



Volume 45 Issue 3
Established 1975

THE
Rowe Goal Post
March 2026



photo by Rick Williams

TOWN CLERK NEWS

Submitted by Kevin Balawick, Town Clerk

Town Election – Saturday May 16th 10am-2pm

Important Dates:

Nomination Papers – Available Now

Nominations Papers – Last Day to pickup – Thursday, March 26th 5pm

Nomination Papers Due – Saturday, March 28th 5pm

Last Day to Register to Vote – Friday April 24th 5pm

Dog License Applications – Due March 31st

Offices for Re-Election:

<u>Office</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>
Board of Assessors	3 years	Frederick Williams
Board of Health	3 years	Daniel Poplawski
Board of Selectmen	3 Years	Joanne Semanie
Cemetery Commission	3 Years	Joanne Semanie
Finance Committee	3 Years	Daniel Pallotta
Finance Committee	3 Years	Loretta Dionne
Library Trustees	3 Years	Rebecca Bradley
Park Commission	3 Years	Laurie Pike
Planning Board	5 Years	Margaret Pallotta
School Committee	3 Years	Susan Zavotka
Constable	3 Years	Henry Dandeneau

Assessor's News

Submitted by Christine Bailey

Recent Property Transfers (January 2025)

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

DEEDS RECORDED:

WILLIAMS, NANCY N., FREDERICK N. and ROBERT O. of Rowe, MA and **POLLOCK, SUSAN** of Deerfield, NH, for consideration of \$385,000, grant to **BERNHARDT, WILLIAM J. and SARAH B.** of Ridgefield, CT, property located at 20 Brown Road (Map 202 Lot 52) (Bk 8596 Pg 75).



photo by Nan Williams

**** Council on Aging – Full Steam Ahead****

The COA was pleased to host another beautiful Third Thursday Coffee Morning in February. Residents came to the town hall to enjoy a presentation about the Good Neighbor's Food Pantry in Charlemont with Sheila Litchfield. It was full of fantastic information and opportunity to help your neighbors. Would you like more info? Please reach out to your COA or Town Nurse to learn more. Let's also not forget the chatter with friends, tasty treats, and mosaic making!

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

March Third Thursday Coffee Morning: will be held at the Town Hall on March 19th from 10am-12noon and will host Meg Ryan, RN (FRCOG) who will be speaking to us about Alzheimer's and Dementia.

April Third Thursday Coffee /Happy Hour: will be held at the ROWE CAMP on April 16th from 4-6pm and will include a happy hour wine tasting AND a lecture about white-tailed deer by Henry Dandeneau!

May Third Thursday Coffee Morning: will be held at the Town Hall on May 21st from 10am-12 noon and will include a mystery food event! _

WALKING CLUB: runs each Monday in March starting Monday, March 2nd at 10am. The walk will be 1-1.5 hours of moderate intensity so make sure to bring good walking boots, warm clothes 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**

BOWLING- Bowling continues 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

Coffee and Puzzle Weekly Meet-Up: 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 day the town hall is open. 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 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, 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



Food Pantry presentation with Sheila Litchfield



Working on the mosaic



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 Events:

Soft and Stabby, knit with Abby: Drop-in knitting/crocheting (or other yarn and fiber crafts); Tuesdays from 2pm to whenever. Need some dedicated time to work on those pesky UFOs? Or just looking for a place to craft in company? We're here for you! Bring your projects, we'll provide the tea and coffee. Keep your yarn soft, your hands agile, and your wits sharp!

Homemade Trade Party - Wednesday, March 4th @ 5:30pm,
Must have signed up in February

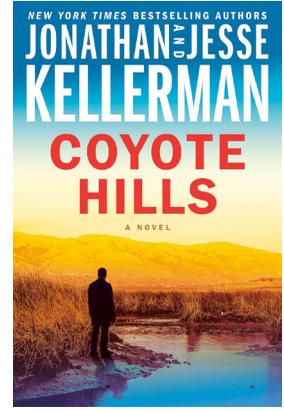
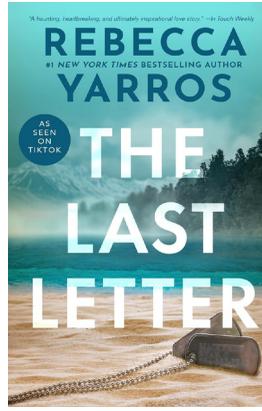
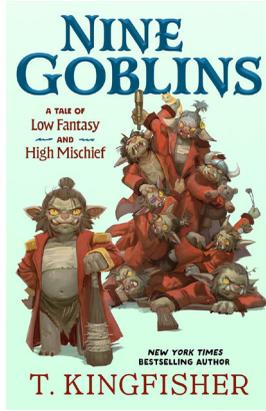
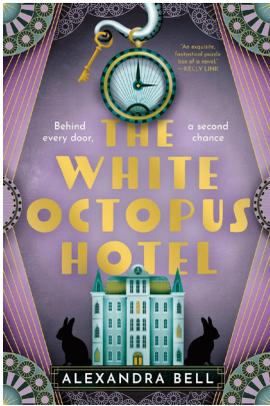
Monthly Book Chat on Thursday, March 19th @ 5:30pm,

Frugal Gardening with Robyn Crowningshield - Wednesday, March 25th @6pm
Please Pre-Register

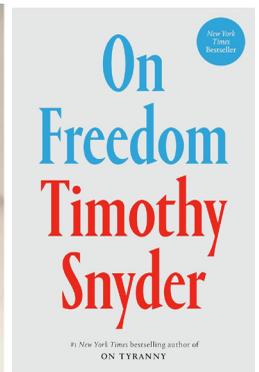
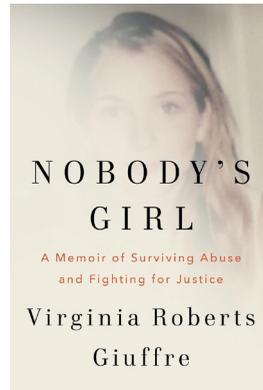
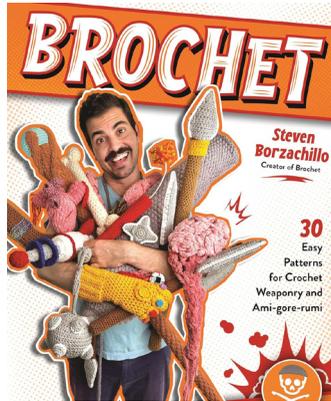
Did you know that we have puzzles all the time? You may stop by the library during any of our open hours and grab a puzzle to go. Bring ones back, swap for new ones, or just grab one, we have them, free of charge and free of due dates.

Some New Books at the Library

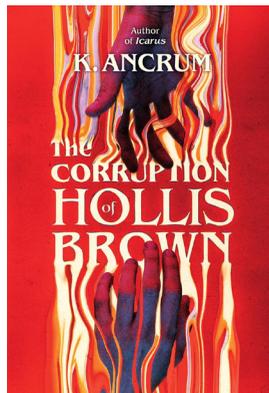
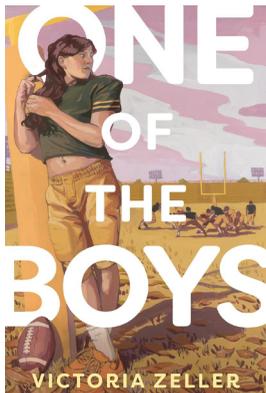
Adult Fiction:



NonFiction:



YA:



YA Graphic Novel:



Kids:



ROWE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Time is flying by. Although February felt like a short month, it was still a very busy time at school. We passed the all important 100 day mark for students, with many students taking part in activities focused on the number 100. The annual Friendship Dance was held by the PTP, the calendar raffle for the 5th and 6th graders took place and a pancake breakfast was held to raise funds for the 5th and 6th graders, a wonderful example of our community coming together to support our students

Students continue to grow through our core programs, Wit & Wisdom (ELA) and Illustrative Mathematics, while also engaging in a rich variety of experiences including music, Spanish, art, forest choice time, band, chorus, and Rising Phoenix Crew. Our third and fourth grade classes were recently awarded a grant and will be working with a Mass Audubon educator to foster curiosity and deepen students' understanding of the natural world.

In early and mid-March, we will begin our cultural study of Costa Rica, followed shortly by the start of MCAS testing season. This cultural learning experience will culminate in our Community Lunch on March 25th, where students will share their learning and showcase their work. The lunch will also feature traditional Costa Rican foods such as rice, beans, pork, and fresh fruit. We hope you will join us for this meaningful and memorable community celebration.

Despite the cold weather, the students have enjoyed spending time outside throughout the winter, with only a few days of extreme temperatures requiring indoor recess. We continue to find ways to blend traditional classroom learning with outdoor experiences to create engaging and productive learning opportunities.

Please also be on the lookout for information about our annual Spaghetti Supper in March as well. This is another fundraising dinner that supports the 5th and 6th grade students' annual adventure experience. This year's trip will be to Kroka Expeditions in Marlow, NH and will occur in mid May.

Every year, each public school and school district in Massachusetts receives a report card. Just as a child's report card shows how they are doing in different subjects, the school's report card is designed to show families how our school is doing in different areas. Here is a link to our school's report: <https://reportcards.doe.mass.edu/2025/02530005>. If you have questions about our school's report card, would like to become involved in school improvement activities, or would like to request information about the qualifications of your child's classroom teacher, please contact me. To see our district's report card or to search for other schools' report cards, visit reportcards.doe.mass.edu.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please call me at 413-512-5100. You can also email me at jfriedman@roweschool.org. And please visit our website, www.roweschool.org. I look forward to hearing from you.

submitted by Jon Friedman

SAVE THE DATES



Saturday April 4th from 10-12noon-

BUNNIES AND BLOOMS- Annual egg hunt and fun at Pelham Lake Park. All are invited...



Saturday July 11th from 2pm-6pm-

SUMMER SOCIAL -at the beach at Pelham Lake Park. Annual barbeque, music and more. All are invited...



These activities are brought to you by the Rowe Planning Group, town employees, residents and departments that care about community!

PELHAM LAKE PARK NEWS



We're pleased to share that the active forest harvest and slash wall construction at the Davis Mine area of Pelham Lake Park are now complete. This work is part of the Climate Smart Forestry project, which focuses on improving long-term forest resilience, and addressing barriers to natural regeneration.

Visitors returning to the area will notice changes in the forest, including downed branches, cut stumps, and the newly constructed slash wall. Smaller branches and woody material visible across the site were intentionally left in place following the harvest and are an important part of how the forest will regenerate and recover over time.

The slash wall encloses an area just under two acres and serves to exclude white-tailed deer, which can significantly limit the successful growth of young trees through browsing. By protecting regeneration from deer pressure, this approach supports a more diverse and climate resilient future forest.

What may appear as “mess” on the forest floor plays important ecological roles. Leaving woody debris on the forest floor helps slow surface runoff, reduce erosion, and retain moisture during rainstorms and spring snowmelt, protecting nearby wetlands and waterways. As downed wood and leaf litter break down, they return nutrients to the soil, supporting forest regeneration and overall ecosystem function.

The slash wall also provides valuable wildlife habitat common to western Massachusetts. Amphibians such as wood frogs, spotted salamanders, and eastern newts rely on moist leaf litter and downed wood for shelter and overwintering. Birds including ovenbirds, wood thrushes, brown creepers, and chickadees forage for insects associated with decaying wood, while small mammals like white-footed mice, chipmunks, and shrews use these structures for cover.

As winter recreation continues, visitors are asked to use caution while traveling through the proj-

ect area. Snow can conceal uneven ground, cut stumps, and woody debris near trails and within harvest openings. Logs and branches hidden beneath the snow may create tripping hazards, particularly for hikers, skiers, and snowshoers. Please move carefully and stay on established trails where possible.

Due to heavy snow cover, project close-out work, that will restore and improve our trail, will pick up again after spring thaw, once conditions are dry enough. We appreciate everyone's patience and care while recreating in the project area, and thank you for supporting forest management practices that promote resilient forests and healthy ecosystems.

We invite you to come and learn more at our upcoming woods walk to tour the slash wall on June 6th at 1 PM (rain date June 13th) at the Davis Mine Trailhead.

submitted by Briel Gibson, Park Manager

Town Awarded Additional Grant Funding to Purchase and Conserve Tunnel Road Property

The OSRC achieved a significant milestone in its effort to acquire the Tunnel Road property for the town. In February, the OSRC was notified that a grant it had applied for in December was approved. The \$75,000 grant was awarded by the Open Space Institute (OSI) as part of their Appalachian Landscapes Project capital grants initiative aimed at supporting "conservation projects that protect biodiversity, enhance resilience and landscape connectivity, retain forest carbon, and foster strong benefits for local communities."

The OSI grant, plus the previously awarded Massachusetts LAND Grant reported in the December *Goal Post* totaled \$233,600. Mass Audubon had previously committed to supplementing other grant monies with funds from its 30x30 Catalyst Fund. Together, these three grant funding sources will cover the full \$305,000 purchase price for the Tunnel Road property, with additional funding from Mass Audubon to cover property closing costs such as appraisal, surveying, etc., all without any cost to the town.

The OSRC extends its sincere thanks to Liam Creegan of the Franklin Land Trust who was instrumental in successfully applying for and receiving the OSI and LAND grant funding, and to Aaron Nelson and Mass Audubon for providing the remaining necessary funds to conserve this land for future generations. Together with Liam and Aaron, the OSRC continues its work to meet the grants' spending and progress timelines and is on track to complete the property acquisition mid-year.

Submitted by Amy Trevvett

Loneliness and Isolation

Loneliness and social isolation are becoming an epidemic in our area, especially among the elderly. Loneliness is the feeling of being alone, regardless of the amount of social contact. Social isolation is a lack of social connections. Social isolation can lead to loneliness in some people, while others can feel lonely without being socially isolated. Researchers have found certain risk factors for social isolation and loneliness including, older adults who live alone, those who have lost a family member or friend, and those who suffer from a chronic illness or hearing loss. Of course, the Covid-19 Pandemic has only exacerbated this growing issue and made social contact more difficult. There is strong evidence that many adults aged 50 and older who are socially isolated or lonely are putting their health at risk. Prolonged loneliness and social isolation have been linked to increased risk for dementia, heart disease, stroke, depression, anxiety, and even death.

The best way to combat loneliness and social isolation is to get connected and STAY connected to community resources, family, friends, and neighbors.

- Reconnect with old friends or concentrate on maintaining existing positive friendships. Try new activities together, go for a walk, have a meal, or even a simple phone call can help stay connected with friends.
- Utilize technology such as phones, computers, internet. If you are unsure about how to use applications or devices- ask someone for help!
- Check on your neighbors. A simple knock on the door to make sure they are doing okay will go a long way. Who knows? Maybe your neighbor has not seen a single human all week or even all month!
- Get involved in your community. Staying active with local resources and organizations can help you stay connected and take part in fun activities. If you are able- consider volunteering in a local organization (such as local councils, at the school, local shelters, etc).
- Stay up-to-date with doctors, nurses, therapists, case managers, and any other care providers who collaborate in your care. Make sure to take care of your physical AND your mental health.

Your local Council on Aging, Library, and Park has many offerings to help get you out and about, socializing, and staying active- see their respective Goal Post pages and/or Facebook pages to learn more about what is going on around town!



Talking Trees

Warming Spring greetings to all! It is a joy to be recently appointed Rowe Tree Warden. I'm excited to support the Select Board and all of the hard work that Lance and the DPW Highway team has undertaken. As roadside trees have aged, many persistent pests and invasive diseases have descended in stiffening and frightful winds that batter all of us. If it feels like trees are having a rough time, you would be correct!

I'm Connie Englert and I'm a MA Qualified Tree Warden and tree nerd. I'm an unpaid volunteer who will provide technical assistance, community forestry support, and collaboration with developing and managing a better path forward to protect and renew our beloved roadside trees. I love the art and science of trees and woodlands, and a special part of this work is engaging with all of you! Working together not only with caring for our struggling trees, but also thinking about how we can plan (and plant!) for our future town trees that make keep Rowe such a special place for the future generations.

What is a Tree Warden? Good question! It all started with MGL Chapter 87 from 1899. It has a wonderful history that requires each town to manage for the "...care, preservation and removal" of trees along town highways. It came from the heartbreaking New England deforestation in the 1830-1860s when nearly 70% of all trees were lost. The political savvy of the New England Women's Clubs, the extraordinary work of Olmsted/Vaux with the City Parks, the City Beautiful movement and the 1893 Columbia Exposition all supported the political will to preserve public shade trees across MA.

Chapter 87 provides a wonderful framework that engages the town and adjoining property owners together to care for trees along roadways and not remove them without thoughtful review. While the Tree Warden is specific to roadside shade trees, I hope to work with any and all on how we can protect, nurture and care for our public trees that such a beautiful, interconnected mosaic that makes Rowe so special.

I'm excited for the hard work ahead! There are many concurrent and often heart breaking forces at play now, whether it's Ash Borer, Pine Bark Beetle, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, and the persistent drought, fierce winds and storms that challenge our trees. Using arboricultural best practice, tree science, and collaboration with all of you, we can find a better way forward to protect our precious viewsheds. Our first work is collect lots of technical tree data and begin to develop a multi-year plan for tree pruning, removal and plantings that will renew our roadsides for years to come, and prioritize our work in a thoughtful, caring and transparent way with all.

You can send a email rowetreewarden@gmail.com or call/text me at 413.337.1913. I will also provide monthly tree nerd items and health updates here, answer any funny questions that come up, and enjoy our many tree stories in the days ahead! See you up in the canopy!

submitted by Connie Englert, Tree Warden

COUNCIL ON AGING EVENT SCHEDULE

SPRING 2026

19

MARCH, 2026

**THIRD THURSDAY COFFEE:
ALZHEIMER'S/DEMENTIA TALK
WITH MEG RYAN, RN**

10AM-12PM ROWE TOWN HALL

16

APRIL, 2026

**HAPPY HOUR AND WHITE-
TAILED DEER LECTURE WITH
HENRY DANDENEAU**

4-6PM ROWE CAMP

21

MAY, 2026

**THIRD THURSDAY COFFEE:
MYSTERY FOOD EVENT**

10AM-12PM ROWE TOWN HALL

**ONGOING
EVENTS**

***MONDAY WALKING: 10-1130AM
(MEET AT TOWN HALL)**

***WEDNESDAY BOWLING: 3-5PM
(MEET AT SHELburnE FALLS
BOWLING ALLEY)**

FOR MORE INFO: CALL TOWN HALL 339-5520

submitted by Donna Butzke

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-Thurs 9:30am-5:30pm
Tax Collector	106	collector@rowe-ma.gov	Mon-Thurs 9:30am-5:30pm
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 3pm-9pm; 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, Jon Friedman	1	jfriedman@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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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.