



Volume 41

Issue 2

Established 1975

THE Rowe Goal Post

February 2022



photo by Meredith Sokol

From the Town Hall

Submitted by Janice Boudreau

ZBA Hearing

On January 3rd the Zoning Board of Appeals met to hold a Hearing on an application for a cell tower installation by Vertex Towers LLC on a property on County Road in Rowe. The Board convened at Town Hall, while other members and residents tuned in via the online video conferencing. A variance is needed due to the town's zoning bylaws. The Board listened to comments, letters and questions posed by audience members both in person and submitted.

After receiving both support and objections, the Zoning Board of Appeals voted unanimously to grant conditional approval pending review from Town Counsel. The Board will reconvene on February 7th at 10:00 a.m. to finalize the vote. The 175-foot tower will not require lighting and one of the approval conditions stipulated that the tower will never exceed current height and not require lighting.

Joanne Semanie BOH

Board of Health Clerk Joanne Semanie resigned from the Board of Health last month. We thank Joanne for her years as Clerk for the Board. The Board of Health appointed resident Christine Bailey to replace Joanne. Christine has been working as Board of Assessors Clerk for over a year.

Board of Selectmen Work

With the new year upon us, the Board of Selectmen are finishing up the work started last year on the Wage and Salary Charts for town employees overseen by the Board. This involves reviewing each position and assign-

ing a pay grade column. Following the chart assignment, the Board reviews each employee and their years of service, certifications, degrees, training and other factors to finalize their pay amount. It will most likely be a big topic in the upcoming Budget Hearings to be held on the next Tuesdays for the next two months with the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen.

As always, anyone is welcome to attend meetings via remote participation either with video, if you have internet access or by telephone as well.

In these difficult and trying times, we all need to find a level of patience and understanding with one another and to remember that no one is overlooked from experiencing great challenges and difficulties. Stay safe and well.

From the Board of Health

Posted on the town website home page in the NEWS section there is a listing link for Franklin County mobile clinic vaccination sites.

You can order Free At-Home Covid-19 Tests from the US Postal Service (four tests per address). Please check the following link in the red section of the town website homepage: <https://special.usps.com/testkits>

If needed you can call the town hall for assistance. Also, a reminder from the Board of Health, as there are active Covid cases in the area including the Town of Rowe, that there is a mask mandate in effect for all town buildings.

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.

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 are available and 2021 licenses expire March 30th. Fixed dogs are \$5 and intact dogs are \$10. A valid rabies vaccination must be provided if not already on file. A rabies clinic has still not been scheduled, but is being worked on.

Nomination papers are available. The following positions are open, and a list of people who have taken out papers as of January 21st. Unless noted, all terms are for three years.

Board of Assessors

Herbert Butzke*

Board of Health

Margaret Rice*

Board of Selectmen

Cemetery Commission

Finance Committee – 3 Years

Finance Committee – 2 Years

Wayne Zavotka*

Finance Committee – 1 Year

Library Trustees

Moderator

Robert Clancy*

Park Commission
Planning Board – 5 Years
School Committee
Mary Paige*

*Incumbent

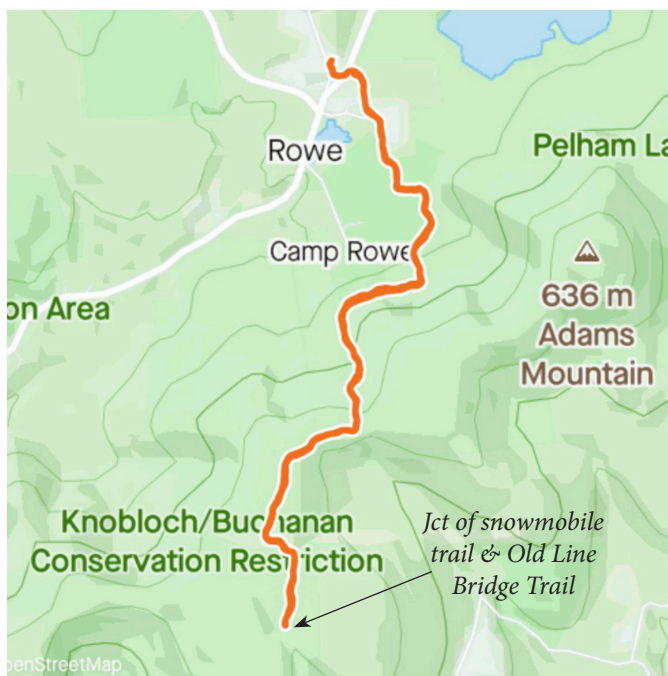


Valentine tree at the Library

A Wintry Hike

by Sue Williams

The day seemed fairly warm compared to what we had been having at about 25 degrees, so I thought to snowshoe up the mountain. I started from the Soule Trail on to Sibley trail and then hooked up to the snowmobile trail on Percy Brown and thence up King's Highway. I always find winter a peaceful time to hike and love all the textures of tree bark from the chunky black cherry, to rippled ash, papery yellow birch and smooth beech. The maples seem to harbor the most mosses, liverworts & lichens and shelf mushrooms were prominent on some tree trunks as well.



Maple bark with moss, liverworts & lichens



Shelf mushrooms climbing right up to the sky



King's Highway and White Tail Trail Junction



The Big Rock at the top covered in rock tripe

I got to wondering about King's Highway....when was it built? How long was it in use? Built in 1743, The History of Rowe says it was the earliest 'road' in town from Charlemont to Fort Pelham and also went by the name of Norton's Trail. It was used by troops going between forts and must have been used by Cornelius Jones when he brought his family to Rowe in 1763. It was abandoned by the town in 1834 but still remains a wonderful hiking trail.

I got to the 'Big Rock' at the top of King's Hwy (all covered in snowy rock tripe) and then turned right and headed down the ridge. I wanted to see if the snowmobiles continued on the old Line Bridge Trail that continues down the ridge to the Town Line in Zoar. Alas, at the junction, the snowmobiles continued on their way to Davenport road and the line bridge trail wasn't travelled. At this point, the wind and snow had picked up, so I headed back to the stove. But a beautiful hike nonetheless.



Crossing the powerlines looking East



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:

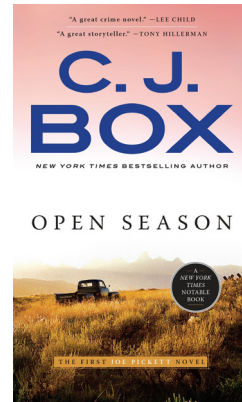
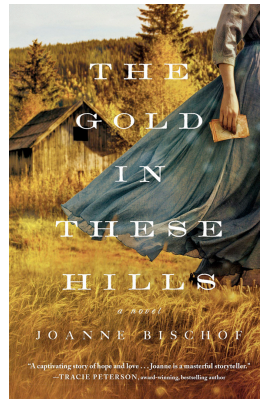
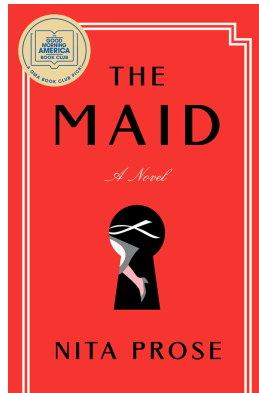
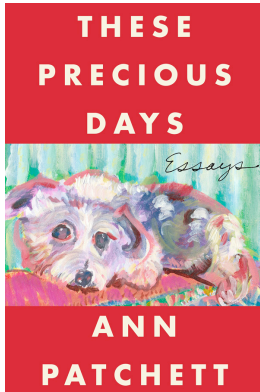
Feb 9: 5:00 pm - Valentines kissing balls - 4 spots available - Adults

Feb 18: Kids after school activity outdoors

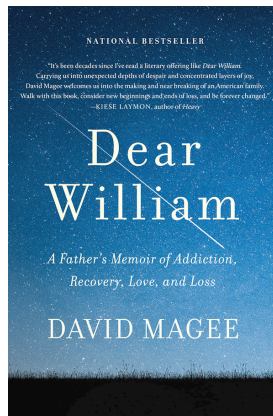
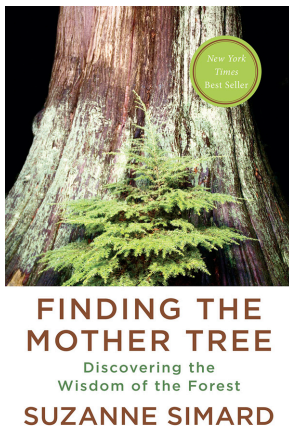
Feb 23: Book chat at 3:30pm

Some New Items This Month

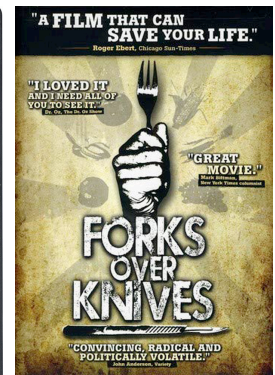
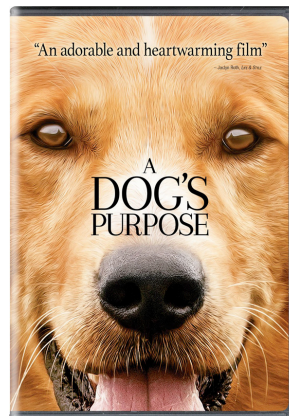
Adult Fiction:



Nonfiction:



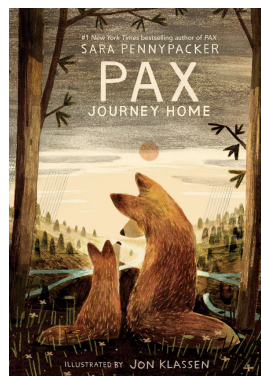
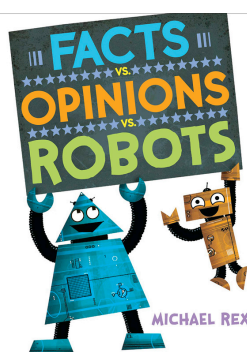
DVDs:



Graphic Novel:



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.

The beginning of 2022 also saw the first real winter weather, so we thank the Town Highway Department for clearing the roads so we can have school.

Exciting things will be happening as 2022 progresses 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. The Primary Classes will continue to visit the Park and the pond to study the natural world, and the 5/6 Class will continue to hike in the Park on Fridays.

Students, families, and staff are working hard to follow the state and Town guidelines to keep us all safe, doing all we can to help us continue to learn despite the pandemic. Thank 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 Pancakes



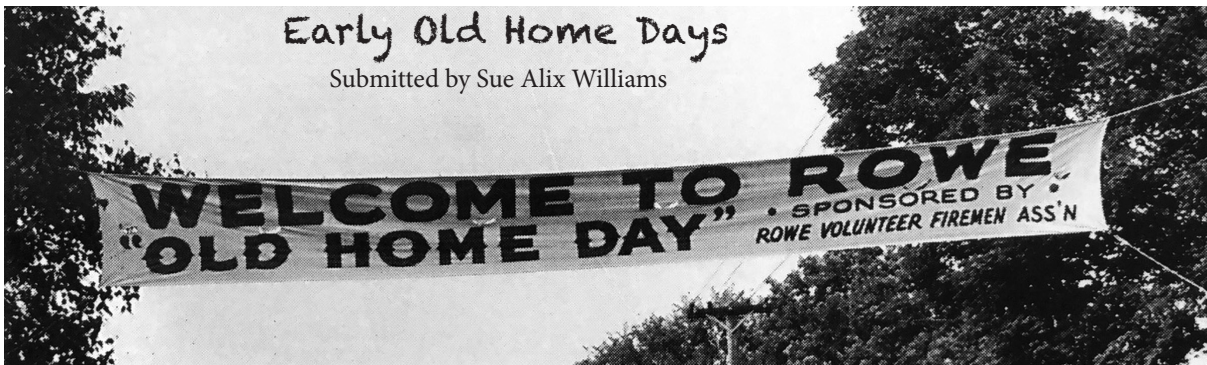
P3 Counting



3/4 Stumps

Early Old Home Days

Submitted by Sue Alix Williams



While Joanne is on the mend, I thought I'd share some photos of past Old Home Days. I always remember these days so fondly as a kid growing up...planning a float or riding my horse in the parade or gymkhana, eating strawberry shortcake, watching the silly softball game or water polo, eating chicken BBQ and finally the fireworks! It was always a day to remember.

(Pictures and info from the RHS special publication in 1997.)



*Indian arrival in Myrifiel -
1935 pageant*

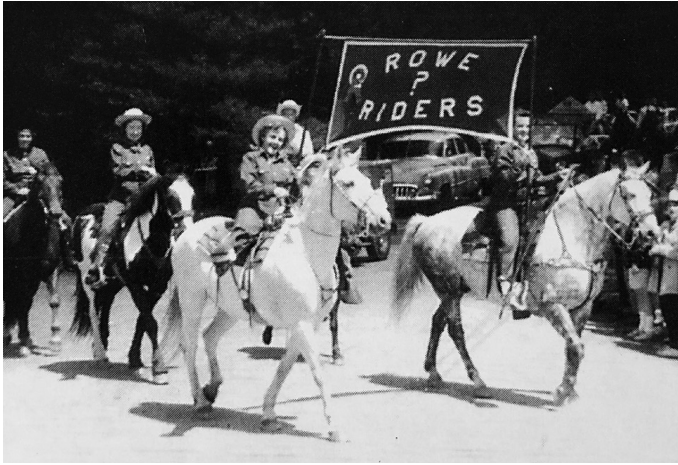


*The Newton family portrays the Jones
family arrival in Myrifiel, 1935*

Rowe's first recorded celebration was the town centennial in 1885 where the gathering was held at the Old Centre (the intersection of Middletown Hill & Ford Hill Rd). It was said that fifteen hundred people assembled for speeches and music!

Not much happened until the 150th anniversary of the Town's incorporation in 1935. The festivities included the opening of the new library, a pageant with Indians crossing the Mill Pond, and the portrayal of pioneer founder Cornelius Jones & family arriving with ox-drawn carts.

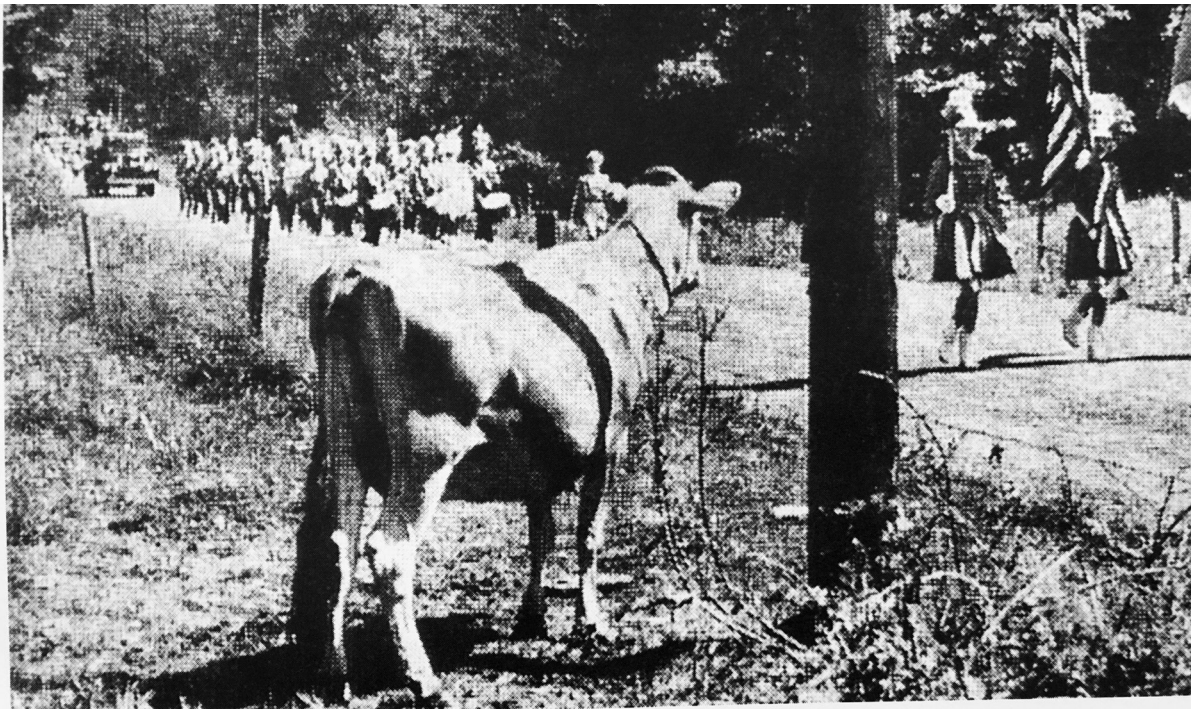
1952 marked the beginning of the modern Old Home Day.



Mary Sibley & Fran Pierce lead the parade 1956



Best historical float, Bjork family 1959



“Throngs of excited People Lined the Streets to Witness the Rowe Town Parade...”

Greenfield Recorder-Gazette front page picture and headlined caption. 1956

The lone spectator is the Pierce cow in the pasture on Pond Road.
the paper goes on to explain that the throngs were really in the center of town.



Gymkhana across from Town Garage 1959



Auction tent - always popular!



Water Fight - Rowe vs Heath 1955



"Atom Age School" - Cornish family float 1959



photo by Rob Williams

Comedy Ball Game 1973

PELHAM LAKE PARK NEWS

Winter Tracking Program 2022

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.



Adams Mt. Southeast View

photo by Chuck Sokol

Winter Vaccine Clinics in Franklin County



**Youth ages 5-18 are eligible to get a vaccine.
Everyone age 12 and over is eligible for a booster shot.**

Adult community members without children are welcome at school-based clinics.

Adults without children, please select an appointment slot later in the day.

Parents/caregivers who need a vaccination or booster
are welcome to get a shot at the same time as their child is vaccinated.

**All three vaccine types (Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson) are available at each mobile clinic.
Flu shots are also available at each clinic.**

FRANKLIN COUNTY MOBILE VACCINATION CLINIC SCHEDULE

Click the school link below to register that that location and date

Monday, January 24	Turners Falls High School (Turners Falls)	2:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, January 26	Dexter Park Elementary School (Orange)	1:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, February 3	Mohawk Trail Regional School (Buckland)	1:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Friday, February 11	Pioneer Valley Regional School (Northfield)	2:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 16	Jon Zon Community Center (Greenfield)	2:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 22	Franklin County Technical School (Turners Falls)	2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Looking for other options?

Visit www.bhninc.org to find other clinic dates and locations in western MA

The Franklin County Mobile Vaccination Clinics are co-sponsored by the MA Department of Public Health, Behavioral Health Network, and participating local school districts, with support from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments.

***OLDER ADULT HOME MODIFICATION PROGRAM***

Community Action is pleased to announce a new program designed for eligible homeowners age 62 and older to maintain independence and lead safe and productive lives in their homes.

Our goal is to enable lower income older adults to remain in their homes through no cost, modifications that reduce the risk of falling, improve general safety, increase accessibility, and improve functional abilities.

Examples of home modifications under this program are installation of grab bars, railings, lever handled door knobs and faucets, temporary ramps, tub/shower transfer benches, hand-held shower head, raised toilet seats with hand rails, non-slip strips for tubs or shower and stair steps.

Contact Us!!!

Mail:

Home Repair Program

PO Box 1432

Greenfield, MA 01302

Telephone: 800-370-0940

413-774-2319

Website: www.communityaction.us/homerepair

Email: info@communityaction.us

REDUCTION
RECYCLING
COMPOSTING
DISPOSAL



Franklin County Solid Waste Management District

117 Main Street., 2nd Floor, Greenfield, MA 01301 • (413) 772-2438 • Fax: (413) 772-3786
www.franklincountywastedistrict.org • info@franklincountywastedistrict.org

Safe Disposal of Wall Mounted Thermostats and Fluorescent Light Bulbs

Have you upgraded to a new programmable thermostat or LED lightbulbs for your home or business? Great! But be careful - never put old wall-mounted thermostats or fluorescent lightbulbs in the trash or recycling, as they contain mercury. Mercury is hazardous to human health, wildlife, and the environment. Handle these items carefully to avoid breakage and bring to one of many local free or low-cost collection sites.

Thermostats and other mercury items

Old wall-mounted thermostats contain a significant amount of liquid mercury. These thermostats are safe to use on the wall, but once removed, careful disposal is important. Free disposal is available at many local sites.

Handle items carefully, place in a sealed plastic bag, and hand to a staff member at one of the following sites. Keep thermostats intact; do not remove ampoules.

17 municipal transfer stations in Franklin County accept mercury-bearing items such as old wall-mounted thermostats, thermometers, switches, gauges, blood pressure monitors. Hand to attendant. The 17 transfer stations that accept thermostats and other mercury items are in Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Heath, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Rowe, Shelburne, Warwick, Wendell, and Whately. Resident permits may be required.



Most old wall-mounted thermostats contain mercury. Look for an ampoule inside with silver liquid, handle carefully, and bring to a special drop-off site.

District residents of towns that do not have access to a municipal transfer station may utilize the "Super Sites" in Bernardston and Colrain. Any District resident may bring mercury-containing devices (thermostats, thermometers) free of charge. District residents may also pay small fees to dispose of common household hazardous waste (fluorescent light bulbs, used motor oil, antifreeze, oil-based paint). Locations, hours, and acceptable items: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/supersites.html

Additional drop-off locations for mercury thermostats, such as plumbing/HVAC contractors and plumbing supply stores, are listed at: www.thermostat-recycle.org. All locations accept mercury thermostats for free.

Light bulbs

Fluorescent light bulbs contain mercury and should never be put in the recycling or trash. This includes the screw-in spiral compact fluorescent lights (CFLs), as well as straight "tube" lightbulbs and



MEDICARE/MEDICAL EQUIPMENT SCAM

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- You get a call offering to send you a free medical alert system, a free back brace, or other medical equipment.
- The caller tells you they will bill Medicare & send you the equipment for free.
- They just need your Medicare or Social Security number in order to process your order.

Beware of Medicare Phone Scams!

If someone calls you & asks for your Medicare number or other personal information, hang up & call 1-800-MEDICARE.



WHAT TO DO

- Hang up! Don't give out personal information such as your Medicare or Social Security number over the phone.
- Beware of "free" offers.
- Ask your doctor if you think you need a brace or any medical device.

Consumer problem or question? Call the Northwestern District Attorney's Consumer Protection Unit.

Greenfield (413) 774-3186 Northampton (413) 586-9225

Working in cooperation with the Office of the MA Attorney General.



photo by Meredith Sokol

GAS PUMP:

Credit or debit?

Are you a member?

Would you like to be?

Select fuel grade.

How about a free car wash?

You sure?

Did I do something wrong?

Are you mad at me?

Would you like a receipt?

ME:

**Rowe Community Church**

Submitted by Ros Mullette

- | | | |
|------|----|---------------------------------|
| Feb. | 6 | Observance of The Lord's Supper |
| | 13 | Worship Service & Breakfast |
| | 20 | Worship & Praise Service |
| | 27 | Worship & Praise Service |

We will be meeting on the third Friday of the month at someone's home for a night of fellowship - location to be determined later.

February Birthdays

- 1 - Daniel Burke
- 1 - Brian Tatro
- 2 - Meredith Sokol
- 2 - Lisa Danek-Burke
- 3 - Tyler Rice
- 3 - Ildiko Toth
- 4 - Bill Semanie
- 5 - Darlene Jackson
- 6 - Robin Nichols
- 6 - Earl Carlow
- 6 - Sean Clancy
- 7 - James Williams
- 7 - Peter De Menocal
- 8 - Nevin Houghtaling
- 10 - Gordon Cowie
- 12 - Jim Williams
- 13 - Al Williams
- 14 - Caty Silva
- 14 - Emily Silva
- 15 - Brooke Shulda
- 17 - Gianna Paige
- 17 - Christine Levitte
- 18 - Philip Shulda
- 19 - Liam Clancy
- 20 - Cassidy Upton
- 20 - Marilyn Belval
- 21 - Stanley Zielonka
- 21 - Emily Crowningshield
- 24 - Mark Duval
- 24 - Thom Chiofalo
- 25 - Mitch Soviecke
- 25 - Joanne Semanie
- 28 - Brianna Demech
- 29 - Edward Silva

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

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exchange between all departments and all Rowe citizens.'

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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.