

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON  
March 9, 2022

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Center, 178 North Main Street, Mechanicville, New York on Wednesday March 9, 2022.

Mayor Butler: Called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

Mayor Butler led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call:	Mayor Butler	Present
	Commissioner Seber	Present
	Commissioner Johnson	Present
	Commissioner Higgins	Present
	Commissioner Hosley	Present

Motion to accept the February 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Commissioner Seber Seconded by: Mayor Butler

AYES: 5                      NAYES: 0

**Commissioner Reports:**

Mayor Butler announced the White Water Derby will be held on Sunday April 3<sup>rd</sup> beginning at 12:00 pm and the committee is very excited to be bringing this event back. He went on to say he had a meeting with NYSEG and when weather permits they will be beginning gas line repairs on the west side of town. He went on to say they will be doing a minor repair on Spring Street next week which will be a one (1) week duration and they are doing high voltage work to use a fill in work for the high voltage guys and he asked the public to be mindful and drive carefully around them. Mayor Butler stated they have a meeting scheduled with the County Sewer District about the re-lining that needs to be done in Mechanicville which is part of a huge project the County has going on, it will go from Saratoga right through the County to the Waste Treatment Plant on Main Street.

Commissioner Seber announced there is a Charter Committee meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 pm at the Senior Center and the meeting will be livestreamed. He stated the Accounts Office will be open on Saturday March 12<sup>th</sup> from 9am-12pm for tax collection as tax bills are due on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Seber announced he received official notification that the City is receiving an \$800,000 grant for water infrastructure and will be used for water main replacement and things along those lines; he thanked Congressman Tonko's office. He went on to say there was a pre-construction meeting and on Monday concrete work for an area in front of the firehouse

and in front of the Community will begin from a grant that the City received last year and once everything was worked out and signed it was too late to start construction so it will begin on Monday and added there will be some disruptions and limited parking on Main Street.

Commissioner Johnson stated there was a question at the last meeting about if there needed to be a bid put out for replacing the lighting with LED and he found out that they are the sole provider and have won the bid for the contract for the past eleven (11) years and they administer the provider until 2025 with NYSEG and since it is sole source it does not have to go out to bid and the resolution is back on for tonight. He went on to say that he is pulling 25-2022 from the agenda because a change needs to be made on it. Lastly he read the treasurers report which will be attached to the minutes.

Commissioner Higgins stated they are going to be working on Spring Street on Monday to take care of the gas and will pave ½ the road and when that is completed they will begin immediately began the west side and will be cold patching every night so the roads won't be as bad as last summer.

Commissioner Hosley stated that Family Day is on and there was a meeting last night where they stated that most of the vendors and food trucks will be back. He stated the Military Banners are going great and they probably have about sixty (60) now so they will be starting in the next sixty (60) days. Commissioner Hosley stated the Senior Center is having a St. Patrick's Day party and as of now there is eighty-eight (88) people signed up which is the biggest number of people they have had there for a party and people are still signing up. He went on to say it will take a lot of work, volunteers, and output from the County which is appreciated and will be a wonderful day. Commissioner Hosley stated the firehouse is going to take the red chair that is located in the lobby and he stated they can take it.

Police Chief Rabbitt gave his report and it is attached to the minutes.

Mayor Butler asked Michelle Duell to come up to present the library report for last year.

Michelle Duell introduced herself as the director for the Mechanicville District Public Library and stated that just like all businesses COVID has created challenges for the Library where they have experienced a sharp decline in the circulation over the past few years but they are slowly coming out of their slump. She went on to give some history of the library announcing they are an award winning library in our community as they have won the Program of the Year award from the Southern Adirondack Library System twice and have received national recognition from the American Library Association for their Farmer's Market and Community Garden. She went on to say that the library was prepared when COVID hit as they installed UV filtration on the HVAC system at the library. She went on to say the Library offers sixteen (16) computer stations as well as the use of hot spots for people to take on vacation with them so they can have access to the internet. Michelle stated many wonderful events took place at the library in 2021, and they were allowed to once again have concerts at Tallmadge Park, she added she knows many people believe the City of Mechanicville puts those concerts on they do not the Library does. She went on to say they also pay for the porta-potty to remain in the park all summer long. Some other things the library has sponsored are: coffee on us at the Park Avenue

Stewarts, bike safety with the Mechanicville Police Department, summer reading, full moon hikes on Zim Smith Trail, Star Wars trivia at the Endzone, wine down with a good book which meets monthly and partners with Dell's for a discount on the chosen wine, photo club, knitting club, mindfulness programs, story time on Tuesday mornings, and food for finds. She stated they have digital collections of Veteran's, Coach Weigle sports, yearbooks, and old newspapers. Michelle went on to say they partner with many organizations to offer a safe place for meetings, trainings, tutoring, and programs. She stated they updated the landscape as well as replaced the original part of the roof on the library which was paid through the savings at the library and no cost to the taxpayers. There is a visual of the statistics attached to the minutes. Michelle Duell announced that they are currently hosting AARP tax services and in April they will be having a reading challenge for children. She went on to say there will be five (5) concerts: two (2) in June, one (1) in July and two (2) in August in which Assemblywoman Woerner was generous enough to give all Libraries in her district additional funding and they are using those funds for the concerts. She stated summer reading events are being planned now and the theme is "Ocean of Possibilities" which will begin the last week in June and runs until mid-August. She stated they went fine free for all books and no longer collects a user fee from anyone outside the district which makes the Library totally free to use. Lastly she announced the Library installed an EV charging station which is the first in our community in which the stations were paid for with a grant and no cost to the community. She went on to say it is not free for users they need to download an app and then they get charged for any electricity they received. She challenged the community to get their library cards and stated out of 4,609 card holders only 3,182 are from the City of Mechanicville. She announced that if anyone in the community has a special skill they would like to share to call her as she would love to have the community involved.

Commissioner Hosley stated that in the past he has not been a big Library visitor but has been over there a few times in the last month and he is extremely impressed.

Michelle Duell stated she is happy to say a majority of the City Council has library cards and she appreciates the support.

Mayor Butler thanked her for everything she does for the community in addition to what she does for the Library.

#### **Public Comment:**

Dave Hicks of 241 First Avenue asked if the cause of the fire on Round Lake Avenue has been determined.

Police Chief Bill Rabbitt stated the cause of the fire results will take a long time before they are determined but he can tell him that it is not suspicious.

Dave Hicks stated by waiting and not going forward with updating the lighting the Council wasted \$400,000 of the taxpayers money. He asked what is going on with the trash collection and why we now have to pay for disposal.

Commissioner Seber stated there are two (2) different contracts which has been this way since 2012 and has been the same price since then. He added in the past County Waste owned the dump so it was all billed the same.

Dave Hicks stated the Saratoga County already went through the City to run the pipe line.

Mayor Butler stated they are not running a pipeline but are re-lining the pipeline.

Dave Hicks asked if they would be tearing up the streets.

Mayor Butler stated they would be tearing up around the manholes and will be fixed and repaired.

Dave Hicks asked what the City was doing prior to signing a contract with Clifton Park for ACO.

Mayor Butler stated they used Clifton Park last year also.

Commissioner Seber stated the rate last year was \$35 per hour.

Darlene McGraw of Halfmoon announced she would be going live. She displayed a STOP Tiz the Law sign. She stated she is speaking on behalf of herself and individuals with disabilities and she is frustrated with municipalities who do not want to listen to her and others. She added the prior Council did not do their jobs and is hoping the new group does a better job. She went on to say in 2014 there was a lawsuit against the City by a resident who uses a mobility device and could not get around. Darlene stated that some of the worst sidewalks are from South Street to Park Avenue and that is Mechanicville's responsibility not New York State's and the sidewalks are awful.

Kim Dunn of South Main Street asked where in the 2022 budget there is a line for the City Charter Review.

Commissioner Seber stated there is no line in the budget.

Kim Dunn asked where the money will come from.

Commissioner Johnson stated they will discuss it when the money is needed.

Kim Dunn asked where the \$238,220 in miscellaneous revenue came from.

Commissioner Johnson stated it was CHIPS money.

Kim Dunn asked where in the budget is the money for the sidewalk program.

Commissioner Johnson stated it was not in the budget.

Commissioner Seber stated there is not a line item but is confident they will have the funds to do it.

Kim Dunn asked where the money will come from for trash disposal.

Commissioner Seber stated he does not know if additional money is needed.

Kim Dunn asked if it is an issue because the bid that was accepted for Twin Bridges did not include disposal.

Commissioner Seber stated those bids were for hauling trash and that is what the bid was based on.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy added that County Waste and Twin Bridges are suing one another in federal court and in the past the trash was always disposed of at County Waste but they are no longer allowing Twin Bridges to dispose there.

Commissioner Johnson added that the money is already budgeted for dumping fees.

Commissioner Seber stated there are two separate contracts.

Tom Mahoney of The Express asked who would call the Clifton Park Animal Control Officer if the City's ACO is unavailable.

Mayor Butler stated he thinks the Police Department receives calls and some people call Public Safety and Pat Bruno's number is in The Express. He added there are things in the contract that they need to talk about.

Commissioner Johnson stated that if people call Pat directly and he doesn't answer his phone that does not mean Clifton Park is automatically called this is when he is unavailable for vacation. He went on to say that just because he doesn't answer his phone that does not mean he is not available.

Marylou Cebula of Lee Street asked if there would be public comment at the Charter Review Committee meeting.

Commissioner Seber stated there would be no public comment but it will be livestreamed. He added it is more of a round table discussion.

Marylou Cebula suggested that with any new charter revision she suggested a section on continuity. She stated the purpose is to basically have an outline for a smooth transition for new Commissioner's coming in. She added the current Commissioner could maintain some sort of overview or outline of daily tasks, weekly, monthly or yearly deadlines that could be handed over.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated she thinks that is a great idea but that is the essence of the Civil Service, civil servants who are there for continuation.

Marylou Cebula suggested that one Commissioner stated he needed a great deal of assistance from his Deputy which ended in a large raise but if the previous Commissioner left more information the Deputy would not need to do that. She asked if anyone in City Hall still works from home.

Commissioner Johnson stated yes and possibly once or twice a month.

Marylou Cebula asked how the office was covered when the employee works from home.

Commissioner Johnson stated there is no coverage and said that since he has been in office the amount of people who go to the office is slim.

Marylou Cebula asked if the employee is able to access City programs from home and asked if it is a City owned or private computer.

Commissioner Johnson stated they are able to access the programs and it is a private computer that the City's IT has done everything necessary to protect it.

Marylou Cebula asked if when a City Official leaves office they are anyway entitled for consideration for consultation for City business.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated they are a private citizen once they leave office but if wanted to work a contract with someone for consulting they could do that.

Marylou Cebula stated in reference to Supervisor of Streets a 426A was never presented to Civil Service. She went on to say this position was put in as a reinstatement when actually it was a new position. She stated she was told there was a job description but has asked and no one has been able to provide a job description to her.

Commissioner Seber stated he sent her fourteen (14) pages of information.

Marylou Cebula stated that information was what the position was based on, Superintendent of Sewer and Streets back forty (40) years ago.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated it is her personal opinion that this is a misunderstanding and Civil Service is using Superintendent and Supervisor interchangeable.

Commissioner Seber stated the transition in the past has always been up to the Commissioner, if they want to help they do and if they don't they don't and he has seen it both ways but there is nothing in writing advising one way or another but it is up to the outgoing Commissioner how they want to handle it.

Marylou Cebula added the Charter could govern that.

Commissioner Johnson stated he thinks it is a good idea but in real life scenarios if someone loses a vote and in mad what holds them to help in the transition to the next person.

Barbara McGuire of South Second Street asked if there is a test for the Supervisor/Superintendent position.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated she does not know the answer, but stated he job description that was provided shows the credentials.

Commissioner Higgins stated he does not believe there is.

Barbara McGuire asked if the bid for Twin Bridges was less because the garbage cans are smaller.

Commissioner Seber stated he does not disagree with her but they are both sixty-five (65) gallon cans and that is what the spec calls for.

Barbara McGuire stated her son has Twin Bridges and his cans are much bigger.

Commissioner Seber stated he has been through this several times and the can is sixty-five (65) gallon but the configuration seems to be different, they are higher but narrower.

Barbara McGuire asked if someone wants an additional can is there an additional charge.

Commissioner Seber stated there was not.

Commissioner Hosley stated it is a lot easier to get a second can but you will never get a bigger can.

Commissioner Seber stated Twin Bridges has been telling citizens if they notice there is extra garbage outside the cans on a regular basis they will bring an additional can. He added he has intervened on a few cases and was able to get additional cans but on the other hand he was unable to get some for others it is basically a case by case basis.

Barbara McGuire asked what the criteria are for working from home and can anyone that works for the City work from home.

Mayor Butler stated that during a storm he has told Gina to not to bother coming in.

Commissioner Seber stated his office does not close his office has too many people coming in and they are not in the position to work from home.

Mayor Butler stated he told Amanda and Gina if the roads were bad in the morning and don't feel safe driving don't. He went on to say they both have the ability to work from home and he does not see the urgency in being in the office.

Barbara McGuire asked if everyone has the ability to work from home.

Mayor Butler stated there are people whose job are strictly from the computer and can work from home but not everyone can.

Barbara McGuire stated if one person is able to do it and there is bad weather then everyone should be able to do it.

Mayor Butler stated that to Commissioner Seber's point people cannot go to his house to pay taxes.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated each office is run by an elected official and it depends who controls the office Commissioner Seber cannot tell Commissioner Johnson what his employees can and cannot do so it is up to the person who runs the office. She read from the employee handbook that "City Hall and its various departments shall remain open during normal business hours including periods of inclement weather".

Commissioner Johnson asked what entails open.

Barbara McGuire stated it is residents physically going to City Hall and access a public official in each office.

Commissioner Johnson stated that is how she read that but he does not agree with that.

Mayor Butler asked when the handbook was written because those are the things that need to be addressed. He went on to say that he asked when he first came in to office about the ability to work from home and he realizes it is not in the handbook but it wasn't pre-COVID either.

Commissioner Hosley stated Public Safety will never be closed due to inclement weather.

Barbara McGuire asked what the status of GAR was.

Commissioner Seber stated he has not seen any numbers yet but they are wrapping up their work and on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of the 25<sup>th</sup> of this month people will be receiving their initial letters telling them what the differences are.

Barbara McGuire asked if there is anyone to advocate for the seniors if they want to challenge their assessment.

Commissioner Seber stated they have not set up any advocacy group to do that.

Barbara McGuire asked if the City could set that up.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated that she agrees that people should have assistance but not from the City because then the City would be challenging itself.



Michelle Duell stated they will assist people if they need it.

Barbara McGuire asked if there were any figures on the flex bus.

Mayor Butler stated he and Commissioner Higgins had a meeting with them but they did not have the figures with them but they did say it was going in the right direction.

Commissioner Hosley stated it is going very well and there is talk of expanding to six (6) buses and going as far as Saratoga Springs.

Barbara McGuire asked who would be paying for this.

CDTA would be paying for it.

Mayor Butler stated there is no expense to Mechanicville at all with the flex bus.

Barbara McGuire stated that everyone would be using it because it is free.

Commissioner Higgins stated around the 1<sup>st</sup> of next month it would be \$1.50 each way.

Mayor Butler stated Mechanicville will be their base and we are going to supply basic maintenance and cleaning of the busses. He added CDTA is willing to pay us and the City will benefit in the long run. It will be minor maintenance like wipes/bulbs but no engine or transmission work.

Dave Hicks stated that if garbage has blown out of the cans they are not picking it up and there is garbage left on the streets.

Commissioner Seber stated he would address that tomorrow.

Darlene McGraw stated that not everyone has internet and some people prefer to go to offices and she feels she is listened to more when she physically goes to the office.

## **Resolutions:**

### **RESOLUTION 13-2022 Light Fixture Contract**

Moved by: Commissioner Johnson

Seconded by: Commissioner Higgins

AYES: 5      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 21-2022 Animal Control Officer Contract with Clifton Park

Moved by: Commissioner Hosley

Seconded by: Mayor Butler

Mayor Butler stated that there are still a few things in the agreement that needs to be ironed out and hopefully after that they will know the best direction to move in.

AYES: 5      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 22-2022 Sidewalk Program

Moved by: Commissioner Seber

Seconded by: Mayor Butler

Commissioner Seber stated that he is leaving it vague at this point because the last time they did this program the length was four (4) years and the interest rate was at 3% or 4% but with the economic situation right now the interest rates need to be looked into.

AYES: 5      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 23-2022 Gerald Castertino Temporary Full-Time Officer

Moved by: Mayor Butler

Seconded by: Commissioner Seber

AYES: 5      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 24-2022 Trash Disposal Bid

Moved by: Commissioner Seber

Seconded by: Commissioner Johnson

AYES: 5      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 25-2022 Budget Amendment REMOVED

RESOLUTION 26-2022 Payroll and Vouchers

Moved by: Commissioner Johnson  
Seconded by: Commissioner Higgins

AYES: 5      NAYS: 0

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Butler announced he received an email from the State stating they will begin construction on Route 4 in the summer of 2022 and will be completed by the winter of 2022. He added they were surveying today he believes it is from Best Avenue and go to parts of Ted Bailey's hill. He added they provided the construction schedule but no details as of yet.

OLD BUSINESS:      None

Close Meeting: 7:12 P.M. (Went to Executive Session)

Moved by: Mayor Butler  
Seconded by: Commissioner Hosley

AYES: 5      NAYS: 0

Meeting Adjourned: 7:34 P.M.

Moved by: Mayor Butler  
Seconded by: Commissioner Higgins

AYES: 5      NAYS: 0

# February 2022 Report

February 1, 2022 - February 28, 2022



## Warrants

### Active Warrants

46

### Cleared Warrants YTD

71

## EMS/Fire

### EMS/Fire Calls

71

### EMS/Fire Calls YTD

135

## Arrests

### Monthly

31

### YTD

78

### Total Incidents Month

443

### Domestic Incidents Month

30

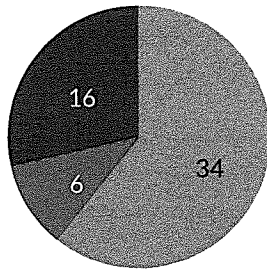
### Total Incidents YTD

892

### Domestic Incidents YTD

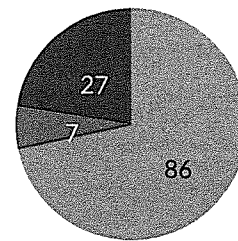
54

## MONTHLY ARREST CHARGES 56

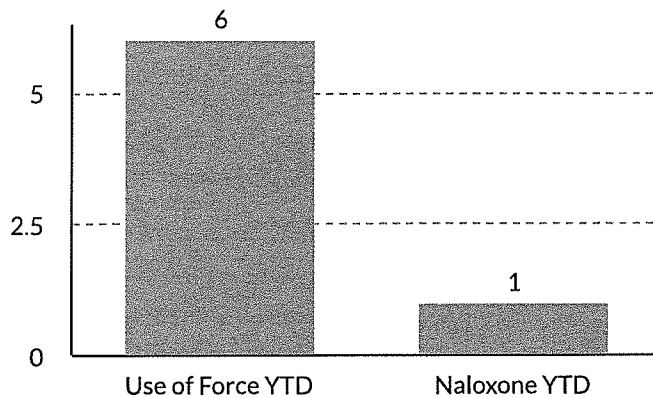


Misdemeanor (60.71%) Violation (10.71%)  
Felony (28.57%)

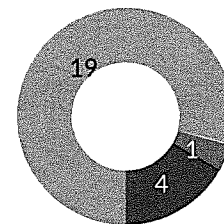
## YEAR TO DATE ARREST CHARGES 120



Misdemeanor (71.67%) Violation (5.83%)  
Felony (22.5%)

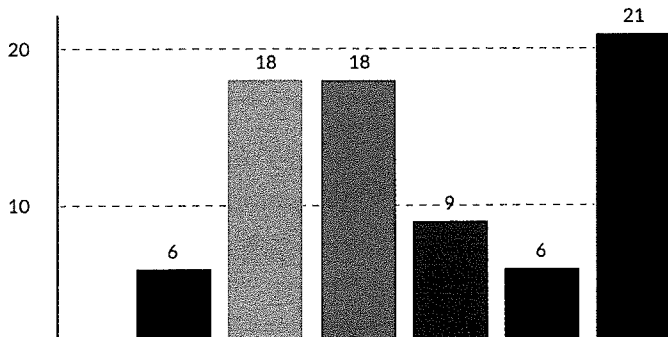


## YTD TRAFFIC CRASHES

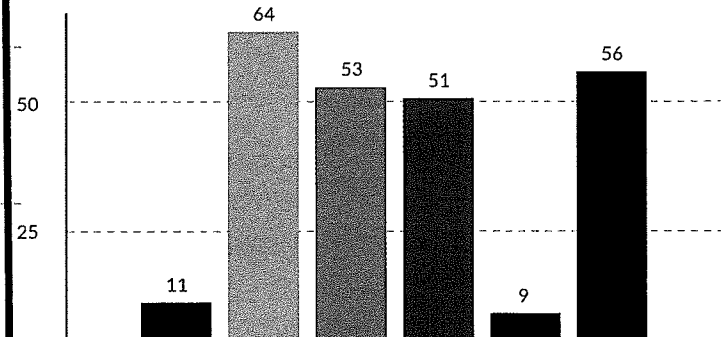


PROPERTY DAMAGE (79.17%)  
PERSONAL INJURY (4.17%)  
HIT AND RUN (16.67%)

## MONTHLY TRAFFIC TICKETS 78



## YEAR TO DATE TRAFFIC TICKETS 274





## REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY

MECHANICVILLE DISTRICT PUBLIC

# LIBRARY



**58,015**  
VISITORS

Wifi



**1,495**

TIMES ACCESSED

eBook



**8,349**

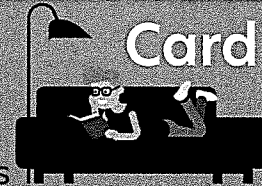
DOWNLOADS

### Highlights

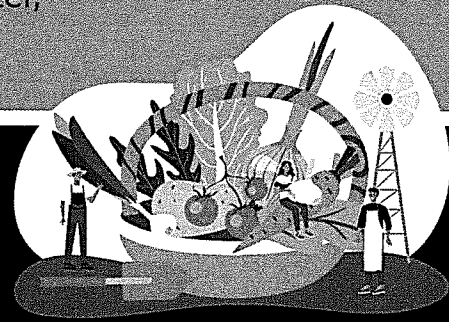
Sponsored 4 concerts in Tallmadge Park, Summer Reading, Farmers Market, space for groups to meet, partnerships with the Community Center, Chamber, City Hall, and Police Dept

Card Holders

**4,609**



## HOW WE GOT IT DONE IN 2021



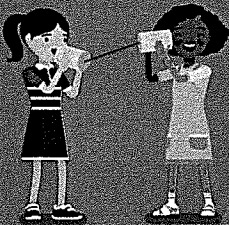
Programs

**186**

PROGRAMS

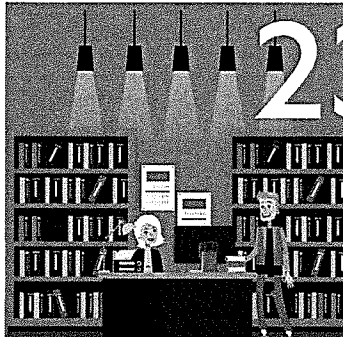
**3,133**

ATTENDANCE



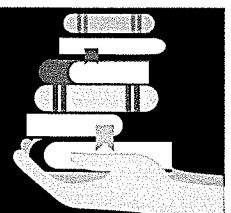
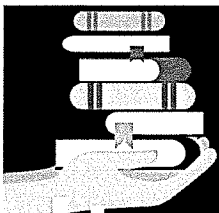
**23,803**

Items  
Borrowed



**58,085**

Items in the Collections





- 190 N Main St
- 518-664-4646
- MecLib.Sals.Edu



**Register for all programs online or by phone!**



**Story Time Tuesdays – Introduce your child to the library with other children, stories songs & their first crafts! All ages welcome!**

**Saturday, March 5: Paint A Pic (K-6) All supplies included. 12pm – 1pm**

**Monday, March 14: Build Your Own Leprechaun Trap for Children of ALL ages. 5pm – 6:30pm**  
**OR**  
**Wednesday, March 16: Return on Saturday 3/19 to see who's caught one!**

**Wednesday, March 16: Social Security Claiming Strategies for 2022. 6pm – 7pm**  
**Garrett Jackson: The Spirits of Nature/ Guided Shamanic Journey. 6:30pm**

**Saturday, March 19: Check your Leprechaun Traps! St. Patty's Day Story Time. 11:30am**

**Monday, March 21: Crochet & knitting – All skill levels/ages welcome! 6-7:30pm**

**Friday, March 25: Angels – with Christine Bisceglia**

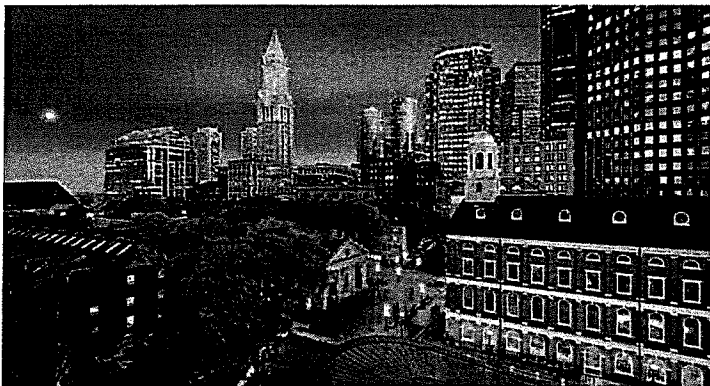
**Monday, March 28: Spring Art Night – Phase 1: Marbled Paper. All ages! 5:30-6:30pm**

**Wednesday, March 30: Game Night! Come hang out with MHS Principal Mr. Mitchell! 5-7:30pm**

**Boston Bus Trip!**  
**Saturday, April 30, 2022**

**Tickets \$52/ea**  
**Sold at Mechanicville Library**

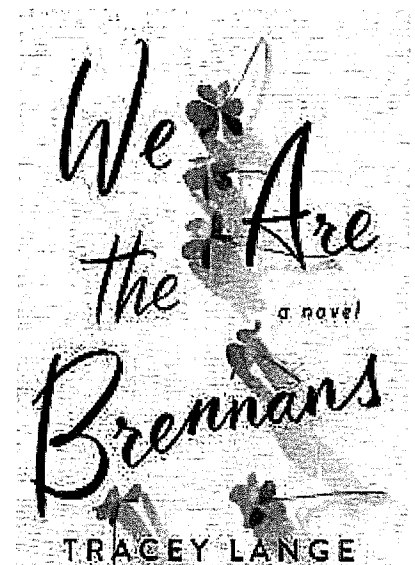
*All ages welcome!*



**March Book Club:**  
**Monday, March 28 @7pm**

Copies available at the  
Circulation Desk & on Libby.

**VISIT**  
*Del's*  
**FOR THESE  
DISCOUNTED WINE  
PAIRINGS**



# City of Mechanicville

## Treasurer's Report for the Month of February 2022

	General Fund	City Clerk	Payroll	Capital Fund	Escrow Account	Central Ave Drain
Balance 2/1/22						
Checking	1,957,542.82	0.00	1,082.93	1,460,363.00	12,409.98	0.00
Petty Cash	400.00					
<b>total</b>	<b>1,957,942.82</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,082.93</b>	<b>1,460,363.00</b>	<b>12,409.98</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Added Cash Receipts:						
Taxes, Penalties & Interest	985,314.54					
School Taxes & Penalties	16,137.06					
Water & Sewer Revenues	7,172.94					
Sales Tax	62,581.00					
State Aid and Grants	7,569.81			23,340.00		
Interest					0.48	
Transfers	0.00		172,007.23			
Capital Projects						
BAN/Bond Proceeds						
Other	36,236.63	441.00				
<b>total Cash Receipts</b>	<b>1,115,011.98</b>	<b>441.00</b>	<b>172,007.23</b>	<b>23,340.00</b>	<b>0.48</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Less Cash Disbursements:						
Payrolls	172,007.23		172,016.37			
Warrants	680,504.37	441.00		13,828.46		
Debt Service Payments						
Transfers						
<b>total Cash Disbursements</b>	<b>852,511.60</b>	<b>441.00</b>	<b>172,016.37</b>	<b>13,828.46</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Book Balance 2/28/22	2,220,443.20	0.00	1,073.79	1,469,874.54	12,410.46	0.00
Less: Deposits in Transit	115,561.75	0.00				
Bank Balance 2/28/22	226,767.06	441.00	6,380.08	243.06		
Bank Balance 2/28/22	2,331,648.51	441.00	7,453.87	1,470,117.60	12,410.46	0.00