



Volume 44

Issue 11

Established 1975

THE Rowe Goal Post

November 2025



photo by Jon Friedman

Streetlight Conversion Project

To save money and energy the town is working on the conversion of our streetlights from 50w and 100w High Pressure Sodium with a lumen output of 4,000, to LED lightbulbs. National Grid has installed two new bulbs with different LED bulbs for our viewing and ultimately decision on which to change to.

The two LED choices have been installed on Zoar Road in front of the pond near town hall. Please take a moment to drive by and notice the different lighting and if you have a thought or preference let us know at town hall.

Pole 2-Zoar Rd. has a 15W 3k LED- (This pole is directly across the street from the library driveway)

*****Pole3**-Zoar Rd. has **our original 50w High Powered Sodium bulb** that has a lumen output of 4,000. (This pole is the next pole south past the library driveway)

Pole 4-Zoar Rd has a 19w 3k LED (This pole is the next pole south of the library driveway and one up from the Kings Highway bridge)

- The big change as far as esthetics is concerned is that the LED lights are a white-blue light while the High-Powered Sodium lights that we currently have are a warm-orange color. Please keep that in mind as you look at our sample poles.

*The Town of Rowe has **43 active light poles** with **35 currently using 50w** and **8 with 100w**.

*We are currently spending over **\$8,000** a year on streetlights,

*We will be paying **\$5,495.00** when and if we convert the bulbs to LED.

*Our potential total savings would be **\$2698.50** depending on the wattage that we choose. **There is no fee to make this conversion and no fee to replace bulbs.**

***In places where we are currently using the higher 100 watt high pressure sodium bulbs we will be using a 41w LED bulb.

*We are asking for you to notice the current lights that we have and then stop by to notice the poles that are by the pond. We are interested in your feedback before we move forward on the decision. **We plan to move forward on our decision by November 15th.**

Some websites to browse and learn more:

<https://vorlane.com/led-street-light-vs-normal-street-light/>

<https://www.sepco-solarlighting.com/blog/why-hps-and-led-streetlights-differ-and-seeing-the-benefits>

<https://solarledlight.com/led-streetlights-vs-hps-streetlights/>

Open Space & Recreation Plan Extended

This year, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) updated their guidelines for Open Space & Recreation Plans (“Plans”). These changes included the opportunity for municipalities to extend previously approved Plans to ten years rather than seven.

The Town of Rowe’s Open Space and Recreation Committee (OSRC) coordinated with EOEEA and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) to request an extension of the town’s existing Plan. To comply, the OSRC conducted a review of the existing Plan, and as appropriate, revised some of the Plan’s goals and objectives to be consistent with the new, extended timeline. No other changes were made, and the OSRC submitted the updated Plan to the Commonwealth for approval prior to its September 30, 2025 deadline.

With this extension, the town will now be eligible for grants from the Division of Conservation Services through the Plan’s new expiration date in 2034.

Submitted by Amy Trevvett

Town Clerk News

submitted by Kevin Balawick

My office hours are changing to Wednesdays from 5-7 pm and by appointment effective 11/5/2025. I am here to help so please email me and we will work toward a solution to your needs.

Annual street listings (census) will be coming to you in December, along with dog license applications. Please include your email address on your dog license so we can more easily coordinate around rabies vaccines. Your dog’s rabies vaccine must be current in order to get a license.

At the start of January I will prepare nomination papers for anyone who would like to run for office in our May local election. If you have any questions about running for office please reach out.

In July the Town Clerk position will move from being an elected position to one appointed by the Board of Selectmen. If you are curious about the job of Town Clerk please email me, I can tell you first hand it’s a great way to connect to the wonderful folks who live and work in our community. I have truly enjoyed being part of the town hall team and serving the town in this job.

Veterans Day Program

On November 11 at 11 am, veterans and residents are invited to attend a Veterans day program at the memorial in front of the town office. We will celebrate and honor all veterans who have served our country. Cookies and cider will be available following the program. Hope you can attend to thank our Rowe veterans as well as veterans throughout the United States. Veterans can share their stories regarding the service that they performed while in the armed forces.

Submitted by Cyndie Stetson



Rowe Town Library News
Submitted by Molly Lane,
Library Director

HOURS:
Tuesday 10-5
Wednesday 12-8
Thursday 3-7
Saturday 10-3

Library of Things - Tool Lending Library.... Have you heard of these? They are both ways to borrow “things” from the library. We have many items, from small to pretty large, inside use and outdoor use. And we are always looking for suggestions and donations. Stop by to see our collection. Or give us a call to see if we own something you are looking for.

Upcoming September Events:

Kid's After School STEM Program begins on Thursday, November 13th and 20th @ 3:30/4pm - 5pm. Call or email the library to sign up. Kids may take the bus from school to the library on these days. Snacks will be provided.

Monthly Book Chat on Thursday, November 20th @ 5:30pm- Pick up your copy of **The Animal Dialogues: Uncommon Encounters in the Wild** Book by Craig Childs.

Fall centerpieces with Robyn Crowningshield, Saturday, November 22nd @ 11am

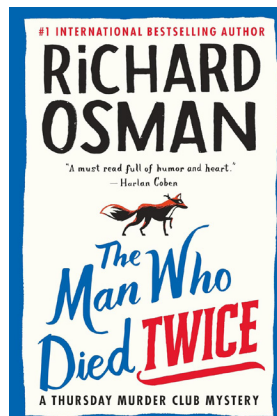
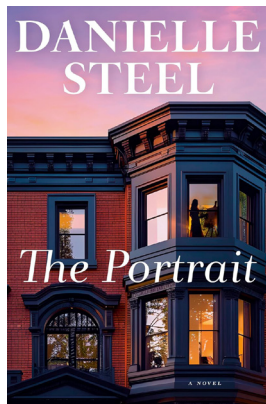
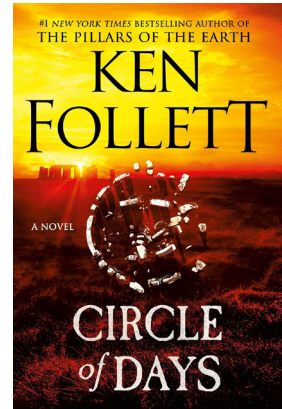
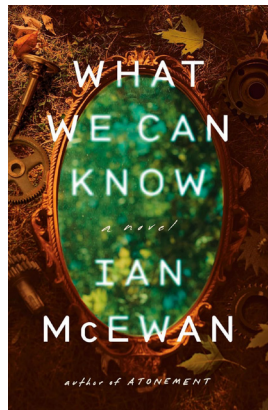
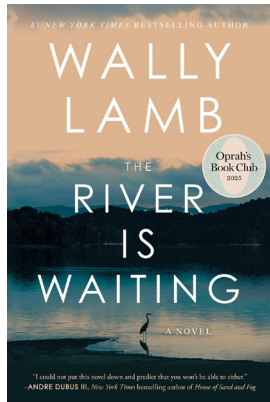
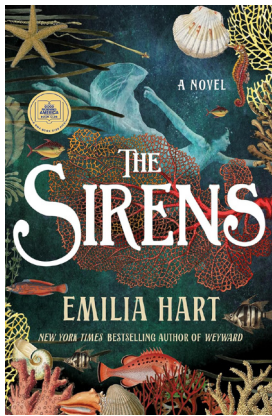
Hours change-

Closed Early for Wednesday Thanksgiving Eve on November 26th @ 3pm

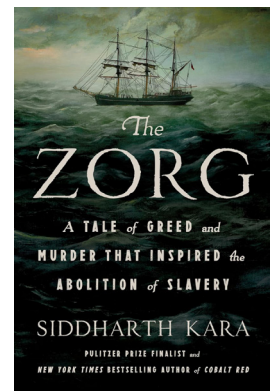
Closed for Thanksgiving on November 27th

Some New Books at the Library

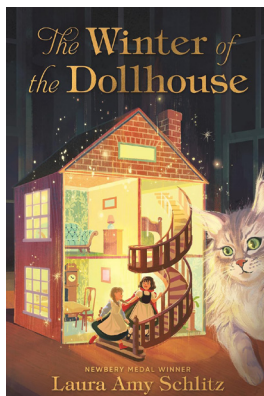
Adult Fiction:



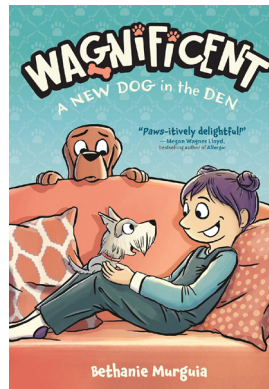
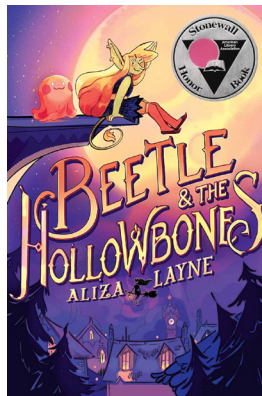
NonFiction:



Kids:



Kid Graphic Novel:



Rowe Town Library Renovations: Building a Library for Everyone

submitted by Library Feasibility Committee

The Rowe Town Library has always been a cornerstone of our community, blending history, learning, and a welcoming spirit. Now, as we move into the final stages of the architectural and engineering renovation design for both the interior and exterior requirements, we are preparing for the next chapter—restoring the library's rich and eclectic past while creating a safe, multi-functional space that serves all Town residents, of every age and interest.

Proposed Design Upgrades Include:

- Full ADA accessibility and upgraded bathrooms
- A new meeting room and multi-functional event space
- Outdoor reading and event areas for all seasons
- More seating and expanded reading spaces
- Upgraded infrastructure for safety, energy efficiency, and cohesion

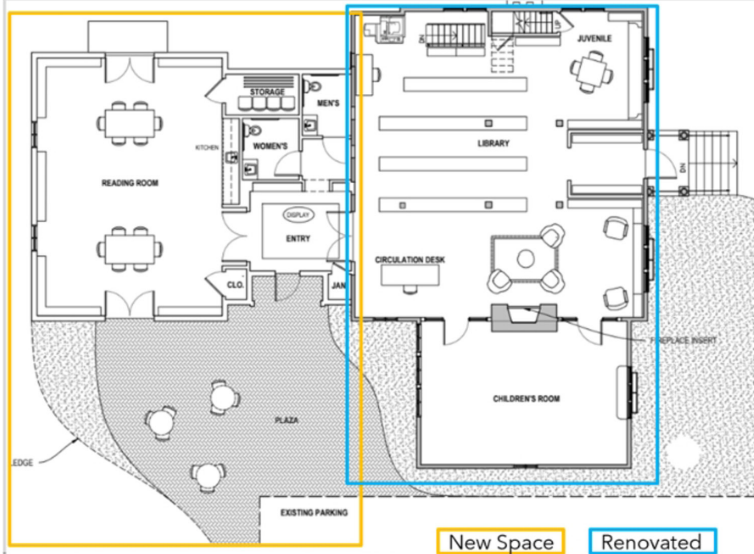
These renovations will ensure the library is more than a building—it will be a vibrant hub where people gather to read, learn, and connect. By investing in accessibility, functionality, and creativity, Rowe is ensuring that the Town Library continues to be a source of pride and possibility for generations to come.

If you have any thoughts or feedback, please stop by and talk to Molly or Abby.





PROPOSED DESIGN



ROWE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



I can't believe October is almost over, it's been a busy month. Just a few short weeks ago the students were all building scarecrows to place near the town hall. If you have driven by there, you may have seen them. October saw students participating in Adventure Day over at Pelham Lake Park where they hiked, worked together building forts, did art in the woods using natural materials and participated in all school activities. Good times were had by all.

Academically, Rowe School was recognized as 1 of only 13 districts out of over 300 in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to reach pre-pandemic levels of performance in both English and Math on the MCAS testing last year. Quite an accomplishment, thanks to the hard work of our dedicated groups of teachers and support staff.

Classes have completed their Benchmark Assessment tests of reading comprehension and reading fluency. 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 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.

Outdoor learning also continues to be a big part of how we engage and educate our students, even as the weather turns colder. Most of the classes have been making regular use of the outdoor classroom, it's exciting to see so much learning going on outside the school building.

Family Conferences happen at the end of the month: parents and guardians meet with the teachers about how we can best help the students learn together, more math, reading, science, social studies, Spanish, art, music, and PE.

The PTP helped organize the annual Tailgate Trick or Treat the Friday before Halloween, followed by a Community Pot Luck. We also had our monthly Community Lunch on October 22nd. The roast pork dinner was delicious. Join us for our next Community Lunch on Wednesday, 11/19, 11:45 - 12:30 where we will have our Thanksgiving dinner of turkey, stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes and cranberry sauce. If you plan to attend, as always, please let Laurie know by Tuesday 11/18 so Kelly can have an accurate count for the meal.

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. Town Nurse Rachel Lewis and school nurse Lydia Brisson organized a flu and COVID vaccination clinic at the School in October, and had solid attendance! It was great to see the school being used for events that support the community again.

I want to share why there has been a shift in the types of photos being shared from the school. We are currently reviewing our digital documentation policy, specifically how student photos are collected, stored, and shared, as well as which devices are used and who has access to them. Several families have expressed concerns about today's digital landscape and the potential for shared images to be misused or manipulated. Our goal is to find the right balance between protecting students' privacy and continuing to highlight the wonderful work and joyful activities happening at school. For now, more photos are being shared directly with families, while we continue to determine the best ways to share these moments with the broader community.

Finally, 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 jfriedman@roweschool.org. I look forward to hearing from you.



Who Haunts Your House?

Submitted by Joanne Semanie

In the spirit of Halloween and Fallapalooza I put together a scrapbook of sorts entitled “Who Haunts this House” with some older photographs of some of the houses in town with people that historically had lived and probably died in their homes. It sounds macabre but I like the idea of someone loving their home so much they stay there until they’ve taken their dying breath. Here are some of the homes I shared.



This house belonged to Ben and Anna Henry. It was built in the 1880s. They owned the store in town and were involved in many ways doing many things. (This house is now owned by Matt Brown)



This was an interesting exercise due to the extensive archive at the museum of photographs of both houses and people.

Maple House, now owned by Mike & Becky Bradley, rented rooms in the late 1800s. Their business did well until an untimely train accident killed them both at the station in Zoar.



J. Frank Brown



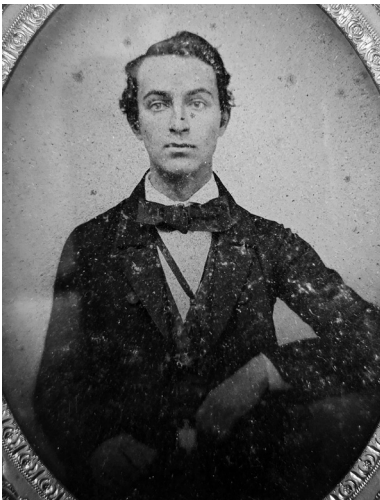
Mary Stockwell Brown



These are the things you learn as you study the deeds and then the people that have historically owned a home.



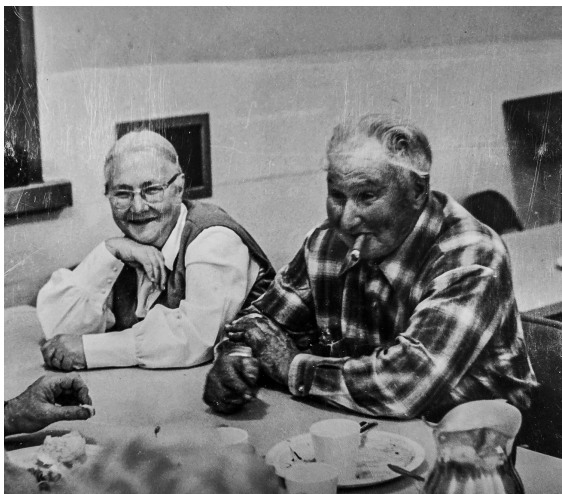
In searching the archives I've found photographs of my home that look much different than the house I'm living in now. What is more exciting for me is not only having a good grasp on the people who have lived there but finding a treasure of a couple of photographs of family members that are so early that they are unexpected.



These are photos of Edward and Hannah Gould Wright taken in the mid 1870s. Hannah was the daughter of Humphrey Gould and kept a daybook of what they were doing on the farm. It abruptly ended when she died in childbirth in 1875. On the day she died Edward entered "Hannah had her baby" in his daybook. About a week later he writes they had found a nurse for the baby. I was so pleasantly surprised to see that Henry Wright at least grew up with a photo of his mother.



The home of Deb & Alice Truesdell (Now owned by Felicity Pickett)



Deb & Alice

Deb in his sawmill





View of Lucy Avery's house (now Henry & Evie Dandeneau)



Lucy (Newell), Creston Avery & Charlie



Lucy Avery

If you have an interest in learning more about the house you live in or the people that came before you contact the museum or me at dogmom256@gmail.com and I may be able to help you learn more and if there are photos of your home's previous owners in our collection. There are also many artifacts from our ancestors here that can be helpful in filling out the life of your house.

Home Heating Assistance- Here's the Scoop!

Staying warm in the winter is important and with high costs, heating your home can be stressful. Both homeowners and renters can use fuel assistance, which pays for *part* of heating costs. As it can take 6-8 weeks to process a no-cost application, it's best to start as soon as possible.

You are eligible for fuel assistance if your household income is not more than 60% of the estimated state median income. For example, that's an income of \$51,777 for a one-person household, \$67,709 for a two-person household, \$99,573 for a four-person household- Income eligibility increases with household size. If your income exceeds these income guidelines, the **Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund** could still help you heat your home this winter. Please visit <http://www.magood-neighbor.org/assistance.html> for more information

Locally, Community Action is the agency that processes fuel assistance applications; more information is available on their website: www.communityaction.us/program/fuel-assistance. You can apply between October 1st and April 30th in person, on the phone (413-774-2310), or online.

Community Action wants people to know:

- ☐ 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
- ☐ Utility companies are not allowed to shut off your gas or electric service (if it heats your home) from Nov 15 – March 15

Community Action has other programs for renters and homeowners, including free energy-efficient and weatherization assessments, as well as programs to fund repairs/replacements of heating systems.

submitted by Rachel Lewis, Town Nurse

**** The Town Nurse still has flu shots available in-office, both high-dose (for over 65 years) and regular dose (for 6 months and older). Please call to enquire. ****

***** Council on Aging heading into Fall *****

The COA was pleased to host Deirdre Gleason from Western Mass Estate Planning in Shelburne Falls during our October Third Thursday Coffee morning! She educated us on all aspects of estate planning and elder law including, wills, trusts, power of attorneys, and masshealth. She sure gave us a lot to think about! A big beautiful shout out to Kelle for her delicious banana muffins and Diane for her delightful blueberry crumble cake.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

WALKING CLUB: will run each Monday in November starting Monday, November 3rd 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**

November Third Thursday Coffee Morning: To be held Thursday, November 20th from 10am-12noon and will be our annual wreath making! Pre-registration was required, but please come and enjoy some coffee and cakes!

SAVE THE DATE AND PRE-REG for the Annual Christmas Luncheon: To be held on Friday, December 5th from 12-2pm at the Rowe Camp and Conference Center. Seniors, **pre-registration is REQUIRED with Donna in the town hall by November 5th** to save your spot!

BOWLING- Bowling has begun again! Each Wednesday from 3-5pm at the Shelburne Falls bowling alley, you can expect to bowl with fellow resident seniors. For now, the cost is FREE! To enquire or get on the mailing list, please contact Stefano at pickleballstefano23@gmail.com

NEW Coffee and Puzzle Weekly Meet-Up: Your COA has been hard at work organizing a new drop-in activity. On the 2nd floor in the Town Hall, outside the fitness room, you will find a coffee/tea station and a puzzle set up and ready to go for you every Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am-12noon- bring a friend or come alone but drop in to add a few pieces in the community puzzle while enjoying a brew.

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, (September 19th) 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, (September 1st) at 2 p.m. Both 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.

submitted by Rachel Lewis

Walking at Rainbow Hill



Walking on Potter Road



photo by Meredith Sokol

Sustainability of Rowe School

DECEMBER 11

5:30-7:30pm

Save the Date!

A Community Meeting will be held at Rowe School regarding options for the sustainability of Rowe Elementary. The purpose of the meeting on December 11 is to inform residents of the current state of their school district and to explore some potential options for Rowe School in the future. A data analysis is currently being conducted by consultants, BERK12. Plan to be part of this important meeting in order to make informed decisions in the future about our school.

November Birthdays

- 1 - Jaxson Crowningshield
- 4 - Io Sokol
- 5 - Sue Alix Williams
- 5 - Julie Moran
- 6 - Teddy Balawick
- 10 - Margorie Morse
- 11 - Kimberly Gabert
- 12 - Ronan Tanner
- 12 - Slade Tanner
- 13 - Michaela Brines
- 13 - Mike Bradley
- 14 - Dennis May
- 15 - Cindy Laffond
- 17 - John Baldwin
- 17 - Brian Crowningshield
- 17 - Skyler Brown
- 18 - David Rancourt
- 19 - Preston Duval
- 21 - Gabriella Larned
- 22 - Madison Baker
- 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	Wed - 5pm-7pm, & 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

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

Published by the Board of Selectmen 'in the interest of information
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.

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GoalPostEditor@gmail.com

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