motions, and ensuring adherence to established rules/procedures.

In addition, the moderator may be called upon to swear in town officials, make appointments, run candidate nights, and help coordinate the logistics of town meetings with the Board of Selectmen and Town Clerk.

Office Name: **Park Commission**

Seat(s) Open: One (1). 3-Year Term.

Annual Stipend: None

Meeting Frequency: Usually Monthly

Basic Duties: Park Commissioners are in charge of setting policy and hiring staff that protects and preserves the town's park lands- over 1,500 acres of it. In addition, the town hall fitness center falls under the jurisdiction of the Park Commission. While it is currently being leased to the Historical Society, the Browning Bench is also the responsibility of the Commission.

Office Name: **Planning Board**

Seat(s) Open: One (1). 5-Year Term

Annual Stipend: None

Meeting Frequency: Usually once per month, more if there is a special permit application or other important matter.

Basic Duties: The Planning Board is the special permit granting authority in town. Any major projects or land use proposals that require a special permit must be submitted to the Board. In addition, the Planning Board reviews the town's zoning bylaws and makes recommendations on changes to protect the town while balancing commercial, industrial, and residential needs.

Office Name: **School Committee**

Seat(s) Open: One (1). 3-Year Term.

Annual Stipend: \$1,521.33

Meeting Frequency: Usually Monthly

Basic Duties: The School Committee oversees the largest single department in town. Managing a budget in excess of a million dollars and many employees, the School Committee's purpose is to set policy for the education and wellbeing of our students and staff members. The school's central office staff (superintendent, business manager, etc.) report to the School Committee.



Rowe Town Library News

Submitted by Molly Lane, Library Director

NEW HOURS!!

Tuesday 10-5

Wednesday 12-8 Thursday 3-7

Saturday 10-3

Winter is the perfect time to slow down, relax, and recharge. We have all the materials to help with that, books, movies, magazines, audio books and even all types of E-content if you prefer. Your Rowe Library card gives you access to CWMARS overdrive (Libby App) with e-books, e-audios, videos, and e-magazines. Your card gives you access to 6 titles through Hoopla each month as well. If you don't have a library card we are happy to get one for you during any of our open house and CWMARS now offers to those that do not have a library card and do not wish to get a town card, you can now get a

CWMARS E-Card. Here is how: <https://catalog.cwmars.org/eg/opac/ecard/form>

Got a new Kindle, Nook, Ipad or other E-reader device for the holidays? We are happy to help you get set up reading on it with any of our apps. Call to set up a time to sit down with us.

Stop in and see us soon!

Masks are still required inside the library building.

Programs:

Adults:

January 19th @ 5:30 pm Create Mixed Media Decoupage Book ends with this fall's artist in residence at the RCCC, Jenipher Young Hall. Pre –Registration Required

Book Chat with Donna – Check back in for this date. Keep an eye on your email and Facebook for the announcement

Kids:

January 27th @ 3:30 (after school) Snowman Craft activity with Donna announced)

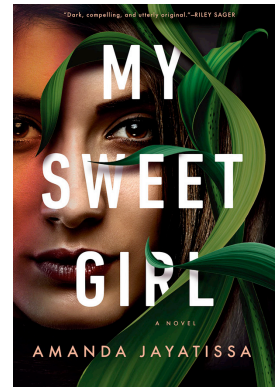
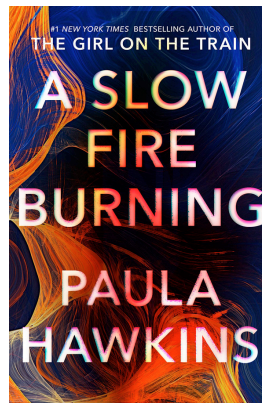
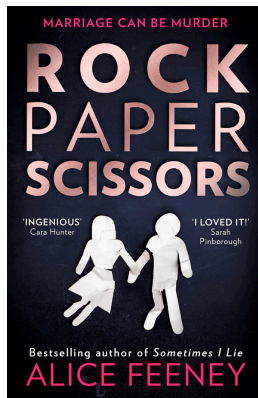
Weekly the library will also be providing open ended crafting materials for kids to stop in any time the library is open and use the materials provided to create and craft.

The library is continuing to offer curbside pickup and will provide home delivery upon request.

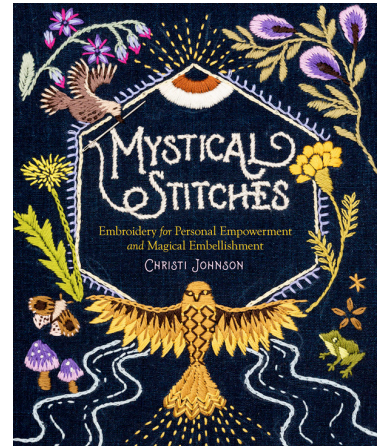
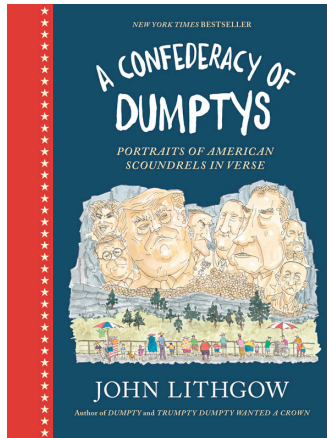
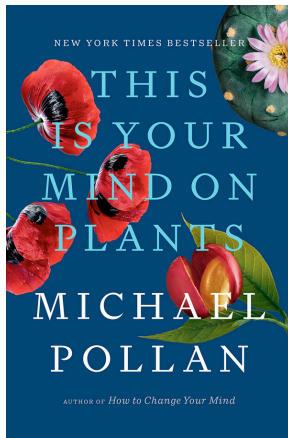
Contact the library if you would like to be put on our email notifications for programs Rowelibrary@gmail.com

Some New Items This Month

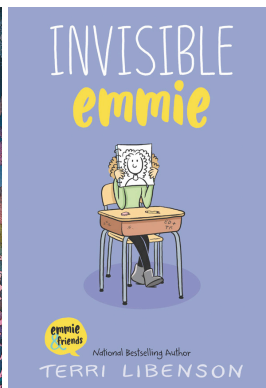
Adult Fiction:



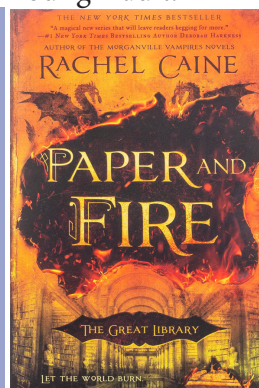
Nonfiction:



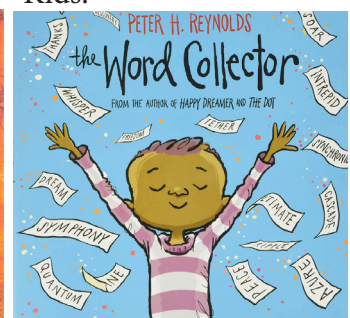
Graphic Novel:



Young Adult:



Kids:





2022 began as 2021 ended at the Rowe School, on a positive note. It would be easy to focus on the things we are NOT able to do this year: no all-school hike, no Cultural Study, no skiing, etc. Instead, we focus on the things we CAN do. We CAN see our students in-person every day. We CAN take advantage of the tremendous natural resources at our disposal to support student learning and engagement: the Park, the woods, our excellent sledding hill. We CAN continue to enhance the social/emotional and academic education of our students despite the pandemic. We CAN continue to be a thriving educational community, one that supports our students, families, and staff, realizing that we're all in this together.

As more of our community members (especially the younger ones) get vaccinated, and as we continue to follow the COVID guidelines, we continue to keep everyone healthy and continue learning together.

Exciting things will be happening in 2022 as well. The 3/4 class will continue making improvements to their outdoor classroom, getting the kids outside as much as is reasonable during the school day. P1 (our 3-year-old Preschool Class) will keep learning how to be in school and continue to develop their outdoor classroom. P2 (our PreK/K class) and P3 (grades 1 and 2 class) will continue to visit the pond and trails in the Park to study the natural world. The 5/6 Class will continue to hike and snowshoe in the Park.

Students, families, and staff are working hard to follow the state guidelines to keep us all safe (wearing masks, avoiding gatherings with unvaccinated people that are not part of your household), doing all we can to help us continue to learn in-person in 2022, Thanks for all the support.

Please be in touch in any way that works for you, call or email. Please call 413-512-5100 or email me at wknittle@roweschool.org. I want to hear what you think, and look forward to seeing people in person when it's possible again.

-Submitted by Bill Knittle

P2 Class making snowmen



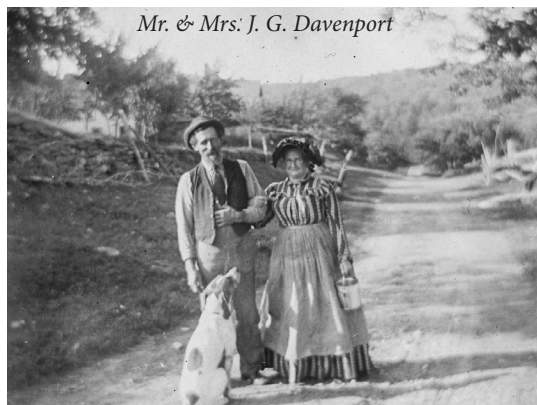
The Love of Pets

Submitted by Joanne Semanie

Many years ago I began a collection of photographs of pets taken before 1900. I had some pretty specific requirements and would scour antique shops looking for cabinet cards with dogs or cats and kids on them. Today we probably take more photographs of our pets than anything else but in the late 1800's and early 1900's film and processing was precious, so you didn't see the plethora of pet pictures you do now.

In the collections at the museum you will find albums with photographs of people with their animals. There are lots of horses, cows and pigs but house pets as well.

What's interesting about these now is the surroundings. I love that some of them can take you back to the distant past yet there is an understanding that having your dog or cat in the photograph was a record of another family member



Mr. & Mrs. J. G. Davenport



"Dog in front of cow barn"

The caption on the above photograph reads "Concord grapes always hung on the porch. The windows on the house are now in the horse barn." The collection of photographs from the Henderson house on Lesure Rd. (now Butzke's) contains many photographs of their dogs over the years but they are all marked with other tidbits about the property itself.

Then there are the photos of dogs with their people. You sometimes wonder who was the most important.

Even though this same dog was photographed a number of times the captions on the photographs never mentioned his name.



"Mary White Dennis with dog"



This is Ella Thatcher on Middletown Hill Rd. standing in front of the current Williams home. I am struck by how soft the road looks and that you can see the sheds to the Stevens house that was recently burned. The Thatchers lived in that house for several years.



Therese Woodward spent many summers at the Gracy House, her mother was Jennie Tower Woodward. They loved their dog enough to bring them to Rowe for the summer and have it be part of their childhood memories.

Photographs weren't always taken with their dogs. Olive Wright dearly loved a cat of hers and many photographs were taken with it. We know its name was July as there are notes with the photographs in an album.



I particularly love these because they were taken in my yard at Fort Pelham Farm. One with Olive sitting on the well, another with it in the background.

All of these photos are wonderful in giving a little window into life as it was lived when they were taken. Whether it was a lazy day on a porch, a walk down a dusty road or just sitting on a stump in the back yard these are people who cared about their pets and wanted a lasting record of who they were.

There are many, many photographs of places all over town at the Museum. If there is something you are particularly interested in let us know and we can see what we have and we can pull them out for your next visit. If there is something you would like to see in the Goalpost let the editor know!

PELHAM LAKE PARK NEWS



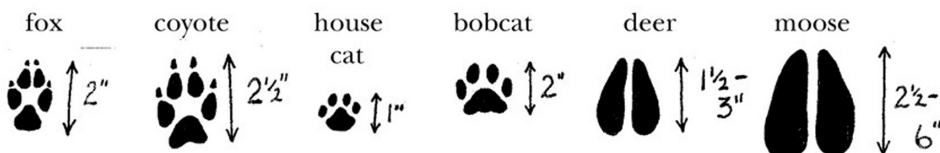
Winter Tracking Program 2022

photo by Kevin Myers

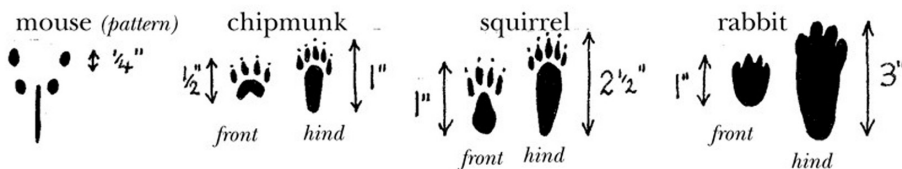
All Rowe residents, guests, and school of choice families 8 years of age and older, children accompanied by an adult, are invited to join us at Pelham Lake Park on February 19th, 2022 from 9-11 am for a free Winter Tracking Program. The program will be led by David Ellis who is a skilled wildlife tracker trained by Sue Morse, founder of the organization Keeping Track. Ellis has participated in many tracking programs over the years and is experienced in leading guided hikes.

Wildlife tracking is a fun way to observe signs of animals that you may not typically notice. We will be looking for evidence of buck rubs on trees, browsing of saplings and acorns buried under the snow, bear markings, and identifying tracks. On this hike, it is possible you could see signs of deer, porcupine, otters, fox and more! You do not need to sign up ahead of time and if you have any questions you can call the park at 339-8554.

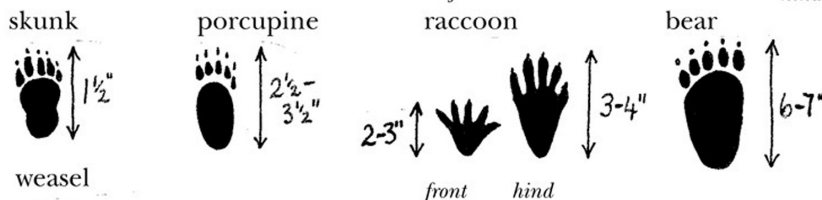
STRAIGHT WALKER



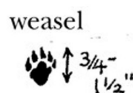
HOPPER



WADDLER



BOUNDER



A big, shout-out "Thank You" to the Rowe Center's director Ben Werner for agreeing to host the Rowe Council on Aging Holiday Party at the Rowe Center and for the Rowe Center community manager, Scott Harris for working with Susan Tomlinson to make it all happen.

Twenty "Seasoned Citizens" attended the party on a day that we awakened to find snow on the ground. Thankfully, The Rowe Center had its own snow plow and the parking lot was in great shape. After checking in and proving their covid vaccination status, attendees were treated to coffee, cider, and appetizers in the Gathering Room. The group moved to the adjoining dining room to find their seats for a presentation by Ed the Wizard. How exactly did he do some of his magic???

Lunch was a warming homemade treat of homemade soup with optional chicken and rice to add, salad with various dressing and really scrumptious homemade rolls. Cookies for dessert and we were on our way back home after a White Elephant raffle. We also thank Pine Hill Orchards for their raffle donation of Cider and Apples, thank you also to Sawyer News for a disposable camera for the raffle, and Carol Lively for a glass vase. Those attending donated a great variety of raffle items from books to notecards, to woven basket and everything in between!

Thank you to Loretta Dionne for helping with phone calls. We are still in need of volunteer members of the council. Two people cannot do all there is to do to revitalize the Rowe Council on Aging. At this time, there are no more events planned - primarily due to covid restrictions. Here's hoping all stay well, and that 2022 will be a year that sees us together again.

Submitted by Susan Tomlinson



Judy Pierce, former Rowe resident was a guest of Ruth Loomis, surprising many of her old Rowe friends.

Rowe Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearing Notice

In accordance with MGL C 40A and the Rowe Zoning Bylaws, The Rowe Zoning Board of Appeals will conduct a Public Hearing at 10:00AM on January 3, 2022, in the Town Hall meeting room at 321 Zoar Road, Rowe and via Remote Participation, for Petition for Variance for Wireless Communications Facility, County Road in Rowe, MA by Vertex Towers, LLC. The application proposes a 175' tall lattice style tower at Tax Assessors Parcel 203-40.

The public is welcome to participate.

REMOTE PARTICIPATION INFORMATION:

Meeting Host: zoom.us

Meeting ID: 288-065-7034

URL: <https://zoom.us/j/2880657034>

Telephone: 312-626-6799

Application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at:

<https://www.rowe-ma.gov> (see Zoning Board of Appeals page or on January Calendar)

Interested persons may provide comments to the Zoning Board of Appeals at the Hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to:

Zoning Board of Appeals; 321 Zoar Road, Rowe, MA 01367 or

by email to: townadmin@rowe-ma.gov

*Board of Health regulations due to Covid-19 have limited in person attendance to 7 persons in

Conference Room 1 – Town Hall requires wearing of masks.

Attendees may participate via remote only.

From the Town Hall

Submitted by Janice Boudreau

In preparation for FY23 Budget planning and hearings, Selectmen have worked on and continued to review Wage and Salary Schedules for positions that the Board oversee. Ultimately, it is a tool that all Departments and Boards can use to foster future hiring at an equitable pay scale as well as proper compensation for current employees.

Budget Hearings will start on Tuesday, January 25th with Highway Department, Council on Aging, Library and the Town Clerk. Meetings are listed on the town calendar on the town website.

GRANTS:

Selectmen recently approved and accepted several grants: A \$2500.00 grant from Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) for equipment for the Fire Dept., a \$20,000.00 grant from Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs for the Park Commission to continue working on objectives outlined in a prior Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Grant funded study.

In addition, after many years of attempts to find funding for the repair of Yankee Road and the subsidence which increased each year, a contract for a \$600,000.00 Grant from MassWorks was signed to fund the repair and complete by 2024 so work can now commence. We thank Rep. Paul Mark, Sen. Adam Hinds and Rep. Richard Neal for their support.

THANK YOU TO VOLUNTEERS:

Thank you to Kim Gabert and Michael Bradley for accepting positions on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year! Stay well and healthy in the year ahead.

Moonlight Hike



photo by Meredith Sokol

Alternate Transfer Station Attendant Position

Position includes but is not limited to:

Responsible for coordinating the operations of the Transfer Station; maintaining the area in a clean, safe and organized manner.

Provide courteous and friendly assistance to Rowe residents and assist in the proper disposal of recyclable materials.

Maintain a log of activity.

Physical demands include but are not limited to:

Walking on uneven terrain, grass and gravel surfaces.

Reaching overhead to close bins.

Bending activities.

Lifting weights up 50 pounds.

Shoveling snow and use of snow blower.

Work Schedule:

This is an on-call position when the full-time attendant is unable to come in.

Please call the BOH office and leave a message at 413-339-5520 ext 105 or email your interest to BOH@rowe-ma.gov



photo by Kevin Myers

From the Board of Health

Our clerk, Joanne Semanie, is leaving her position the first of January and the Board is actively looking for someone to take her place. The position is 10 hours a week with duties including processing all incoming communication, preparing bills for payment, managing the budget and overseeing the tag system for the Refuse Gardens. The clerk also posts, prepares and records meetings and acts as the liaison between the Board and FR-COG and FCSWMD.

An understanding of Outlook, Excel and Word is a must.

Please forward your resume to boh@rowe-ma.gov or drop it off or mail it to the Town Hall at 321 Zoar Rd. Rowe, MA 01367



Potter Rd Beaver Dam

photo by Nan Williams

Rowe Community Church

Submitted by Ros Mullette

- Jan. 2 Observance of The Lord's Supper
 9 Praise & Worship Service
 16 Praise & Worship Service
 23 Praise & Worship Service
 30 Praise & Worship Service

Bible Studies: Date to be determined (re: weather and Covid) on a Friday evening for study/fellowship time.

Praying that you all will have a blessed and joyous Christmas and a healthy New Year! Praise Him for His Unspeakable Gift!

January Birthdays

- 2 - Leonda Hardison
- 2 - Scott Boutwell
- 3 - Myra Carlow
- 3 - Caleb Breneman
- 5 - Brittani Sprague
- 8 - Lillian Danek
- 8 - Sandy Daviau
- 8 - Maryann Corarito
- 9 - Angela Foshay
- 10 - Ruth Loomis
- 11 - Felicity Pickett
- 12 - Christie Beaumier
- 13 - Stephen Fisher
- 13 - Jenn Wood
- 14 - Lesley McLatchy
- 14 - Peter Besgen
- 15 - Betty Lenth
- 17 - Roberta Baker
- 18 - Ken Bradley
- 18 - Donna Butzke
- 18 - Mike Kuehl
- 19 - Dan Poplawski
- 21 - Ken Shippee
- 22 - Maggie Rice
- 22 - Lisa Jackson
- 23 - Ashton Morse
- 25 - Jenalyn Duval
- 25 - Dean Rice
- 25 - Susan Tomlinson
- 27 - Laura Roberson
- 30 - Mary Ann Dykeman
- 31 - Travis Albrecht

If you would like to add or remove a name from this list, please contact me at:
GoalPostEditor@gmail.com

Town Services

<u>Position/Dept.</u>	<u>Ext #</u>	<u>MAIN</u>	<u>Alternate</u>		<u>Email Addresses</u>
		PHONE#	Phone #		
Admin Assistant	101	339-5520			
Assessors Office	104	339-5520			assessor@rowe-ma.gov
Assessors FAX			339-8585		
Board of Health	105	339-5520			boh@rowe-ma.gov
Conference Rm 2nd Fl	148	339-5520			
DPW	111	339-5520	339-5588		dpwhighway@rowe-ma.gov
Executive Secretary	100	339-5520			townadmin@rowe-ma.gov
Fire	112	339-5520	339-4001		firechief@rowe-ma.gov
Fitness Room	149	339-5520			
Hearing Room #1	150	339-5520			
IT/Server Closet Area	147	339-5520			
Library	114	339-5520	339-4761		rowelibrary@gmail.com
Park	110	339-5520	339-8554		parkmanager@rowe-ma.gov
Police	113	339-5520	339-8340	339-0139 (H)	policechief@rowe-ma.gov
Tax Collector	106	339-5520			collector@rowe-ma.gov
Town Accountant	102	339-5520			accountant@rowe-ma.gov
Town Clerk	103	339-5520			townclerk@rowe-ma.gov
Town Nurse	107	339-5520			nurse@rowe-ma.gov
Treasurer	108	339-5520			treasurer@rowe-ma.gov
Gracy House	-		339-4276		
School			413-512-5100		
Town Hall FAX			339-5316		

Town Main Line at 413-339-5520

Town Hall has reopened as of June 17th for normal business hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. When visiting Town Hall, please wear a mask if you have not been vaccinated for Covid-19 or if you feel it necessary. Please contact Executive Secretary at: (413)339-5520 ext. 100 for appointments whenever possible.

Seasonal resident **MUST** notify the Executive Secretary of any change in address.

The Rowe Goal Post
P.O. Box 462
Rowe, Massachusetts 01367

The Rowe Goal Post

Available on the Town's website (<https://rowe-ma.gov/p/64/Rowe-Goal-Post>)
the first of every month with paper copies sent out by mail the first week

Published by the Board of Selectmen 'in the interest of information
exchange between all departments and all Rowe citizens.'

All submissions for the next issue are due by the 25th.
Any articles received after this time cannot be guaranteed that
they will appear in the next issue.

Please e-mail all items to:
GoalPostEditor@gmail.com

Please send only high resolution images (do not resize).

If you have a question about your subscription or want to make a change to the mailing list,
please contact the Town Administrator at:
(413) 339-5520 x100
admin@rowe-ma.gov

Seasonal residents MUST notify the Administrator of any change in address.