



Volume 42

Issue 12

Established 1975

THE Rowe Goal Post

December 2023



photo by Meredith Sokol

Council on Aging News

Town Hall was buzzing with Council on Aging activity on November 16. Upstairs, several new users were learning about their new Claris tablets designed for seniors, and awarded to the town through a state grant. Meanwhile, downstairs, about a dozen people decorated wreaths, made with local greens by Carol Lively. In between: coffee, bagels and pumpkin bread to keep people fortified. Thanks to Carol for the ribbon-tying lessons and Brooke Shulda, Donna Butzke and Rachel Lewis for arranging and setting up these activities.

Coffee Hour December 21

We'll be hosting the Third Thursday Coffee Hour on December 21, at 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. If you'd like us to continue these events, come on out!

We have been trying to schedule events that enable people to get out, meet neighbors and have some fun, so we'd love to get your suggestions. Our coffee hours have had mixed results. IE, sometimes, no one shows up! So the COA is asking: Should we continue these coffee hours? Let us know your ideas for events in 2024: email: roche.bj@gmail.com.

Holiday Lunch at the Readsboro Inn

Join us for the Council on Aging free lunch at the Readsboro Inn, Friday, December 8, at 12 noon. Please sign up by December 6 with Donna or Brooke at Town Hall, 339-5520.

Emergency Survey

Have you filled out your Emergency Preparedness survey yet? If not, please complete and send it in. It will help emergency officials address any special needs you have in the case of an emergency.

Submitted by B.J. Roche





photo by Meredith Sokol



photo by Claudine Eoplawski

Recent Property Transfers

(November 2023)

Further details may be obtained by researching the specific deeds at the Franklin County Registry of Deeds website at masslandrecords.com/franklin

Deed Bk 7729 Pg 174, LaGrassa, Carla to CLG Solar, LLC, off Maxwell Rd, \$1.00 (Map 409 Lot 19)

Deed Bk 8239 Pg 312, Thatcher, Donna, Sabella Emma & Souza, Jon to Thatcher, Donna & Sabella Emma, off Stone Hill Road, \$1.00 (Map 402, Lot 051.1)

Deed 8242 Pg 56, Bjork, Alan W. to Bjork, Alan W. as Trustee of the Alan W. Bjork Revocable Trust, 288 Zoar Road, \$1.00 (Map 202 Lot 020)

Deed 8239 Pg 318, May, Edwin L. & Katherine E. to May, Seth & Paul, 68 Cross Road, \$1.00 (Map 402, Lots 28, 31 & 34)

Submitted by Christine Bailey



The Shortest Day by Susan Cooper

And so the Shortest Day came and the year died
And everywhere down the centuries of the snow-white world
Came people singing, dancing,
To drive the dark away.
They lighted candles in the winter trees;
They hung their homes with evergreen;
They burned beseeching fires all night long
To keep the year alive.
And when the new year's sunshine blazed awake
They shouted, reveling.
Through all the frosty ages you can hear them
Echoing behind us — listen!
All the long echoes, sing the same delight,
This Shortest Day,
As promise awakens in the sleeping land:
They carol, feast, give thanks,
And dearly love their friends,
And hope for peace.
And now so do we, here, now,
This year and every year.



Rowe Town Library News

Submitted by Molly Lane, Library Director

HOURS:

Tuesday 10-5

Wednesday 12-8 Thursday 3-7

Saturday 10-3

Did you know the library has a library of things? We currently have a carpet cleaner, cricut, pressure cooker, metal detector, yard tools, electronics, fun yard games like giant jenga and cornhole, and a pressure washer.



Programs:

Make your own cookie jar (gifts)-Dec 6- Dec 21 Stop in anytime and follow one of three recipes set out to create a fun, unique gift. Limit 1 per person

Frost n' Flannel - Community wide event Dec. 10 2-4pm Look for info separately.

Crafter's Time – Dec 12 @ 1pm crochet, knitters, embroiderers, needle point, and other crafts, join us in a common space to work on your projects with other crafters

Kid's movie & Craft night- Dec 21st @ 5:30pm – join us for Mickey's Christmas Carol and snowflake craft.

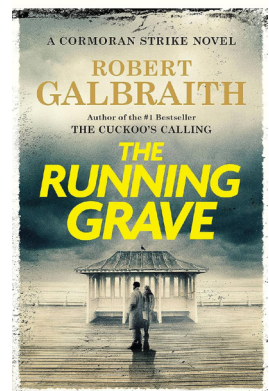
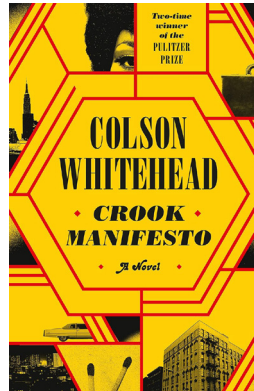
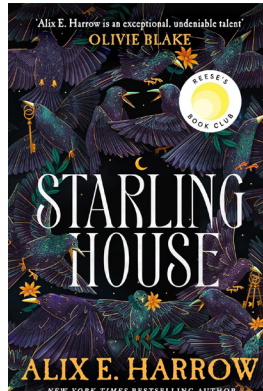
School winter vacation fun- Wednesday Dec. 27 @ 10:30 am story and craft time for kids 1st grade and under and siblings

Thursday 4pm- Lego Time Stop in and build creation with your friends with our stash of legos

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

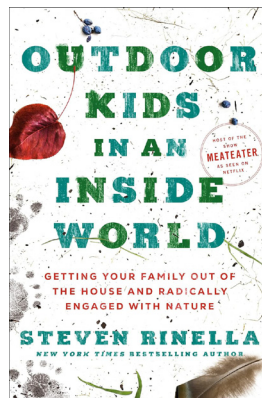
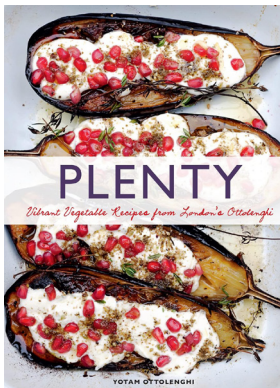
Some New Books:

Adult Fiction:

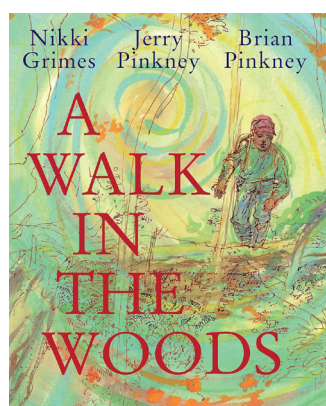
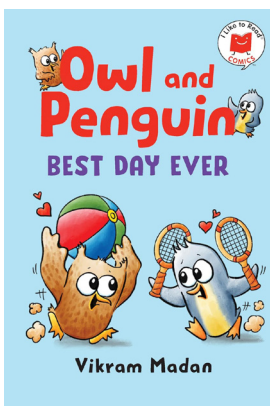


Mystery:

Adult Non-Fiction:



Kids:



ROWE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



November is when we have Family Conferences, most in-person, and many student-led. They are a valuable tool to help families learn more about their child as a learner and to help the teachers learn more about their students. As always, the teaching staff is finding creative ways to engage the students in new and different ways. I encourage you to come see all the great things happening at the school.

With Thanksgiving just past, I want to reflect on some of the things I am thankful for. I am thankful to be a part of the Rowe School staff. I've never known a more dedicated, talented, and caring group of educators. I'm thankful to be part of the Rowe School Community, whose engaged and caring parents, guardians, and families help support the work we do in the school. I'm also thankful for students and staff who take their learning, both academic and social-emotional learning, seriously and who care about their classmates, the beautiful setting where we work, perfect for so much outdoor learning, for staff, families, and students who trust the facts and get vaxxed, and finally for our silly, sweet, and creative group of students who make me laugh every day.

We had two Community Lunches in November, it was great to see so many community members and families joining the students in the cafeteria. Our December Community Lunch, a ham dinner, will be on Wednesday, December 20th at noon. I hope you can join us. Our after-school activities are humming along, there's a cooking group, a separate baking group, and arts and crafts is starting soon. If there's an activity you'd like to do with kids, please get in touch. It's fun for them, and it will be fun for you!

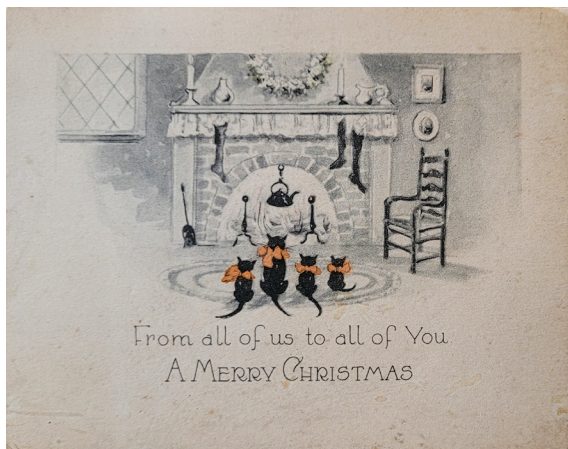
If you have thoughts, questions, or comments, please call me at 413-512-5101. You can also email me at wknittle@roweschool.org. I look forward to hearing from you.

-Submitted by Bill Knittle



Wishing you a Merry Christmas

Submitted by Joanne Semanie



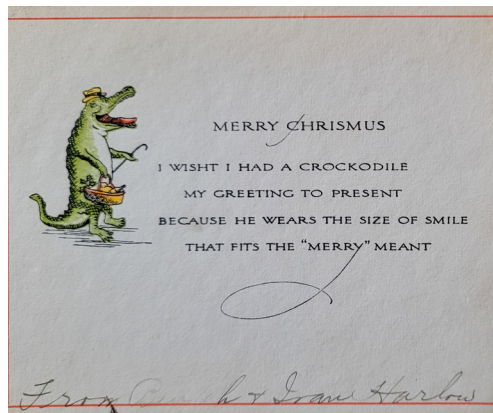
I was recently loaned a trove of greeting cards from the editor of the Goalpost, the majority of which are Christmas cards from 1925 sent to Agnes Newton. Agnes was living at 7 Middletown Hill Rd. at the time and she and her husband, Myron, ran Skyline Camp beginning in 1924. It would seem she made many friends that sent out Christmas greetings.

Looking through these cards made me nostalgic for a time when things were made with fine paper and a letterpress. They had a certain feel to them that today's cards, if even sent, don't have. The poems and sentiments seem so dated now. The fonts are so different and beautiful.

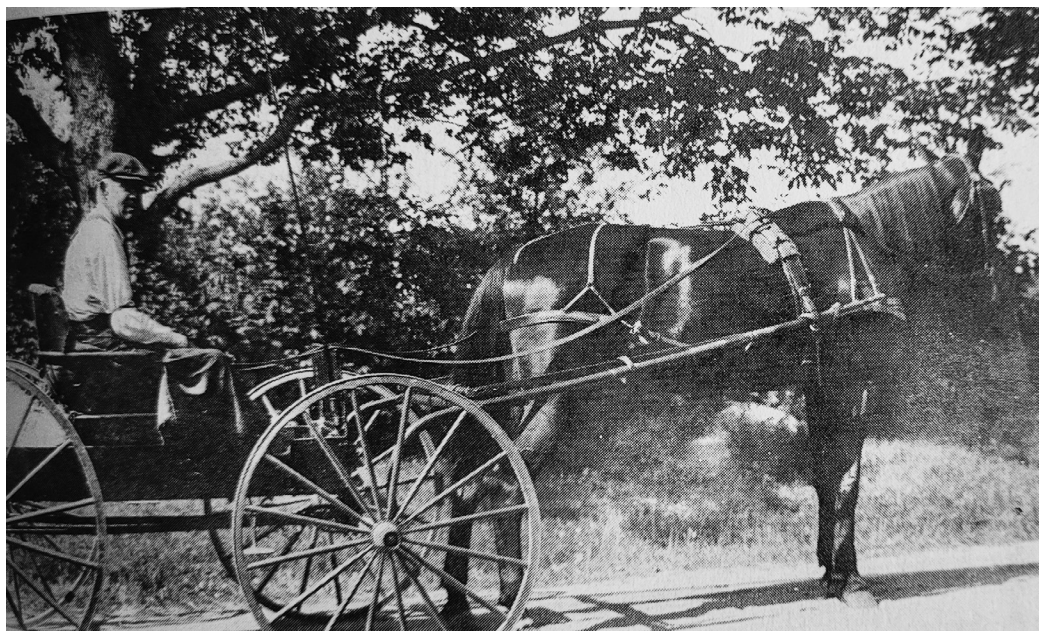


Most of the greeting cards in 1925 were post-cards. People found them inexpensive to buy and to post at 2 cents a piece. It was a quick way to remain in touch with family, friends and business acquaintances.

This collection is an interesting time capsule into 1925. The greeting cards are widely varied and give perhaps a glimpse of the people that sent them.



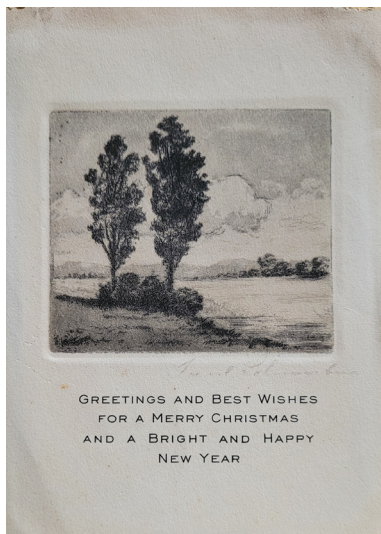
Rowe has always been dependent on the U.S. stage for mail service. The stage driver was an important person and was on intimate terms with the people on his route. In 1925 the stage driver was Will Upton. He would deliver mail from 1913 until 1941 and was the last driver to use a horse drawn vehicle. "Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds" takes on a whole new meaning when applied to mail delivery by horse and buggy.



The post office was located at 312 Zoar Road (the brick base) with Grace Stanford as postmaster. It was located there with Grace at the helm from June 2, 1919 until Augusta Bjork became postmaster in 1940.



The post office door from this house, with its large mail slot, is now located on the basement level of the museum. Take a look next time you are there.



So here's to a joyous holiday season and perhaps make some time this year to send out a greeting card or two and keep the tradition alive.

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

BY ROBERT FROST

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.



photo by Claudine Poplawski



photo by Claudine Poplawski



Ice circles on Ford Hill Rd. beaver pond by Claudine Poplawski



photo by Claudine Poplawski

Feeling the Cold?- Get Help With Fuel Assistance

Staying warm in the winter is important and with rising costs and heating your home can be stressful. That's where homeowners and renters can use fuel assistance. Because it can take 6-8 weeks to process a no-cost application, it is best to start now!

You are eligible for fuel assistance if your household income is not more than 60% of the estimated state median income. For a single-person household, that equates to \$45,392, for a two-person household that's \$59,359, and the amount increases by household size. More information is available on the Community Action website: <https://www.communityaction.us/fuel-assistance>.

Locally, Community Action is the agency that processes applications; the program itself is called LIHEAP in Massachusetts. If you have not used fuel assistance in the last two years, you will need to first apply and then have an intake. Apply over the phone (413-774-2310) or online.

Community Action wants people to know:

- ☐ From Nov 15 – March 15, there is a moratorium in place that prevents shutting off your gas or electric if that heats your home.
- ☐ Fuel assistance can only pay for deliveries/heat usage from Nov 1 to April 30.
- ☐ This is an assistance program; you are still responsible for your bills.

Separate from fuel assistance, Community Action has other programs for renters and homeowners, including free energy efficient and weatherization assessments, and programs for homeowners to fund repairs/replacements of heating systems. They also have an Older Adult Modification Program to help eligible homeowners age in place.

If your income exceeds the income guidelines, the [Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund](#) could still help you heat your home this winter.

** Please send back your Emergency Preparedness Survey's that were sent out at the beginning of November- If you **DID NOT** receive one, you can collect one from the Town Hall during hours of operation. Or call the Town Nurse/Town Administration for help. Thank you!**

Limited Flu Shots are still available from the Town Nurse- please call for more information



Frost & Flannel

ROWE TOWN HALL

SUNDAY DECEMBER 10 2-4 PM

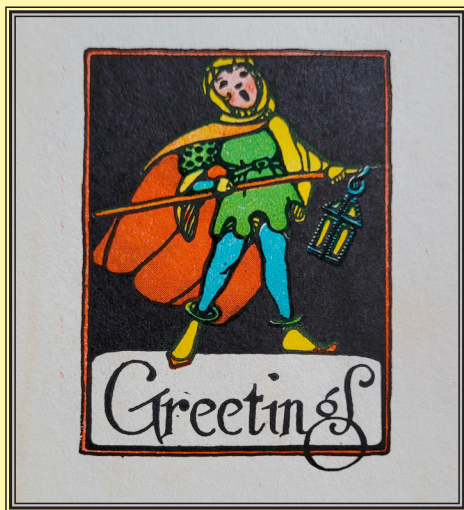
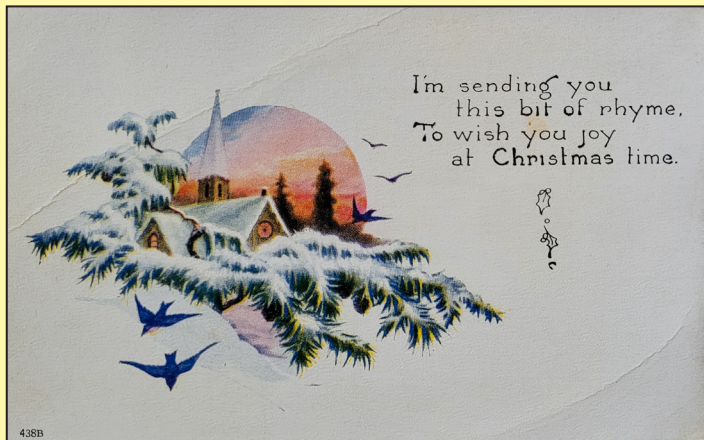
CRAFTS
COCOA
& COFFEE

PHOTOBOOTH
SNOWMAN FUN
& MORE!

COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE

Non-perishable items can be brought to the
Rowe Town Hall, School or Library.





December Birthdays

- 4 - Cameron Compo
- 7 - Amy Hicks
- 9 - Laurie Ash
- 11 - Kristen Johnson
- 11 - Jonathan Lively
- 12 - Nancy Williams
- 12 - Jim Lively
- 12 - Danette Reynolds
- 13 - Michael Denson
- 13 - Seth Lively
- 14 - Barbara Roche
- 15 - Leonard Brown
- 15 - Craig Brown
- 16 - Walter Quist
- 17 - Connie Sherman
- 17 - Julie Sprague
- 20 - Lisa Lamore
- 20 - Johnathon Boyd
- 20 - Barbara Fisher
- 22 - Carol Lively
- 22 - Glenn White
- 23 - Susan Gleason
- 23 - Seamus Stine
- 23 - Richard Vega
- 24 - James Mckee
- 24 - Kevin Myers
- 24 - Anne Besgen
- 25 - Melissa Houghtaling
- 26 - Joyce Boutwell
- 27 - Julie Sprague
- 28 - Bill Loomis
- 28 - Ellen Miller
- 29 - Danielle Beaumier
- 30 - Alfred Morse
- 30 - Deborah Miller

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

Town Services

Town Main Line at 413-339-5520

<u>Position/Dept.</u>	<u>Ext #</u>	<u>Email Address</u>	<u>Hours</u>
<u>Admin Assistant</u>	101	<u>adminasst@rowe-ma.gov</u>	<u>Mon-Thur 9:00-4:00</u>
<u>Assessors Office</u>	104	<u>assessor@rowe-ma.gov</u>	<u>Wed 8-1 or by Appt</u>
<u>Board of Health</u>	105	<u>boh@rowe-ma.gov</u>	<u>Tues 8-1 Clerk</u>
<u>DPW</u>	111	<u>dwphighway@rowe-ma.gov (339-5588)</u>	
<u>Executive Secretary</u>	100	<u>townadmin@rowe-ma.gov</u>	<u>Mon-Thurs 9:30-5:00</u>
<u>Fire Chief</u>	112	<u>firechief@rowe-ma.gov (339-4001)</u>	<u>Thurs: 2:00-8:00</u>
<u>Fitness Room</u>	149		
<u>Library</u>	114	<u>rowelibrary@gmail.com</u>	<u>Tues: 10-5 Wed: 12-8 Thu: 3-7 Sat: 10-3</u>
<u>Park</u>	110	<u>parkmanager@rowe-ma.gov (339-8554)</u>	
<u>Police Chief</u>	113	<u>policechief@rowe-ma.gov (339-8340)</u>	<u>Wed: 5:00-8:00</u>
<u>Post Office</u>	(413) 339-5390		<u>Mon-Fri: 12:15-4:15, Sat: 8:30-11:30</u>
<u>Tax Collector</u>	106	<u>collector@rowe-ma.gov</u>	<u>Mon,Wed,Thurs: 8:00-4:00</u>
<u>Town Accountant</u>	102	<u>accountant@rowe-ma.gov</u>	<u>By Appt.</u>
<u>Town Clerk</u>	103	<u>townclerk@rowe-ma.gov</u>	<u>Tues: 6-8:00pm or by Appt.</u>
<u>Town Nurse</u>	107	<u>nurse@rowe-ma.gov</u>	<u>Mon, Wed, Thurs: 8:00-4:00</u>
<u>Transfer Station</u>	(413) 339-0216		<u>Sat: 8- 2:00pm, Sun: 8- Noon, Wed: 7 -10am & 4 - 7pm</u>
<u>Treasurer</u>	106	<u>treasurer@rowe-ma.gov</u>	<u>Mon,Wed,Thurs 8:00-4:00</u>
<u>School</u>	(413) 512-5100, Principal: Ext 1, Secretary: Ext 2, Nurse: Ext 3		

Town Hall is open for normal business hours 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday

Please contact Town Administrator at: (413)339-5520 ext. 100 for appointments whenever possible.

Seasonal residents 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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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:
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admin@rowe-ma.gov

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