



Volume 44

Issue 5

Established 1975

THE
Rowe Goal Post
May 2025



Spring beauty

photo by Claudine Poplawski

Assessor's News

Submitted by Rick Williams

Projected FY26 Tax Rates and Average Single-Family Tax Bill

Projected tax rates and resulting average single-family tax bill—should all articles pass at the **FY26** Annual Town Meeting—are provided below. Prior years' figures are listed for comparison. Rowe utilizes a split tax rate to shift some of the tax burden from Residential to Commercial-Industrial-Personal taxpayers. The split tax rate is determined by selecting a Minimum Residential Factor (MRF). The MRF is selected by the Board of Selectmen with input from the Board of Assessors at the Classification Hearing in the Fall.

FY26 projections are based on last year's total town property valuation of \$501,314,792. FY26 is an Interim Update Year and real estate property values are expected to remain fairly stable. FY26 projected tax rates are based on a presumed maximum allowed MRF shift of **0.5**.

	<u>FY23</u>	<u>FY24</u>	<u>FY25</u>	<u>FY26</u> (projected)
Tax Rate - Residential	\$5.18	\$5.01	\$5.14	\$5.19 (+1.0%)
Tax Rate - Com/Ind/PP	\$9.48	\$10.18	\$11.01	\$11.21 (+1.8%)
Avg Single-Family Tax Bill	\$1,370	\$1,355	\$1,468	\$1,482 (+1.0%)

Note: To calculate your estimated **FY26 tax bill**, divide your property's total valuation by 1000, then multiply by projected FY26 residential tax rate above. Your current property valuation can be found on your FY25 tax bill or from the FY25 property value listing on the Assessor's page on the town website (rowe-ma.gov).

Recent Property Transfers (March 2025)

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

- CARON, MARTHA of Colrain, MA for consideration of \$30,500.00, grant to PROPERTY ADVANTAGE, INC of Shrewsbury, MA, property located at 285 Zoar Road (Map 203 Lot 4) (Bk 8465 Pg 263)

- ADAMS, HERBERT M. III and HAWKINS, MARTHA S., TRUSTEES of Alice Adams Nominee Trust of Rehobeth, MA for consideration, of \$1.00, grant to ADAMS, HERBERT M. III and HAWKINS, MARTHA S., tenants in common of Rehobeth, MA, property located at 85 Middletown Hill Road (Maps 202 Lots 6, 62, 67, 68 & 71) (Bk 8466 Pg 132)

Town Clerk News

submitted by Kevin Balawick

The focus of this month's town clerk article will be the upcoming Annual Town Election. The Annual Town Election is scheduled to take place on Saturday, May 17th, from 10 am - 2 pm at the school. **If you prefer to vote by mail, ballots must be requested in writing.** Applications for vote by mail are available on the town website, on the town clerk page and outside the town clerk's office. If you email me or leave a message on my voicemail I can mail you the vote by mail application. Applications for vote by mail should be mailed to the town clerk or placed in the dropbox outside the entrance to town hall by 5pm on Monday, May 12th.

All vote by mail ballots must be received by the town clerk's office by the close of polls at 2pm on Saturday, May 17th in order for the ballots to be accepted.

The following offices and candidates will appear on the ballot, all terms are for three years unless otherwise noted.

Board of Assessors

Herbert Butzke (i)

Board of Health

Kathleen Atwood (i)

Board of Selectmen

Edward Silva (i)

Marilyn Wilson

Cemetery Commission

James H. Williams (i)

Finance Committee

Jeff Bailey

Edward Silva

Library Trustee (2 years)

Dianne Parrington

Moderator

Bob Clancy (i)

Park Commission

Arik Olson

Planning Board (1 year)

Margaret Pallotta (i)

Planning Board (5 years)

None

School Committee

Matthew Stine (i)

Board of Health May News:



The **2025 Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Guide** was inside the Thursday, April 17 Greenfield Recorder, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Athol Daily News, and Amherst Bulletin; and online at: <https://tinyurl.com/RRRN-2025> The 32-page guide is specific to Franklin and Hampshire Counties and is chock full of local, current recycling and disposal information. Find Rowe's info on page 29 and 30!

Regional Repair Event May 31st 9 am – 1 pm

The Franklin County Solid Waste District is working in conjunction with the Franklin County Tech School to host a repair event on Saturday, May 31st from 9 am to 1 pm at the Franklin County Tech School, 82 Industrial Blvd. in Turners Falls.

This event is free and open to all residents residing in solid waste district member towns. Those towns are Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Rowe, Shelburne, Sunderland, Warwick, Wendell, and Whately.

A combination of Tech School students and instructors plus other "fixers" will help residents with small electrical repairs, such as rewiring lamps. The Tech School will also offer a sharpening service for knives, scissors, tools, chainsaws, and lawn mower blades. Fixers are being sought to provide small repairs to furniture, such as gluing and clamping broken chairs and other small wooden items.

There is no registration for this event. More information will be available in the coming weeks at franklincountywastedistrict.org or by calling 413-772-2438

There will be a "Clean Sweep" Bulky Waste Recycling Day on: May 17, 9 am – 12 noon

The three collection locations are:

- Erving Highway Garage on Public Works Boulevard (off Rt. 2 across from Erving Police Station)
- Mohawk Trail Regional School at 26 Ashfield Rd. (Route 112 South), Buckland
- Whately Transfer Station at 73 Christian Lane in Whately

*****For more information, please call the Board of Health office (413-339-5520 x105). Flyers are posted at the Town Hall, Library, Rowe Elementary and the Refuse Gardens.**

The BOH wishes you all a happy and healthy Spring!

Submitted by Christine Bailey

Bunnies and Blooms 2025

On Saturday April 19th approximately 40 children along with grandparents, parents, family and friends showed up at Pelham Park for our 3rd annual Bunnies and Blooms Event. This was the first year that the event was held at Pelham Park and the response was positive.

Children were divided into three groups for egg hunts according to their age range. Children 4 and under found eggs hidden all over the beach area, children 5-9 were able to hunt eggs on the other side of the beach and our oldest were given a scavenger hunt with clues to follow around the trail near the beach.

The Rowe camp and conference center supplied homemade treats as well as drinks under the pavilion. Egg toss games as well as races using donated eggs were also played with prizes for all.

The Town Event Planning Board would like to thank everyone that participated in making this event so successful!



Town Mosaic Project



Our Town Mosaic is currently being designed. **Thank you** to all of our residents who submitted their ideas! We have incorporated many of your ideas and hope everyone gets a chance to work on this mosaic. Look for dates starting in June for work times. The mosaic will be available to work on at the library, COA events, Summer Social event as well as other places. We hope to get as many residents as possible to work on the project. Our goal is to hang it on Town Hall for all to admire. We are so excited to work as a community to complete this!



TANGLEWOOD

WHEN: SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2025

**PICK UP BY BUS FROM TOWN HALL AT NOON-
DROP BACK OFF AT TOWN HALL AROUND 7PM.**

WHERE: LENOX, MA- LAWN SEATS WITH SHED
WHO: YO-YO MA, FAMED CELLIST (FEATURED
PERFORMER)

TRANSPORTATION: BUS TRANSPORT INCLUDED
FROM TOWN HALL

COST: \$50-- ONLY 12 TICKETS AVAILABLE!

HOW TO: PAY BY CHECK TO DONNA BUTZKE AT
TOWN HALL- FIRST COME FIRST SERVE!

Hosted by the Rowe COA



Rowe artist awarded 2025 Creative Individuals Grant

Dana Wilde is a mixed media artist devoted to creativity as a healing force and spiritual practice. Improvised drawing, handwriting, and collage are her primary forms; photography, printmaking, and sculpture sometimes get involved. She is an avid journal-keeper who has filled around 140 notebooks cover-to-cover. She also crafts supportive experiences for people seeking to rewild or reawaken their own natural creativity through her teaching and sessions.

Best known for her Northampton exhibits of her Spirit Portraits body of work and "inner portraits" sessions (2000s-10s), her Easthampton art & teaching space INNER STUDIO (2015-2019), and playing drums for the indie rock band Ex-Temper (2016-2023), Dana Wilde has been making an artistic imprint on Western Massachusetts for over two decades.



Untitled #12



Untitled #34

Artist's Statement on recent/new projects 2022-2025:

DECONTEXTUALIZED is a collection of 40 (and counting) abstract yet evocative collages, most of which were created inside a small 5x7-inch sketchbook at a small desk in a small room inside my friend's small single-wide 1980s mobile home in a trailer park. The transparency and decay effects from the medium/technique that I use – and the fractured, puzzle-like nature of collage itself – interact meaningfully with aspects of my recent lived experiences of liminal spaces and loss/change plus other subjects I'm always immersed in as a writer, artist, and avid journal-keeper: fragmented memory, integration of exiled parts of self, aging/time, dream imagery, post-disaster ruins, and overlaps of past/present to name a few. During this same period, I've started writing a memoir, with a thematic thread following the potent presence of the arts and creativity (especially my journal-keeping habit) in my life including why I was blocked and how I got unblocked.

**Rowe School's "That's A Cool Job!" Day
returns on Wednesday, June 5th!**

Right now, you're asking yourself, what is "That's A Cool Job!" Day? It's an opportunity for you, or someone you know, to share with the Rowe Elementary School students what your job is, why you love it, and what makes it interesting. Our students know about some jobs through television, films, and books, or from what their parents, guardians, or other family members do for a living. But the world is a big place, and so much is changing in terms of jobs and careers right here in our area that it would be valuable for our kids to learn more about what is out there.

What we're planning for that day is a "Science Fair"-style set up in the Rowe School gym, where each person/business would get a table and chairs (if they need them, along with electrical availability). The students would come through by class, 20-30 minutes each, to interact with as many presenters as they can in that time. We encourage you to bring handouts and/or giveaways, and make your presentation as hands-on and/or interactive as possible, but primarily, it should be interesting to elementary students. We've had musicians, boatbuilders, potters, and police officers in the past, your participation would add to that list of cool jobs. What you say or demonstrate to a preschooler would have to be different than for a 6th grader, but if you communicate WHAT your job is, WHY you love your job, and what makes it interesting to YOU, that will resonate with students of all ages.

The tentative schedule for Wednesday, June 4th will be:

Set Up 12:30-1:00 (earlier if necessary)

PreK-K visit 1:00-1:30

Grades 1/2 Visit 1:30-2:00

Grades 3/4 Visit 2:00-2:30

Grades 5/6 Visit 2:30-3:00

If you want to participate, or know someone who might, please fill out the form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScCbQxS4-kn8VDDdWU0jf_wqWP8H2CfX-e7kvDWKxYM937gX2FQ/viewform?usp=sharing. If you have any questions, please call or email me (413-512-5101 or wknittle@roweschool.org). We hope you will consider participating in this day, which will be fun for you and for the students. If you know of a business that you think would be interesting to Rowe students, please pass this information on to them, or let me know, and I'll contact them.

submitted by Bill Knittle

ROWE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



April at the Rowe School usually means three things: family conferences, lots of work in and out of the classrooms, and vacation. Conferences were three days in early April this year, and were well attended. Many of the conferences in the 3/4 and 5/6 classes were student-led, where the students shared their progress and interests. All the classes have been working on a variety of academic and artistic projects, I encourage you to check out the Rowe School Community Facebook page for so many great pictures of the students and their work. The classes are getting outside as much as possible, especially the 3/4 class in their outdoor classroom at the top of the hill behind the school. MCAS started in April, as did baseball at Hawlemont. We had a visitor join us with a portable planetarium, which was very cool. Also visiting in April was Annawon Weeden, our guide to learning about local Indigenous People, past and present. He has taught, sung, and danced with each class. We demonstrated what we've learned in an interactive and educational performance featuring Annawon and all of our students on Monday, April 28.

May will mean more schoolwork, inside and outside the school. Both the 3/4 and 5/6 classes will continue the MCAS tests with Math tests in May, and the 5th grade will also take the Science MCAS. The Rowe 5th and 6th grade class will be visiting Washington, D.C. this year. Town Meeting is happening on Monday, May 12. Every year we appreciate the support shown by the Town of Rowe for the school at Town Meeting, allowing us to offer a high-quality academic, social, emotional, and physical education to the Rowe students. If you have questions on the budget before Town Meeting, please call me at the school.

Before you know it, June will be here. We will be having some of our traditional end-of-the-year activities like the Talent Show and Field Day. Graduation is scheduled for Monday, June 16, and the last day of school for students is also that Monday. We're already looking forward to, and planning for, the 2025-2026 school year. If you have questions or concerns, please call me at 413-512-5100. You can also email me at wknittle@roweschool.org. I look forward to hearing from you.

submitted by Bill Knittle

***** Council on Aging is Springing into Action *****

In April ,the monthly Third Thursday coffee morning played host to our own Henry Dandeneau who captivated the audience with his extensive knowledge and passion for Loons. Some of you may be shocked to know that Loons CANNOT walk on land! Or that the male Loons are extremely territorial and they will fight to the death to protect their nesting ground. Thank you so much Henry for your time and for all you do as a Loon preservation volunteer! Thank you to our lovely Town Administrative Assistant Donna Butzke for her delicious lemon bread and to our wonderful Kelle Quist for her delightful coffee cake that we shared. We look forward to our next coffee morning with you all!

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Walking Club will run each Monday in May starting Monday, May 5th at 10am. The walk will be 1-1.5 hours of moderate intensity so make sure to bring good walking shoes, bug spray and water. MEET AT THE TOWN HALL! No need to sign up- just show up! ** In the case of inclement weather, the walking club MAY be cancelled. Use your best judgement for your own safety**

May Third Thursday Coffee Morning: Will take place on Thursday, May 15th from 10am-12pm. We will play games and have a light-hearted social event this month!

Bowling- Get out of the house and bowl a few strings at one of the oldest bowling alleys in the country. The Council on Aging will host **free** bowling for seniors at the Shelburne Falls Bowling Alley (self-transportation or transportation with a friend required).

Continuing in May -EVERY Thursday from 3 to 5 p.m. For any questions or to be added to the mailing list please email BJ Roche at roche.bj@gmail.com or please see COA facebook page with any updates/changes to plans!

TANGLEWOOD!- The Council on Aging, with support from the Rowe Cultural Council, will host its first-ever senior trip to Tanglewood, the summer home of the Boston Symphony, in Lenox, on *Sunday, August 3*. The featured performer is famed cellist Yo-Yo Ma. We have some tickets left, with priority given to seniors, including a bus from Town Hall, which will leave around noon, for a 2:30 performance. We will arrive back in Rowe around 7 p.m.

If you have never been to Tanglewood, this is a great opportunity to visit without the stress of driving or parking. Attendees will be let off at the gate.

These seats are dubbed “lawn plus,” because they enable you to enjoy a picnic on the lawn, but also have shed seats in section 11 in case of rain, or if shade is needed.

You may bring a picnic lunch, or there is a cafeteria and snack bar at the venue.

The tickets are \$50, including transportation. Tickets will be sold first come first served. If you are interested, please bring a check for \$50 to Donna at the town hall- made out to ‘The Town of Rowe’. No cash will be accepted.

Lifepath Grant: The Council on Aging recently received a \$3,000 grant from Lifepath, a Greenfield-based non-profit that provides services for the aging and their families. This grant funded the purchase of a new smart tv for the fitness center, which will enable us to host online workshops and movies, along with a beach wheelchair for Pelham Lake Park, which will enable those with physical limitations to get into the water.

Memory Café and Caregivers Support Group: The Shelburne Senior Center is offering two helpful resources for residents who are caring for seniors. The Memory Café is held on the third Friday of each month, (May 16) from 12 to 2, and offers a healthy lunch, a speaker or entertainment, and camaraderie for seniors and their caregivers. Also, the center offers a Caregiver Support Group on the first Monday of the Month, (May 5) at 2 p.m. Both of these resources are offered for free, and the center requests that you sign up a day or two ahead of time by calling 625-2502.

Summer Social Cake Picnic: Start your mixers! Plans are moving forward for the second Rowe Summer Social, at Pelham Lake Park, Sunday, July 13. Last year, visitors to the social raved over all the baked goods everyone donated. This year, the Council on Aging is hosting a “Cake Picnic,” and asking residents to bring a cake to share. We are trying this out after seeing the success of other Cake Picnics in places like San Francisco. Let’s see if we can get a good turnout for Rowe.

SAVE THE DATE for 2 Summer Picnics hosted by the Rowe Park and COA. **July 24th and August 21st** there will be a BBQ with desserts at the Pelham Lake Park gazebo. Please save the date and come join us for lunch, social, and beautiful views! (new/changed dates so add to your calendar)

submitted by Rachel Lewis

Thank You to the Town Events Group – Bunnies and Blooms Was a Springtime Hit!

A big thank you to the Town’s Events Group for organizing and executing the delightful Bunnies and Blooms celebration at Pelham Lake Park on April 19. The event brought families and neighbors together for a joyful afternoon of spring fun, laughter, and connection.

A special thanks goes out to the Park Manager and the Rowe Camp for their exceptional generosity and support. Their contributions helped make the day even more magical, from the blooming decorations to the cheerful activities that kept kids of all ages hopping with joy.

It’s these kinds of community moments that remind us how lucky we are to call Rowe home.



submitted by Justine Krumm

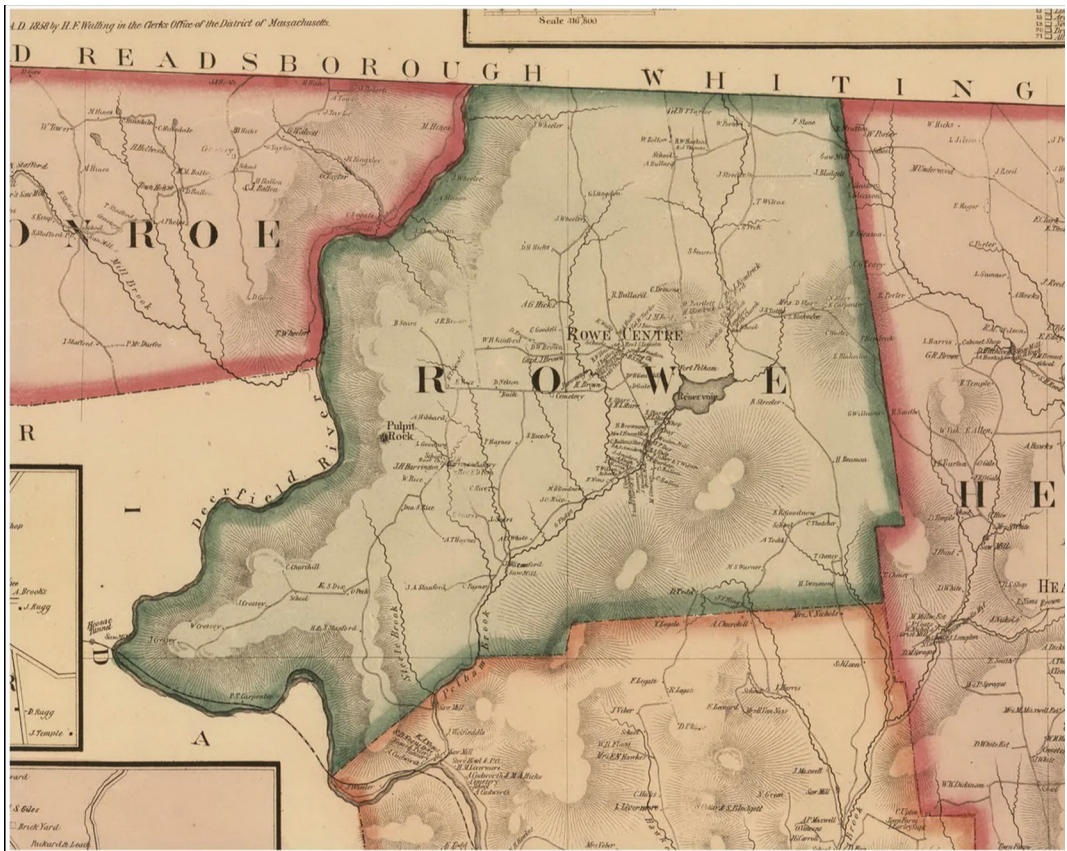
Honoring Rowe's Past, Shaping Its Future Historical Commission Updates By-Laws for Long-Term Preservation

The Rowe Historical Commission is making important strides to strengthen how the town preserves its rich history. At recent meetings, the Commission focused on updating the By-Laws that guide both the Historical Commission and the Historic District Commission.

These updates are designed to ensure that the framework for preservation serves the entire town, not just individual projects. The goal is to create clear and consistent guidelines that balance Rowe's growth with protection of its historic character.

The Commission is also working to expand community outreach and encourage residents to take part in celebrating and preserving Rowe's cultural and historical treasures.

Interested residents are welcome to attend upcoming meetings or reach out to a Commission member to learn more about the process and how to get involved. Rowe Historical Commission (<https://rowe-ma.gov/g/69/Historical-Commission>)



submitted by Justine Krumm

Hoarding Vs. Clutter

Hoarding disorder (HD) is characterized as an ongoing difficulty throwing away or parting with possessions because it is believed that they need to be saved. The thought of discarding items may cause emotional distress. Gradually a person with hoarding disorder keeps or gathers a huge number of items, regardless of their actual value.

Hoarding often creates extremely cramped living conditions with only narrow pathways winding through stacks of clutter. Countertops, sinks, stoves, desks, stairways and all other surfaces are usually piled with stuff. Eventually this may hinder the actual use of the surface (ie. not being able to cook on the stovetop). When there's no more room inside the home, the clutter may spread to the garage, vehicles, yard and other storage areas.

Hoarding ranges from mild to severe and people with hoarding disorder may not see it as a problem, so getting them to take part in treatment can be challenging. But intensive treatment can help them understand how beliefs and behaviors can be changed so that they can live a safer, more enjoyable life.

Clutter is defined as “a large group of usually unrelated or marginally related objects piled together in a disorganized fashion in spaces designed for other purposes (e.g. tabletops, floor, hallway).” While clutter is the most easily visible marker of hoarding disorder, there are many reasons other than HD that a space can be cluttered.

The location of the clutter is also an important factor — it is common for most people to have cluttered storage areas, such as basements and attics. Instead, HD involves clutter that takes over the living spaces of the home (kitchens, living rooms, bedrooms, hallways, etc.) and keeps them from being usable for everyday living – cooking, eating, relaxing, sleeping, moving freely through the house, etc.

Symptoms of hoarding disorder may include:

- ☐ Getting and keeping too many items that you may not have a need for right now and don't have space for.
- ☐ Ongoing difficulty throwing out or parting with your things, regardless of their actual value.

- ☐ Feeling a need to save these items and being upset by the thought of getting rid of them.
- ☐ Building up clutter to the point where you can't use rooms.
- ☐ Problems with planning and organizing.
- ☐ Relationship issues, avoiding social activities and employment problems.
- ☐ Buildup of food or trash to large, unsanitary levels.

Complications of Hoarding:

- ☐ Increased risk of falls.
- ☐ Injury or being trapped by shifting or falling items.
- ☐ Family conflicts, loneliness and social isolation.
- ☐ Conditions that are unsanitary and can be a health risk (can cause salmonella and hantavirus-spread through rodents, respiratory disorders from mold and dust build up).
- ☐ Fire hazards and lack of fire escape during a fire.

If you or a loved one has symptoms of hoarding disorder, talk with a health care provider or a mental health provider with expertise in diagnosing and treating hoarding disorder as soon as possible. As hard as it might be, if your loved one's hoarding disorder threatens health or safety, you may need to contact local authorities, such as police, fire, public health, child or elder protective services, or animal welfare agencies.

Here are some local resources that may be helpful:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/help-for-people-who-hoard>
<https://www.servicenet.org/services/counseling-and-psychiatry/ocd-and-hoarding-disorder-program/>

Facebook group: "Western Massachusetts Hoarding Disorder Resource Network"

References:

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/hoarding-disorder/symptoms-causes/syc-20356056>

PELHAM LAKE PARK NEWS



Pickleball Season Returns to Rowe

photo by Claudine Poplawski

Pickleball is back in action this spring! Organized play began April 28th and will continue until the snow returns. Join in on the fun Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., and Saturday mornings from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Courts are open daily from dawn to dusk, and sports equipment can be borrowed on weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. It's a great way to stay active and connect with others in the community.

2025 Resident Parking Permits Now Available

Planning to spend time at the beach this summer? 2025 Resident Parking Permits and Guest passes are now available for pick-up. These passes are required for parking at the beach area. Stop by the Park office or see Donna at Town Hall to get yours. Make sure you're all set before beach season kicks into full swing—grab your pass and enjoy a relaxing summer by the water.



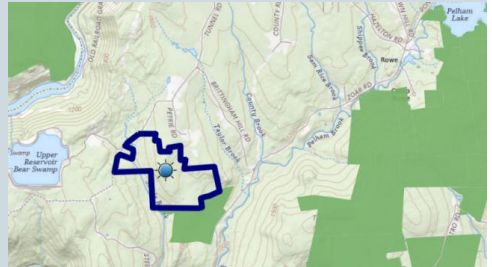
submitted by Briel Gibson, Park Manager

🌿 Help Shape Rowe's Future! 🌿

Town of Rowe Open Space & Recreation Committee - Land Acquisition Effort

The Open Space and Recreation Committee (OSRC) is excited to share an important initiative aimed at protecting more of Rowe's natural resources and rural character for generations to come.

Why This Matters: We are pursuing the acquisition of approximately **178 acres off Tunnel Road** (Map 407 Lot 4 and Map 407 Lot 24) for **conservation and passive recreation (including hunting)**. These parcels abut an existing Town forest parcel (Map 407 Lot 31) across from the Town Refuse Garden. This effort would expand Rowe's protected open space, safeguard vital wildlife habitats, preserve historical remnants (Taylor farm stone walls & foundations) and enhance outdoor recreational opportunities for both residents and visitors.



Once acquired by the Town, this land will be permanently protected under Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution and managed by the Rowe Conservation Commission and maintained by the Rowe Park Commission/Pelham Lake Park staff, ensuring it remains a natural treasure for generations to come.

This Project Will Be Up for Vote at the Annual Town Meeting! Voters will be asked to:

- ✓ Authorize the Board of Selectmen to **acquire the Tunnel Road property** by purchase, gift, or eminent domain.
- ✓ **Approve the Town's pursuit of** Federal, State, and Non-Profit Grant funding to **fully cover the acquisition cost.**



A Smart & Sustainable Investment. Your Vote Matters!

The OSRC has worked closely with trusted partners - **Franklin Land Trust, Berkshire Natural Resources Council, Nature Conservancy and Mass Audubon** - to develop a strategy that prioritizes leveraging outside funding for the acquisition and preservation of this land. **Our goal is to secure 100% grant funding**, thereby eliminating the financial burden on the Town for initial acquisition of the property.

This is a unique opportunity to preserve Rowe's scenic landscapes and strengthen our community's open space for all to enjoy. We encourage all residents to attend the Annual Town Meeting and make your voice heard on this important project.

Want to Learn More or Get Involved?

✉ Email us anytime at: openspacerecreationcommittee@gmail.com

Thank you for your continued support in protecting the future of Rowe's open space and recreation!

Free Tree Identification Walk at Rowe's Pelham Lake Park on Saturday, May 10

Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT) will lead a free tree identification walk at Pelham Lake Park on Saturday, May 10, at 10:00 AM. This informative and engaging event will last approximately an hour and a half and involve slow-paced stops. Participants will be outdoors for the duration of the walk, so appropriate attire for the weather is recommended.

On this guided walk, participants will learn key characteristics of trees commonly encountered in Western Massachusetts. Led by a Berkshire naturalist and tree enthusiast, the walk will include tips and tricks for recognizing tree species throughout the year, regardless of whether leaves are present.

This event, organized in collaboration with the Rowe Parks Commission, is free and open to the public. However, space is limited, so those interested in attending are encouraged to reserve their spot by emailing chelsey@thebeatnews.org as soon as possible. The walk is being advertised to Rowe residents first to allow them the opportunity to attend before others.

For more information or to register, email chelsey@thebeatnews.org.

This tree walk is part of a grant awarded by the Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts to Berkshire Environmental Action Team. BEAT is a 501(c)(3) non-profit based in Pittsfield, MA. They work with the community to protect the environment for wildlife in support of the natural world that sustains us all. To learn more about BEAT, visit their website at www.thebeatnews.org or contact them at team@thebeatnews.org, (413) 464-9402.

The **Rowe Beautification Committee** continues to invite folks to join our enthusiastic group with help for planning, planting, weeding, watering, and decorating our wonderful town. Please contact Cyndie at 413-339-4231 if you are able to assist us. Many hands make light work. Our snowy April made it a bit difficult to have our April roadside cleanup so let's declare May for those efforts. If you're taking a walk or perusing your property line, take along a rubbish bag and gloves and help us clean the sides of the road. Thanks for your part in this activity.

The Rowe Garden Tour is set for Saturday, July 12 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. rain or shine. The tour was so well received and successful last summer that folks would appreciate additional time to view our beautiful Rowe gardens. Therefore, we are setting aside this special day with extra time for viewing. More information to follow. If you would like to be a garden participant, please let Cyndie know. A garden is always a work in progress so whether it has a few weeds or not, we'd love to have you on the tour. Flower gardens, vegetable gardens, lovely landscaping are all a part of the tour. Looking forward to hearing from you.

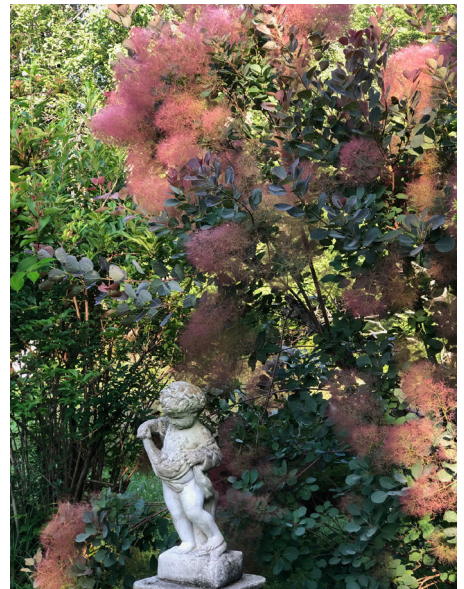


photo by Sue Williams

Vitamin Joy!

submitted by J. S. Krumm

Joy Shared is Joy Multiplied: Views & Volunteer Spirit

One of the things I love most about living in Rowe is how nature and community go hand in hand. Whether you're wandering through the woods or lending a hand at a local event, there's something about giving your attention — to a place or a person — that brings real joy.

Lately, I've been thinking about how simple it is to combine both. For me, it happens on the trail. Each time I hike the Adams Mountain Trail; I find myself pausing at one particular spot — a place where the trees open just enough to give you a sweeping view of the hills. That view always quiets the noise of the day and fills me with gratitude for where we live.

I've felt that same joy in unexpected moments — clearing branches after a storm, picking up stray litter along Davis Mine, or lending a hand with Town events at the Pelham Lake Park. Small acts of giving back offer the same quiet satisfaction as standing on that hilltop, reminding me that each of us helps shape the beauty and spirit of Rowe.

This month, I'd love to invite you to share your own "Vitamin Joy" moment. Whether it's your favorite view, a trail you treasure, or a small way you give back to the town — snap a photo or write a sentence about why it brings you joy.

I'll start with mine: **the view from Adams Mountain Trail.**



Let's inspire each other. Joy is contagious, after all.

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

We are happy to continue to accept donations for the Good Neighbors Food Pantry in Charlemont. Each month our neighbor and friend Walt Quist picks up a box of donations for the food bank. We are grateful to be part of this important mission right here in Rowe. Please feel free to drop off nonperishables at town hall and we will make sure they get to the right place. Thank you for being such a kind and giving community!

SAVE THE DATE!!

**COMMUNITY
YARD SALE
&
CRAFT EXPO**

7 JUNE 2025

1030-1400

Rowe Town Hall
312 Zoar Road, Rowe, MA



Enjoy Small-Town Community Vibes!

Local Treasures and Unique Finds,
Antiques, Local Artisan Displays, Music and
Food.

Library Renovation Architectural Display

Community Resource Information Booths

10\$ Donation for Non-Residents to Reserve Space



**Open To All: Residents
and the Surrounding
Communities**

100% of Donations Support the
Town's Events: Such as Fall-a-
Palooza, Frost 'n' Flannel, Spring
Bunnies, and Summer Social

For More Information Contact
Justine at
tor9feb1978@gmail.com

May Birthdays

1 - Sarah Hettlinger
1 - Laurie Sutherland
2 - Eliakim Simpson
2 - Ashley Boyd
4 - Evelyn Dandeneau
4 - Jennifer Rice
4 - Kelley Prendiville
6 - Caitlyn Semanie
6 - Kelle Quist
6 - Thomas Danek
7 - Morghan Jolly
7 - Morgan Roccio
8 - Lisa Miller
9 - Hailey Larned
11 - William Cowie
11 - Steve Lattanzi
12 - Robert Beaumier
13 - Richard Polhemus Jr.
14 - Timothy Bjork
14 - David Dvore
16 - Sarah Stine
16 - Sierra Upton
16 - Diane Cowie
18 - Jessica Albrecht
19 - Janet Cowie
19 - Camden Cousineau
20 - Deborah Lively
22 - Julie Shippee
23 - Richard Grieco
25 - John Packard
25 - Geoffrey Cirinna
25 - Thomas Houghtaling
26 - Edwin May
26 - Barbara Gottesman
26 - Bill Baker
27 - Jennie Sutherland
27 - Benjamin Sherman
31 - Michael Laffond
31 - Abigail Lively

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	Fri - 12:30pm-3:00pm, & by Appt
Board of Assessors	104	assessor@rowe-ma.gov	Wed-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	by Appointment Only
Public Safety Adm	115	publicsafetyadmin@rowe-ma.gov	M&W 9-12, 4:30-7:30; Fri 7:30-3:30

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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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.