



Volume 43 Issue 1
Established 1975

THE Rowe Goal Post

January 2024



photo by Stephen Provost

From the Town Hall

Submitted by Brooke Shulda

Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy New Year!

December began the kick-off to the budget season! Town departments have been working hard to complete and submit their budgets by Thursday December 14th to the Finance Committee who have begun to prepare the fiscal year 2025 budget. The Board of Selectmen will be attending each budget hearing with the Finance Committee starting Thursday January 25th at 6:00pm.

All Town Departments, Boards and Committees have also been working on their 2023 Annual Town Reports. Donna and I hope to have the reports ready for resident pick-up sometime in mid-March or early April. Please email Donna at adminasst@rowe-ma.gov with any pictures you would like to see included in the 2023 Annual Town Report!

A big thank you to Kevin Balawick and Matthew Stine who volunteered to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen as Planning Board members until the end of the Fiscal Year!

Have you been wanting to become more involved with the Town? Keep a look out for next fiscal year's upcoming vacant positions! Have questions regarding a certain position before getting your name on the ballot? Call the Town Hall to speak with Administrative Assistant, Donna Butzke or myself who would be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the upcoming or current board or committee vacancies.

IMPORTANT Please fill out the Emergency Preparedness Survey! Once completed please return or mail to the Town Hall.

Looking for a little winter sports action? Come support the 3/4 and 5/6 Hawlemont/Rowe basketball teams! Every Saturday morning at the Mohawk Trail Regional High School! See you on the bleachers!

January Town Hall Closures:

New Year's Day - Monday, January 01, 2024

Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Monday, January 15, 2024

Gracy House Meeting:

Tuesday, January 09, 2024, at 3:00pm

Board of Selectmen – January Meetings:

Thursday, January 04, 2024, at 6:00pm

Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 6:00pm

JOINT Board of Selectmen/Finance Committee Meeting:

Budget Hearings - Thursday, January 25, 2024, at 6:00pm

Please be advised, meeting dates and times are subject to change prior to the 48 hour posting requirements

Assessor's News

Submitted by Christine Bailey

Recent Property Transfers

(December 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 8250 Pg 083, Magnago, John to Beaumier, Danielle, 169 Ford Hill Road, \$278,000.00 (Map 202 Lot 044)

Deed Bk 8260 Pg 329, Charney, Mary-ann, Successor Trustee of the Evergreen Heights Trust to Thane, Kenneth & Paula, \$485,000.00 (Map 402 Lot 005)

Deed Bk 8261 Pg 311, Miller to Hubert, on Tunnel Rd, \$40K (portion of Map 404 Lot 04)



The Council on Aging Holiday Luncheon

The luncheon on Friday Dec. 8th was attended by 25 residents. The menu included choice of soup, burgers, fish and chips as well as a vegetarian wrap. B.J. Roche, Council on Aging Chairman organized a wonderful cake for dessert from North River Bakery in Jacksonville Vt. Which was delicious. Everyone enjoyed themselves.



The Frost and Flannel Event in town on Sunday December 10th was a success. All that attended enjoyed games and prizes as well as crafts, snacks and a photo booth with the Grinch. Snowman bags were given to the first 10 attendees. Resident Carol Lively was on hand to sell her homemade wreaths, teas and other gift items while the Rowe Camp hosted in the beautiful chapel with a great Cup of Rowe Coffee and snacks and cookies for all. The event was run with the generosity and love of local residents. The Town Library, Town Hall and Chapel all housed the events. Thanks to The Rowe Center, The Rowe Library, The Town Hall for providing the space to run the event. Special thanks to the hard working and generous crew of Dana Williams, Alana and Andrew Calhoun, Molly Lane, Kathy Atwood, Dawn Beaumier, Brooke Shulda, Sarah and Matt Stein, Beth Balawick, B.J Roche, Cyndie Stetson, and Donna Butzke. We look forward to expanding this event next year with a possible tree lighting! Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season...



Pin the button on the gingerbread



-Submitted by Donna Butzke

Coffee and Craft at the Third Thursday Council on Aging Coffee

-Submitted by Donna Butzke



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:

We are excited to bring back our monthly Book Chats (book discussion group) at the library. Take the survey if you are interested in joining the Book Chat. We are looking at a new day and time that works for the majority of interested people. The survey can be on our facebook page, the library website as well as the Wowbrary weekly newsletter. <https://forms.gle/X3qnxzmaY4sHpjjn6>

Adult- January 11 @ 5pm VISION BOARDS

Manifest your dreams for the coming year with a vision board.

Join us at the library for a vision board workshop Wednesday January 11th @ 5pm

What is a vision board?

A vision board is a collection of images and words that inspire and motivate you to reach your goals. They represent the changes and goals you'd like to see in the coming year and your life.

Space is limited , please pre-register by calling, emailing or stopping by.

Kids-

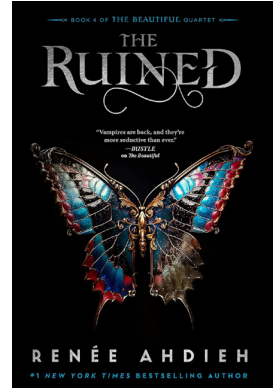
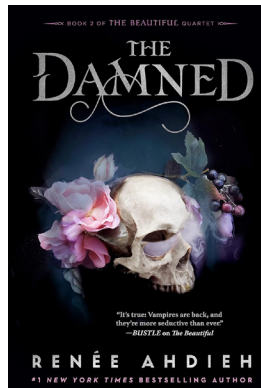
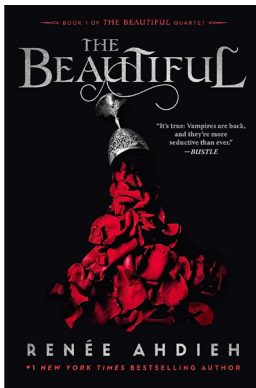
January 17th - Afterschool kids crafts @ 3:45

January 24th - 5:30 pm Pajama Story hour- Come in your cozy clothes with a stuffy or two and snuggle in to listen to a few stories of winter and some craft time.

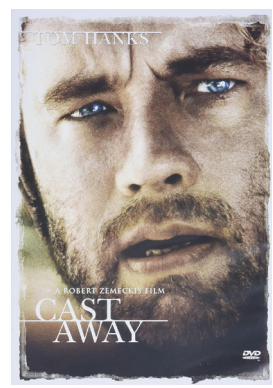
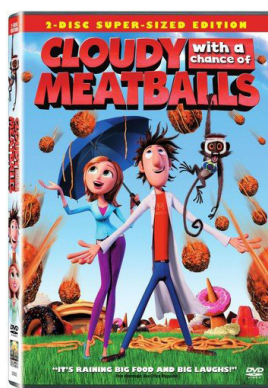
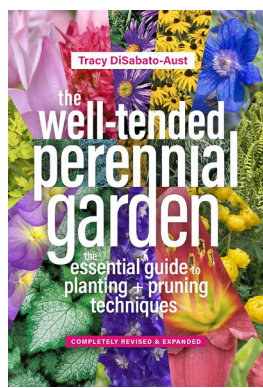
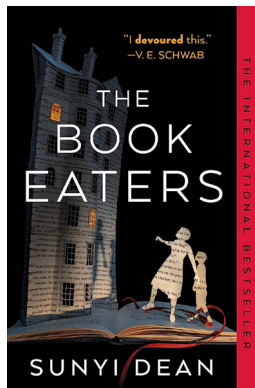
Contact the library if you would like to be put on our email notifications for programs Rowelibrary@gmail.com

Some New Books:

Adult Fiction:

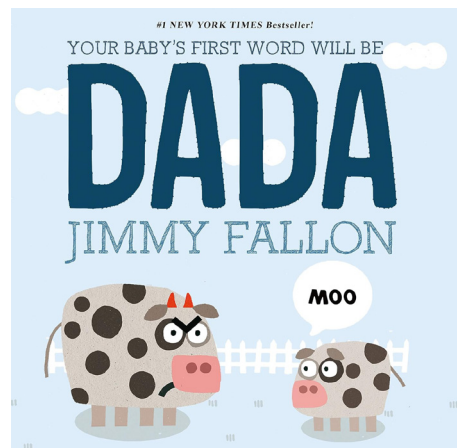
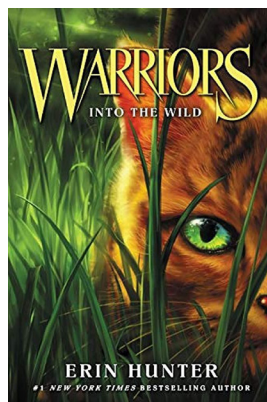
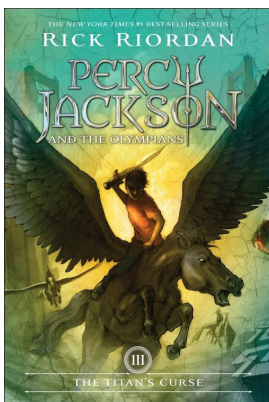


Adult Non-Fiction:



DVD:

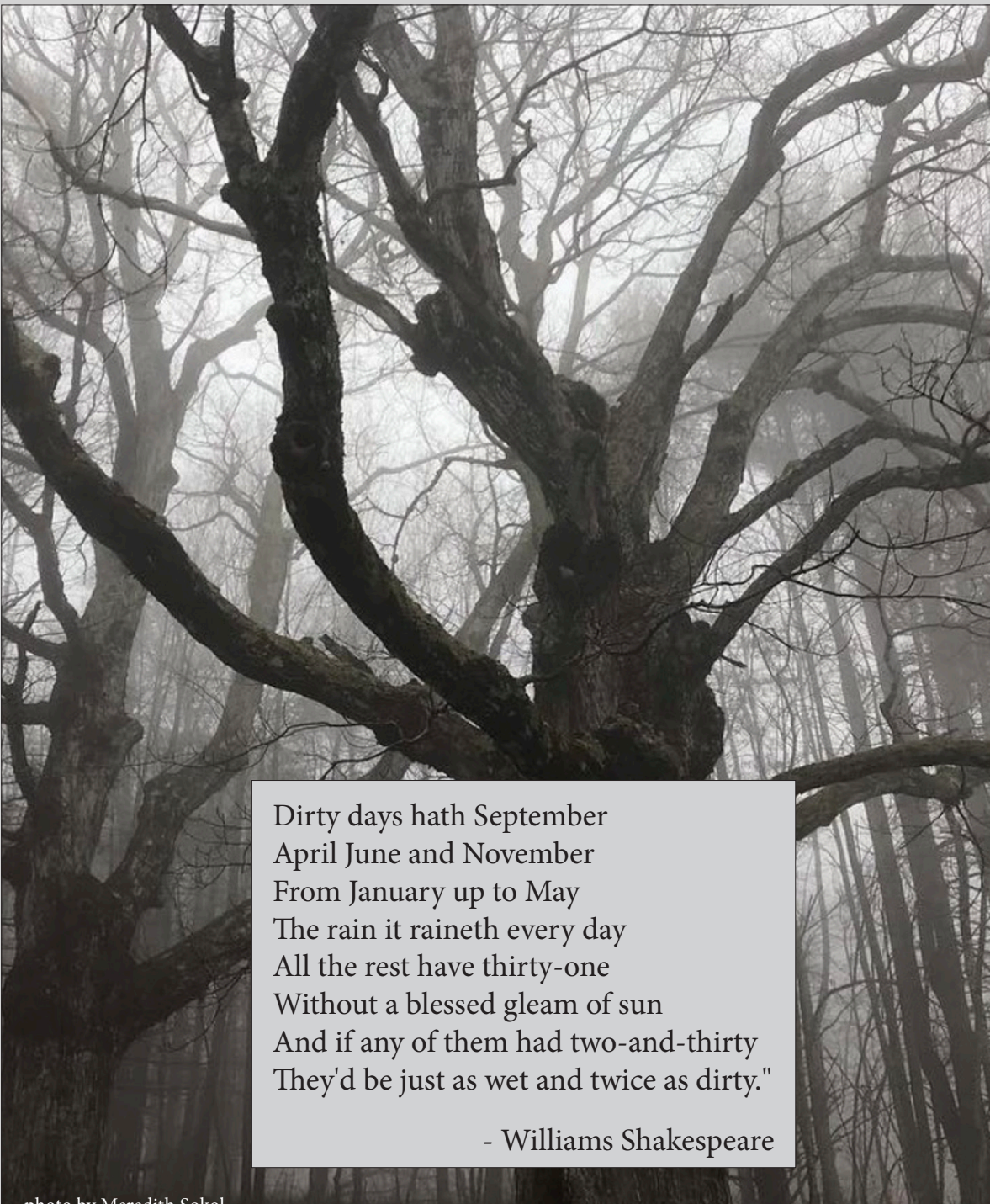
Kids:





The boys would love to eat your Christmas trees when you're done with them. No decorations on them, just drop them in our driveway or give me a call. Apparently they are delicious.

- Joanne Semanie

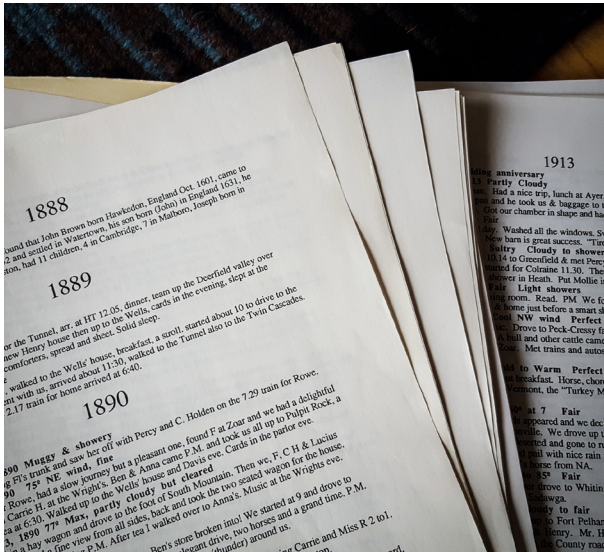


Dirty days hath September
April June and November
From January up to May
The rain it raineth every day
All the rest have thirty-one
Without a blessed gleam of sun
And if any of them had two-and-thirty
They'd be just as wet and twice as dirty."

- Williams Shakespeare

A Forty Year Journey

Submitted by Joanne Semanie



A few years ago a friend and town historian told me she had the diaries of Charles Brown and I might be interested in reading them. Charles Brown was the father of Percy Brown who had written the first history of Rowe as well as being a large benefactor to the town. She had transcribed each passage that referred to the time they spent in Rowe from the years 1887 to 1929.

They were dropped off at the house and this began my breakfast and lunch routine of reading through the diaries. I was immediately struck by the dedication to doing this. He wrote every day. He and his wife usually spent the month of August in town and he wrote about the weather and how they spent their days and evenings.

Well, either their thermometers were different or this is a testament to how much warmer it is now than in that forty-year span of time. There were many days and nights when it was downright chilly. He would often write about how many blankets he slept under to give you an idea of the cold.

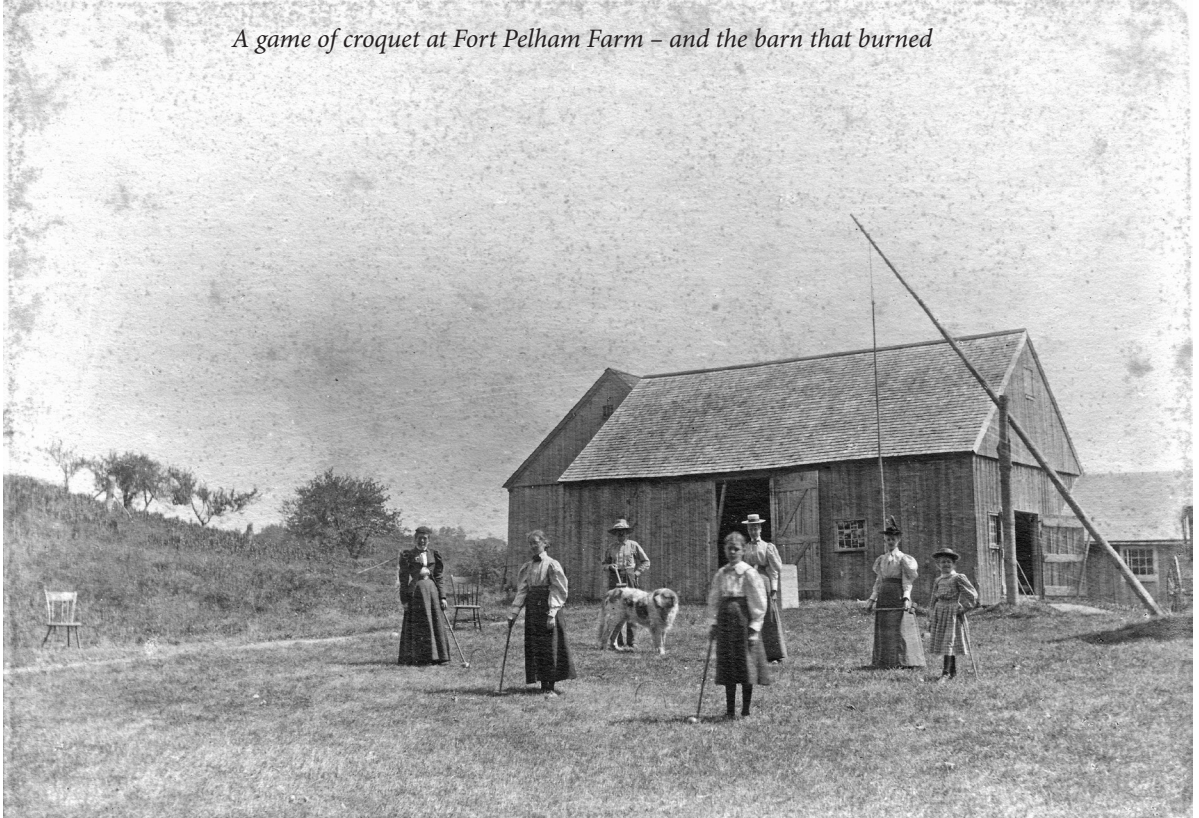


59 Middletown Hill Rd. – Fort Pelham Farm

When they began coming to Rowe they would stay at the “Wright house”, which is my home now. There is something about reading about what was happening 130 years ago and having it take place right where you live. He wrote about finding a horse and buggy to rent while they were here and the trips they would take daily around the area and into Vermont.

He wrote of the people around him, names so familiar but some too distant in the past for me have known. He hired people to do jobs for him, had many visitors, read on the piazza, played hundreds of games of croquet recording the scores daily. There was mention of murders, lightning strikes and fires. He and Percy came to help when the barn here was struck by lightning and burned to the ground.

A game of croquet at Fort Pelham Farm – and the barn that burned



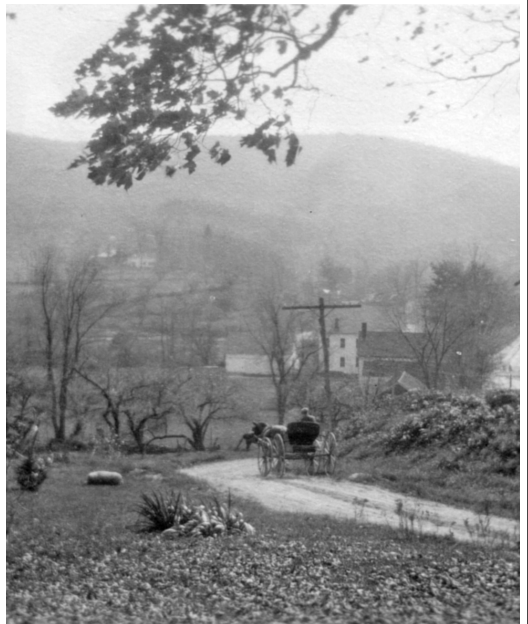
He wrote of his visitors. He shared Percy’s friendships in Rowe, the places they all “tramped”, picnics on Pulpit Rock. I learned of Percy’s engagement and marriage to Corinne. Expected their visits year after year, then suddenly one line about her dying in Cincinnati. At this point I was pretty invested in these characters and it felt like a gut punch with no explanation. Thank goodness for public records and other info found with the diaries.

As the years went by the horse-drawn carriages and train rides to Zoar gave way to drives in new automobiles and how painful that could be. Honestly, with the number of flats they changed it was a wonder they drove anywhere. Of course there were always reports on how bad the roads were.



Friday morning I finished reading the remaining pages of the diaries. I had been immersed in this wonderful little world of people, games and vacationing in a bygone time but a very familiar place. Charles was 79 years old. His routine in Rowe had changed gradually over the years but in being able to read it in a few days time was compressed. What really happened is I got to the end and went "Noooooooo". The story wasn't over, it just stopped. Think of it as Downton Abbey without season 6 - none of the ends were really tied up.

Social history is one of my favorite things and I have rarely, if ever, read anything so simply done give such a vivid picture of life in a bygone time. I'm sad the story ended but think I will read it over again. Like every good story you read to see where it goes, this time I'll read it again to pay more attention to what it says.





The Town Library and Town Hall collected food for the Good Neighbors Food Pantry. Thank you to everyone that donated!

Town Employees and Board members with the coordination of our town nurse Rachel Lewis, adopted 4 west county children and helped to make their holidays a little brighter. Clothes, toys, and shoes were collected, wrapped and donated. We are grateful to be able to help others at this time.



Trees in Winter

Submitted by Sue Alix Williams

How well do you know our trees? Can you match the tree bark to the name?
All of these trees are common and can be found in the Park.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11

can you match these names
to the pictures??

American Beech
Red Oak
Black Cherry
Yellow Birch
White Ash
Eastern Hemlock
Red Maple
Paper Birch
Sugar Maple
Eastern White Pine

1) Eastern White Pine 2) Hemlock 3) Red Oak 4) Paper Birch 5) Black cherry 6) Beech
7) Yellow Birch 8) Red Maple 9) White Ash 10) Beech - with beech bark disease 11) Sugar maple

Being Prepared in an Emergency

As we know, an emergency can happen at anytime and anywhere; it could come as a fire, hurricane, a town-wide power outage, or like we saw last year- a 42 inch snowstorm! Here are some tips to help prepare BEFORE an emergency happens

Organize an Emergency Kit

- ☐ Extra eyeglasses and/or hearing aids
- ☐ Battery chargers and extra batteries for hearing aids, motorized wheelchairs, or other battery-operated medical or assistive devices.
- ☐ Extra medicine, oxygen, insulin, catheters, or other medical supplies you or a family member uses regularly
- ☐ Important documents such as Medical insurance cards, list of any allergies, medications, and medical history, including medical alert bracelets/tags. Copies of medical prescriptions, doctor's orders, and the style and serial numbers of the support devices you or your family member uses.

Have an Emergency Plan

- ☐ Create a support network to help you plan for an emergency. Consider family, neighbors, friends, and community groups.
- ☐ Tell someone you trust where you keep your emergency supplies and give them a key to your home.
- ☐ Sign up for emergency alerts from your community and keep important contact information in an easily accessible place.
- ☐ Notify your utility provider if you are dependent on electricity to operate a life sustaining device.
- ☐ Provide any necessary organizations or service providers (such as your Local First Responders or Town Nurse) with information about your functional needs

and what you may require in an emergency. This includes if you need help with transportation, mobility and any medical needs that may be affected. Plan ahead to evacuate to a safe space (neighbor's house, family member, shelter, etc.) prior to an impending emergency.

Medical Support

- ❑ Identify multiple locations to receive dialysis or other life-sustaining medical treatment. Work with your primary provider to create a plan to obtain and ensure essential services in case of a disaster.
- ❑ If you or a family member has a wheelchair, know the size and weight of it and whether it is collapsible in case it has to be transported during an evacuation. Develop back-up plans for personal assistance services, hospice care, or other forms of in-home assistance.

Order 4 more free Covid-19 Tests at <https://special.usps.com/testkits> *

*****IN THE CENTER OF THE GOAL POST YOU WILL FIND AN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SURVEY- please fill this out as soon as possible and return to the Town Nurse *****

Soon you will be receiving a sign that looks like the one below. This is to be used in an emergency situation where travel is difficult, and communication may be difficult or impossible. These signs will be placed in a front window or doorway which can be seen from the road by emergency personnel and other town workers.

You will be notified prior to the delivery of the sign and there will be a short 'how to' guide attached to the sign explaining when and how to use these signs properly. Thank you!



**PLEASE
CHECK ON
ME!**



I'M OK!

Greetings fellow Rowenians:

My 100th birthday party was a blast! A super “thank you” to the McLatchy family and Dick & Jackie Howe for making it all happen.

I loved seeing and talking with old friends I hadn’t seen in a while. And singing...that was a must!! I’m happy when there’s singing. “Sentimental Journey” was a favorite of my old friend Mary Johnston. We used to ‘empty’ a room with our rendition of “Sentimental Journey.”

Pete and I moved to Rowe in 1965. We were married a total of 45½ years. A happy life for both of us spent in the town of Rowe.

A big “thank you” for all the cards, gifts and good wishes.



With all my love,

H.R.S. [*Helen Ruth Shields*]

P.S. The wine and food hit the spot!!



photo by Claudine Poplawski

January Birthdays

- 1 - Scott Harris
- 2 - Leonda Hardison
- 2 - Scott Boutwell
- 3 - Myra Carlow
- 3 - Caleb Brenneman
- 5 - Brittani Sprague
- 5 - Thomas O’Leary
- 8 - Lillian Danek
- 8 - Sandy Daviau
- 8 - Maryann Corarito
- 9 - Cobra Buchanan
- 9 - Kayauna Tanner
- 10 - Ruth Loomis
- 11 - Felicity Pickett
- 12 - Christie Beaumier
- 13 - Stephen Fisher
- 13 - Jenn Wood
- 14 - Lesley McLatchy
- 14 - Peter Besgen
- 16 - Kameron Crowningshield
- 17 - Roberta Baker
- 18 - Donna Butzke
- 18 - Mike Kuehl
- 19 - Dan Poplawski
- 21 - Ken Shippee
- 22 - Lisa Jackson
- 23 - Danielle Larned
- 23 - Ashton Morse
- 25 - Jenalyn Duval
- 25 - Dean Rice
- 25 - Susan Tomlinson
- 25 - Caleb O’Leary
- 30 - Mary Ann Dykeman
- 31 - Travis Albrecht
- 31 - Timothy Dzurilla

Town Departments

The Town Hall is Open Monday-Thursday 8:00am-4:00pm (413) 339-5520

Position/Dept.	Ext #	Email Address	Hours
Town Administrator	100	townadmin@rowe-ma.gov	Mon-Thurs 9am-4pm
Admin Assistant	101	adminasst@rowe-ma.gov	Mon-Thurs 9am-4pm
Town Accountant	102	accountant@rowe-ma.gov	By Appointment Only
Town Clerk	103	townclerk@rowe-ma.gov	Tuesday's 6:00pm-8:00pm
Board of Assessors	104	assessor@rowe-ma.gov	Wednesday's 8am-1pm
Board of Health	105	boh@rowe-ma.gov	Tuesday's 8am-1pm
Treasurer	106	treasurer@rowe-ma.gov	Mon, Wed, Thurs 9am-4pm
Tax Collector	106	collector@rowe-ma.gov	Mon, Wed, Thurs 9am-4pm
Town Nurse	107	nurse@rowe-ma.gov	Mon, Wed, Thurs 8am-4pm
DPW	111	dpwhighway@rowe-ma.gov	Monday – Friday 6:30a-2:30p
Fitness Center	149		Mon, Wed 9am-11am/4pm-6pm

Emergency Services

Position/Dept.	Ext #	Email Address	Hours
Fire Chief	112	firechief@rowe-ma.gov	Thursday's 2pm-8pm
EMD	112	firechief@rowe-ma.gov	Thursday's 2pm-8pm
Police Chief	113	policechief@rowe-ma.gov	Wednesday's 5pm-8pm

Town Library (413) 339-4761
rowelibrary@gmail.com

Days	Hours
Tuesday	10am-5pm
Wednesday	12pm-8pm
Thursday	3pm-7pm
Saturday	10am-3pm

Transfer Station (413) 339-0216
boh@rowe-ma.gov

Days	Hours
Wednesday	7am-10am & 4pm-7pm
Saturday	8am-2pm
Sunday	8am-Noon

Elementary School (413) 512-5100

Name/Position	Ext. #	Email
Principal, Bill Knittle	1	wknittle@roweschool.org
Secretary, Laurie Laffond	2	llaffond@roweschool.org
Nurse, Lydia Brisson	3	lbrisson@roweschool.org

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

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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.