



Volume 43 Issue 11
Established 1975

THE
Rowe Goal Post
November 2024



photo by Selmi Hyytinen

Town Clerk

Submitted by Kevin Balawick

Elections

The presidential election is approaching on Tuesday, November 5th, 2024 from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM at the Rowe Elementary School. We have had over 130 voters choose to vote early by mail and vote early in person in town

Detailed election results will be available on the website within a day or two of the election and will be included in the December issue of the Goal Post.

A big thank you to Ramon Sanchez, our election warden, who has manned the polls for early voting and who leads our team on each and every election day from before the polls open until we lock up the school at night. Thanks Ramon, I really couldn't do it without you.

Nomination Papers

In just two months nomination papers will be available for our next local election. Please consider running for an elected position in our town. We have a number of dedicated folks who keep the town running through their time and service, but we could always use more people.

The following seats will be up for election this coming year- one seat on each board/committee and for three years unless otherwise noted:

Board of Assessors, Board of Health, Board of Selectmen, Cemetery Commission, Finance Committee, Library Trustees, Park

Commission, Planning Board (one 5-year seat), Town Moderator and School Committee.

That's all for now. Thanks for being great neighbors. - Kevin Balawick

From the Planning Board

Submitted by Matt Stine

The Planning Board will be holding an informational meeting to review a new state law regarding Accessory Dwelling Units on November 14th at 6:00pm in the Rowe Elementary School Project Room. The purpose is to gauge public interest in the upcoming changes, provide examples of inconsistencies between the new law and current town bylaws, and gather additional questions to aid in understanding the impact of this change. We will be sending out a town wide mailing with more details.

-Town Wide Food Drive-

The town hall and the library are collection sites for food and personal items to be donated to the Good Neighbors Food Panty in Charlemont. Bring your donation to either location and we will get the items to the food bank. The donation boxes will be set up throughout the holiday season. Consider donating to help others. Thank you

Submitted by Donna Butzke Admin Asst.

Assessor's News

Submitted by Rick Williams

FY25 Property Values: FY25 is an interim update year (the next town revaluation will be in FY28). Based on the annual real estate sales analysis, adjustments were made to *building lot & excess land* values (**adjusted up ~5%**). No valuation changes were made to *homes* or *yard items/out buildings*. Total town valuation increased by **~0.9%** to **\$501,314,792**. DOR approval of the FY25 values was received on October 25.

FY25 Tax Rates/Tax Bills: A Tax Classification Hearing will be held with the Board of Selectmen during the first week in November to select an MRF (Minimum Residential Factor) to set the split tax rates for FY25. Following DOR approval of the tax rates, the Assessors expect to sign the FY25 real estate and personal property tax warrants by mid-November and the first half tax bills should be mailed out before the end of the month. Payments are due within 30 days of tax bill postmark.

Power Company ATB Appeals: A negotiated settlement was reached at the end of October with Great River Hydro to resolve their FY19 thru FY24 appeals cases before the Appellate Tax Board (ATB). A Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Agreement is in the process of being formally signed by GRH and the three towns (Rowe, Florida, Monroe). Negotiations are continuing and the ATB appeals by New England Power and Mass Electric for FY19 thru FY24 are expected to be resolved soon. Consequently, the Board of Assessors will be reviewing the Overlay account needs and expect to release excess funds to Overlay Surplus prior to the FY26 Annual Town Meeting.

Applications for Property Tax Abatement: Applications for abatement for FY25 real estate and personal property taxes are available online or from the Assessor's Office. Applications must be submitted to the Assessor's Office within 30 days after the 1st half tax bills are mailed. The filing of an Abatement Application does not stay the collection of your taxes. The Assessors have three (3) months from the date an application is filed to act on it.

Applications for Property Tax Exemptions: Information and applications for FY25 Senior and Veteran's Exemptions are available online or from the Assessor's office. Applications must be submitted by April 1 or three months after the first tax bills are mailed, whichever is later. The filing of an Exemption Application does not stay the collection of your taxes. The Assessors have three (3) months from the date an application is filed to act on it.

Motor Vehicle Exemption: Effective immediately, the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is implementing the ["HERO Act: An Act Honoring, Empowering, and Recognizing our Service Members and Veterans"](#) by announcing changes to the excise tax exemption process on motor vehicles for Disabled Veterans. Under [M.G.L. Chapter 60A, Sec. 24](#), if you are 100% disabled – with proof of status from the VA - you are eligible for a full exemption on one owned vehicle. Contact the Assessor's office for more information.

Recent Property Transfers (Oct 2024):

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

BAILEY, JEFFREY A. & CHRISTINE A. of Rowe, MA, for consideration of \$1.00, grant to **BAILEY, ANTHONY J.** of Southwick, MA & **BAILEY, JOEL M.** of Wethersfield, CT property located at Brittingham Hill Road and County (Map 407 Lot 044) (Deed Bk 8377 Pg 187)

Assessor's Meetings and Office Hours:

Assessor's meetings are held in person on a roughly monthly basis (as posted) at the Town Hall. Christine Bailey (Assessor's Administrative Assistant) has posted office hours on **Wednesdays and Thursdays (8am to 1pm)**. She can be reached in the Assessors' Office at **413-339-5520 x104**, via fax at 413-339-8585 or via email at assessor@rowe-ma.gov. For additional information please also refer to the Assessor's page on the Town website at rowe-ma.gov

Officer Noyes and Captain Picard - Trunk or Treating



photo by Beth Balawick

One thing that brought me joy this summer was growing dahlias. At the 2023 Franklin County Fair, I was inspired by all the beautiful dahlias that were entered. I ordered 16 different varieties, and carefully followed the instructions that came with them. I didn't realize all the care and maintenance that was required. I did enter a few in the fairs this year, but the majority bloomed after the fairs were over. I really enjoyed cutting them and sharing them with my mom and neighbor. Turns out even my old horse Ranger liked them too, and munched off the tops of all the plants he could reach over the fence! Now that we have had a hard frost, I need to wait a few weeks then cut them and dig up the tubers for the winter. Looking forward to growing them again next year.

submitted by Carol Lively

-Vitamin Joy-



One of the most important goals in life should be feeling and expressing joy. I propose a column devoted to raising joy in ourselves, our family, town and further. We welcome all stories you would like to share that inspire joy and kindness that you have experienced.

Please submit your stories, ideas, lists, recipes, or memories to: adminasst@rowe-ma.gov



Rowe Town Library News

Submitted by Molly Lane, Library Director

HOURS:

Tuesday 10-5

Wednesday 12-8 Thursday 3-7

Saturday 10-3

As we welcome the cooler, darker months, remember that the library is your warm and inviting refuge. Enjoy free coffee and tea during our open hours while you chat, craft, read, or solve puzzles.

We're eager to find more ways to bring our community together through shared interests. One idea we're considering is a game

time—perhaps a game or 2 of Scrabble! If you're interested, please reach out and let us know what day and time would work for you. We'll schedule a time for neighbors to come together and enjoy some fun!

Holiday Hours: Wed Nov 27, 12-3pm. Thurs Nov 28, closed in observance of Thanksgiving

Programs:

Kid programs:

Kid's Crafternoon: Thanksgiving/Fall Craft - Wednesday Nov 13, 4pm.

Adult Programs:

Pumpkin Centerpieces with Robyn Crowningshield: Wednesday Nov 20, 6-8pm, pre register by calling, emailing or stopping in

Book Chat – Third Thursday (Nov 21) @ 5:30 pm: “The Great Alone” by Kristen Hannah
“In The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah, a family’s journey into the Alaskan wilderness tests their bonds and resilience. As they confront the beauty and brutality of their surroundings, secrets and struggles emerge, revealing the power of love and survival in the face of overwhelming odds.”

Embroidery class series: Saturdays Nov 16, 30; Dec 14, 28. 10:30am-12pm.

Learn to embroider with Joanne Semanie. Class runs every-other Saturday starting on November 16.

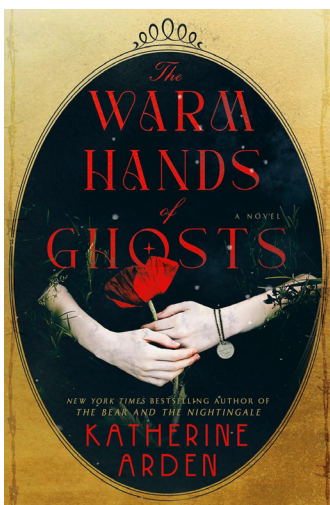
Contact the library if you would like to be put on our email notifications for programs Rowelibrary@gmail.com

Yarnia Crafter's Time –Tuesdays @ 1pm crochet, knitters, embroiderers, needle point, and other crafts. Join us in a common space to work on your projects with other crafters. First Tuesday of the month is beginner friendly time. Someone will be happy to help you learn a new fiber skill this day.

The Anti-Social Sci-Fi/Fantasy Book Club - no meetings, no commitments. Send us your recommendations and we will post them for other sci-fi and/or fantasy readers to find their next great read!
November recommendation: Dreadful by Caitlin Rozakis

Some New Books:

Adult Fiction:



Graphic Novel:



Pumpkin carving at the Library



photo by Beth Balawick

ROWE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



October was a busy month at the Rowe School. October saw all of the students in hiking at Mohawk Trail State Forest. Good times were had by all, and it was great to hike together as a whole school. The PTP helped organize the annual Tailgate Trick or Treat the Friday before Halloween, followed by a Community Pot Luck.

Classes have completed their Benchmark Assessment tests of reading comprehension and reading fluency, and their iReady online Math and ELA diagnostics. These tests are administered throughout the school year to give teachers feedback on how their students are performing and as a tool to boost student achievement. These assessments are part of the effort to continue the success the students showed in the 2024 MCAS results. These tests, in addition to in-class observations and student-teacher conversations, help teachers form groups of students who are currently at the same instructional level for reading and math. This is, of course, in addition to the teaching and learning that is going on every day at the school.

The school worked with Rowe resident and parent Julie Moran to take school pictures again this year, and the results are amazing. Beautiful and personal, families will love the pictures. We also had our all-school chorus in October, with students in all grades singing together.

Outdoor learning will continue to be a big part of how we engage and educate our students, even as the weather turns colder. All of the classes have been making regular use of the beach and trails at Pelham Lake Park, it's exciting to see so much learning going on outside the school building.

The end of October and the beginning of November will bring Family Conferences: parents and guardians meeting with the teachers about how we can best help the students learn together, more math, reading, science, social studies, Spanish, art, music, and PE. We will also have our first

monthly Community Lunch on November 20th, for a turkey dinner with all the fixings!

I encourage you to participate at the school, on whatever level you're comfortable with. Attend meetings, volunteer or observe in classrooms, join the Parent Teacher Partnership...be a part of the Rowe School. If you have questions or are interested, please call me at the 413-512-5100. You can also email me at wknittle@roweschool.org. I look forward to hearing from you.

submitted by Bill Knittle

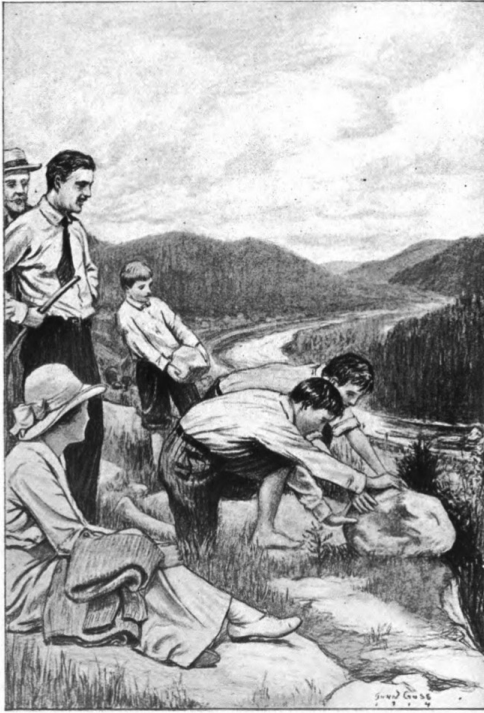


All school hike

photo by Kara Kitchen

Two in a Bungalow

Submitted by Joanne Semanie



The boys amused themselves by rolling off the precipice some of the great stones and rocks lying about.

Mary was born in 1840 in Attica, New York. Her family moved to Greenfield when she was 9 years old. She became an accountant for the Franklin Savings Institution and was an early advocate for women's suffrage. In 1875 she married Fayette Smith, the grandson of Rev. Preserved Smith. They lived in Cleveland until 1895 when they moved back to Greenfield.

Her stepson, Royal Stone Smith, built the Bonnie Blink Cottage on King's Highway in Rowe and Mary spent much of her summers with her family there. (This cottage became the main part of Rowe Camp in 1924 and was used until it burned in 1979.)

Smith began writing a series of children's stories (the Jolly Good Times series) and historical novels around 1874. Her *Boys of the Border* and *Boy Captive of Old Deerfield* were especially popular.

Two in a Bungalow was a true story written about their family summer in Rowe. Names of the local people

were disguised, but the first initial of the surname was the same and anyone knowing the old names can recognize the people.

The book describes a summer spent in a new bungalow (newly built) on Kings Highway in Rowe (in the book the town is called Pisgah). The story follows the Strong family making their way from the train station in Zoar to unpacking and furnishing their new vacation spot, the writing is descriptive and entertaining. Each chapter regales the adventures of her two grandsons, Royal and Fayette (known as Sydney and Clyde). From setting off fireworks to picnics on Pulpit Rock each chapter makes one fall in love with this town a little more.

For me, the last chapter was poignant. The description of packing up of the bungalow for winter and then making their way with their trunks to the station in Zoar to make their way back to Philadelphia. The smell of the air, the sound and sight of Pelham Brook. Their neighbor (who was Julia Browning) gives Mrs. Strong a bouquet of fringed gentians to take with her and her husband picks more along the way to the station. She has Sydney wet her handkerchief to wrap around the stems to help keep them until they are home. It ends with her putting them in a vase and setting them on the mantle in their house in Philadelphia as she dreams wistfully of the magical time in Pisgah and looking forward to their return.



One of the views the Strongs would have enjoyed looking west– Kings Highway



Another view from the same area on Kings Highway

Two in a Bungalow by Mary P. Wells Smith is readily available from Google Books. Download it today for a quick read and immerse yourself in the summer of 1914 in the hills of Rowe.

****Council on Aging-Fall Frenzy ****

In October, the COA held its monthly *Third Thursday Coffee Morning* at the Town Hall with special guest Donna Dusell, the coordinator of the 'Cyber Seniors Program' at Greenfield Community College. Donna educated seniors about search engines, Zoom, Google meet, password protections and more! There is so much to learn about technology and all it has to offer us in our day to day lives so be on the lookout for more technology centered workshops in the future. A huge thanks to BJ Roche for picking up the delicious buns from the Jacksonville bakery and for baking her world-renowned scones for all to share! We also were able to enjoy chocolate zucchini muffins from Diane Parrington, homemade croissants from Kelle Quist and a beautiful healthy option- apple muffins from Susan Tomlinson. Thank you so much to all of you for your time and efforts that are keeping our residents' bellies full and hearts happy.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES (most require registration)

- ❖ **Walking Club** will run each Monday in November starting November 4th at 10am. The walk will be 1-1.5 hours of moderate intensity so make sure to bring good walking shoes. We have done some spectacular walks in Rowe so far- come join us and see what this beautiful town has to offer! Don't forget a water bottle. **MEET AT THE TOWN HALL!** No need to sign up- just show up!
- ❖ **November's Third Thursday Coffee Morning** will take place on November 21st and will bring back our holiday hit from last year—**WREATH MAKING!!** This will be a required sign-up, so we make sure to have enough wreaths for everyone to decorate. Please pre-register with Rachel or Donna at the Town Hall prior to November 7th to save your spot.



- ❖ **BOWLING-** Come bowl away your winter blues! The Council on Aging will host **free** bowling for seniors at the Shelburne Falls Bowling Alley (self-transportation or transportation with a friend required).

Starting on Thursdays, December 5 and December 19, from 3 to 5 p.m. If enough people are interested, we'll throw in some pizza and we will keep the program going through the winter. Required sign up by November 30. Call Assistant Town Administrator Donna Butzke at Town Hall, or email BJ Roche at roweroche.bj@gmail.com



- ❖ **HOLIDAY LUNCHEON: December 13th from 12-2 at the Ashfield Lake House- RSVP is required with Donna at the Town Hall by December 3rd.** Please let us know of any food allergies, whether you may need a ride or are willing to give a ride to others

Walking Club- fall foliage

submitted by Rachel Lewis



On Veterans Day, November 11 at 11 am, there will be a Veterans Day program in front of the Rowe Town Office. It will take place near the Veterans memorial. The program will honor Rowe Veterans as well as Veterans everywhere for the dedication and service. Please join us for this program.



photo by Meredith Sokol

PELHAM LAKE PARK NEWS



photo by Stephen Provost

Introducing our New Park Manager!

Please join us in welcoming Briel Gibson as our new Park Manager! For the past five years, Briel has worked for the Department of Conservation and Recreation gaining valuable experience in maintaining park facilities and trails, supervising staff, and effectively communicating with the general public. Her hands-on management style, passion for park management, and commitment to forest stewardship will continue to enhance our beloved park.

Starting the first week of November, Briel is excited to meet our community! Feel free to stop by and introduce yourself.

submitted by Hannah Poplawski

Park Department Boat Rack

Use of the Park's boat rack at the Pelham Lake Dam is by lottery and is available for use in the late spring. A date for submitting your request to the lottery will be announced in the March Goal Post. The Park Department requests that all boats currently on the boat rack be removed and taken home for the winter. We would like the boats to be removed by November 30, 2024. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

submitted by Laurie Pike

3rd Annual Fall A Palooza

The third annual Fall A Palooza event was held on Sunday October 20th in Rowe.

The day began with a historic talk at the West cemetery given by Dana Williams from the Rowe Historical Society. Information about residents and their history was shared.

At 12 noon there was a Mac and Cheese Bake off with 9 entrees. Town residents also baked treats to share. The Rowe Camp and Conference Center had the chapel set up and decorated to house all the contestants and food. A photo booth was also on the stage for anyone to use. Outside of the chapel there were lawn games. The town library was set up with all kinds of crafts for everyone to participate in. There was also a decorate your own cookie table. The park across the street was the site for the scarecrow contest which attracted many scarecrows small and large.

The mac and Cheese prize went to the chef from the Rowe camp, Dan Ross. The scarecrow contest had two winners, the Lane family for the giant horse and the Rowe school for the group of 7 in a row.

The event was a great success, fun was had by all, and the weather was perfect.

A big thank you to the Planning Committee that works to bring the town so many community events. A special shout out to The Rowe camp and Conference Center for providing staff, decorations, use of their chapel, all the coffee and treats as well as fun crafts. Another shout out to the Historical Society that works with us in their programming.

And lastly a huge shout out to all the wonderful residents and guests that bake, send decorations, help plan and attend these events.

If you want to be apart of the planning and implementing of our town wide events, see Donna at the Town Hall.

We hope to bring this event back next year! Perhaps a soup or appetizer theme????



COPD- what is this acronym??

submitted by Rachel Lewis, Town Nurse

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder or more commonly known as 'COPD' is a group of lung diseases that includes emphysema and chronic bronchitis. This group of lung diseases causes damage to the lungs, clogging them with phlegm and making it very difficult to breathe. COPD is one of the leading causes of death in the United States. It usually does not become noticeable until after the age of 35 and people are usually not diagnosed until after age 50. Smoking and air pollution are the most common causes, but nonsmokers can also get COPD. In about 1% of people with COPD, the condition is genetic and results from a gene change passed down in families.

➤ **Symptoms of COPD include:**

- ☐ Coughing, sometimes with phlegm, Wheezing
- ☐ Shortness of breath, especially during mild activity
- ☐ Fatigue
 - Frequent respiratory infections

➤ **Treatments**

There is no cure for COPD, but symptoms can be improved, and disease progression can be slowed with:

- ☐ Avoiding/quitting smoking and exposure to air pollution
- ☐ Getting vaccines to prevent infections
- ☐ Medicines
- ☐ Oxygen
- ☐ Pulmonary rehabilitation
- ☐ Rescue inhalers
- ☐ Inhaled or oral steroids

You can find more information here: [https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/chronic-obstructive-pulmonary-disease-\(copd\)](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/chronic-obstructive-pulmonary-disease-(copd))

TRUNK OR TREATING



photos by Julie Moran



DECEMBER 8, 2024
4PM - 6PM



FROST & FLANNEL



Rowe Town Social

Tree lighting with a holiday sing-a-long at the Town Hall. Then warm up with refreshments, games and crafts for all ages to follow in the chapel.



Help Wanted!!!

Do you like gardening? Do you like weeding and watering plants? Then we have the position for you!!! The Rowe Beautification committee welcomes new members to assist with beautifying Rowe. Please join an enthusiastic group of gardeners with your creative ideas and gardening expertise. Please call Cyndie at 413-339-4231 to become a Rowe Beautification Committee member today!

Submitted by Cyndie Stetson

November Birthdays

- 1 - Jaxson Crowningshield
- 4 - Io Sokol
- 5 - Sue Alix Williams
- 5 - Julie Moran
- 6 - Teddy Balawick
- 8 - Taylor Bailey
- 9 - April O'Leary
- 10 - Margorie Morse
- 11 - Kimberly Gabert
- 12 - Ronan Tanner
- 12 - Slade Tanner
- 13 - Mike Bradley
- 14 - Dennis May
- 15 - Cindy Laffond
- 17 - John Baldwin
- 17 - Brian Crowningshield
- 19 - Preston Duval
- 21 - Gabriella Larned
- 22 - Madison Baker
- 22 - Nicole Wisley
- 24 - Tim Snyder
- 25 - Emma Shippee
- 28 - Spencer Laffond
- 29 - Diane Parrington
- 30 - Laurie Pike

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

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 | Tues-Thurs 8am-1pm |
| Board of Health | 105 | boh@rowe-ma.gov | Tues-Thurs 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 |
| Public Safety Adm | 115 | publicsafetyadmin@rowe-ma.gov | Mon, Tues, Thurs 8:30-3:30 |

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

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

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

| 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

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Any articles received after this time cannot be guaranteed that
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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.