



CITY OF MOUNT DORA™

City of Mount Dora
W.T. Bland Public Library
1995 N. Donnelly St.
Mount Dora, FL 32757
352-735-7180

E-mail: library@cityofmoundora.com

W.T. BLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

Community Room, W.T. Bland Public Library, 1995 N. Baker Street, Mount Dora, FL 32757
November 10, 2025 at 5:00 PM

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Minutes
 - A. October 13, 2025 Library Board Meeting Minutes
- IV. Public Comment
- V. Presentations
 - A. Holiday 2025 Programs
- VI. Library Director's Report
- VII. Action Items
- VIII. Discussion Items
 - A. BookPage Magazine
 - B. Review of Collection Items
- IX. Future Meeting Dates
- X. Adjournment

NOTICE: Please note that, for purposes of Section 286.011, Florida Statutes, two or more members of the City Council may be present at this meeting, and this meeting may be considered a City Council meeting.

NOTICE: If any person decides to appeal any decisions at this meeting with respect to any matter considered, such person may need a record of these proceedings. For such purpose, a person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

NOTICE: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) and Florida Statutes, Section 286.26, persons with disabilities needing a reasonable accommodation to participate in a public hearing or meeting should contact the City of Mount Dora’s ADA Coordinator at least 48 hours prior to the proceeding. The ADA Coordinator may be contacted by phone at 352-735-7126, ext. 1111, or by email at clerk@cityofmoundora.com.

If hearing impaired, telephone the Florida Relay Service numbers (800) 955-8771 (TDD) or (800) 955- 8770 (Voice) for assistance.

If you have any comments or question regarding the contents of this agenda packet, please call LaJun Garry at(352) 735-7180 ext. 3101.



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**W. T. BLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
W.T. Bland Public Library, 1995 N. Donnelly Street, Mount Dora, FL 32757
Monday, October 13, 2025 - 5:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Cathy Gillespie (Chair), Laura Busch, Marcia Ford, Janet Manchon,
Susan Myers

ABSENT: Beth Sharpe (Co-chair), Amber Perretti

CITY STAFF: Cathy Lunday-Library Director, Sarah Feller-Deputy Director, and LaJun
Garry-Administrative Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT: None

I. Call to Order

Ms. Gillespie (Chair) called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

II. Roll Call

III. Approval of Minutes for September 8, 2025

**MOTION by Ms. Manchon SECONDED by Ms. Myers to approve minutes from
September 8, 2025.**

AYE: Gillespie, Busch, Ford, Manchon, Myers

NAY: None

MOTIONED CARRIED 5-0

IV. Public Comment

None

V. Presentations

Archivist Ms. Erin Creel gave a brief Archives update on Histories & Maps of Mount Dora.

VI. Library Director’s Report

Ms. Lunday shared:

- Promotions at the library. Ms. Sarah Feller – Deputy Director and Ms. LaJun Garry – Administrative Coordinator.
- Currently interviewing for Part-time Children’s Library Assistant II position.
- Oxford Advisory Group has expressed a role in sponsorship here at the library.
- Review of August 2025 Stats and Lake County Library System year-end stats as a whole.
- Retail value of donated items added to our collection in 2024-25 was \$49,855.
- Vacancies coming up for Library Advisory Board.

VII. Action

None

VIII. Discussion Items

A. Publishers Update

Deputy Director Ms. Feller shared that our biggest book vendor Baker & Taylor plans to shut down. The owner had hoped to find another way forward for the company after its acquisition deal with ReaderLink was called off. We currently have shifted/transferred all other collection purchases to our remaining vendors. Discussion ensued.

B. Review of Collection Items

None

IX. Future Meeting Date

1. November 10, 2025 @ 5:00pm

X. Adjournment

MOTION by Ms. Myers, SECONDED by Ms. Ford to adjourn the October 13, 2025 meeting.

AYE: Gillespie, Busch, Ford, Manchon, Myers

NAY: None

MOTIONED CARRIED 5-0

Meeting adjourned.



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E-mail: library@cityofmoundora.com

DATE: November 10, 2025

TO: Library Advisory Board Members

FROM: Cathy Lunday, Library Director

SUBJECT: BookPage Magazine

Introduction:

BookPage is a monthly subscription magazine that is sold to libraries for distribution to library patrons.

Discussion:

The Library has subscribed to *BookPage* since XXXX, with 100% of the subscription price sponsored (reimbursed) by the Mount Dora Library Association. *BookPage's* webpage describes itself thusly:

For more than 35 years, *BookPage* has been a trusted source for book reviews, recommendations and author interviews. Our monthly book review and recommendation guide, available in both print and digital editions, reaches a nationwide audience of more than 400,000 avid readers through our 3,500 subscribing public libraries and bookstores.

BookPage remains one of the W.T. Bland Public Library's most popular free materials, and when its shipment is even a day past the first day of the month, patrons complain about its absence. The Lake County Board of County Commissioners recently received a system-wide complaint about *BookPage*, as has the Sumter County Board of Commissioners. Those complaints are attached for discussion purposes.

Budget Impact:

n/a

Strategic Impact:

n/a

Recommendation n/a

Attachment(s):

1. ATTACHMENT #1 - BookPage A
2. ATTACHMENT #2 - Bookpage B

Prepared by: Cathy Lunday, Library Director

Reviewed by: Cathy Lunday, Library Director

Final Approval - 11/5/2025

ATTACHMENT #1

Note: Received by the Lake County Commissioners and County Manager on 10-27-25

Dear Commissioners,

I'm asking you to cancel the county's subscription to the book review magazine BookPage, which the library system spends thousands of our tax dollars on for an annual subscription.

This woke monthly publication, which has multiple copies available at each library to encourage patrons to pick them up and take them home, specializes in recommending books that push LGBT, DEI, CRT, pro-abortion, anti-Trump and witchcraft themes, and it demonizes parents who want to shield their children from pornography as “book banners.”

Citrus County decided last month (September 2025) to cancel its BookPage subscription, and we should do the same. A couple of the reasons given by Citrus County commissioners for canceling it is the fact that less than 40 percent of library systems in the nation subscribe to it, and that many more online book review sites are available for patrons to check out for free at the library or at home. They can even check out BookPage's free online website if they really want to.

While not every book recommended in BookPage is overtly political, the books that do have a political bent are invariably left-wing. The magazine never recommends a book by a conservative author such as Ben Carson, and its reviews and interviews with authors drip with scorn and contempt for conservative and Christian values, which are often labeled "transphobic," "racist," and "authoritarian."

Sadly, BookPage's prominent place in the library amounts to an endorsement by our county library system of its far-left views, and the magazine's recommendations create a demand by patrons for the library to purchase the very books it recommends.

So I'm urging you to please cancel the BookPage subscription at your next meeting.

Thank you, and I look forward to your response!

Gail Carlins

Villages-News.com

NEWS

Residents object to 'left wing' publication available through county libraries

by **Marv Balousek**

October 29, 2025

BookPage Magazine, a publication displayed at public libraries, caught the attention Tuesday night of Sumter County commissioners.

After two public forum speakers criticized the magazine for highlighting inappropriate books, commissioners agreed to write a letter to the Friends of the Library requesting its removal.

Robin Craig said BookPage highlights books about transsexuals and other topics.

Anita Lowe said she objects to the availability of the publication in county libraries, adding that it has “a political bent to the left wing.”

Lowe said another county recently cancelled its BookPage subscription.

Offered free by many libraries, the 30- to 40-page monthly magazine is divided into sections including romance, mysteries, audiobooks, children's, young adults and mysteries. It highlights two to four new releases in each category.

Each month's issue also includes an author interview. The October issue features spooky books for adults, teen witch books and books for National Hispanic Heritage Month.

County Administrator Bradley Arnold said the magazine is provided by Friends of the Library, a volunteer organization, and the county's only authority is to decide whether to remove the organization from the libraries.

He suggested that the women who object to BookPage join the group to provide guidance.

Commissioners also heeded a request from another public forum speaker to name a road after conservative political activist Charlie Kirk, who was assassinated.

They plan to consider the request at a future meeting.

Commissioner Andrew Bilardello suggested that a portion of Powell Road could become a memorial highway for Kirk. The road's official name and addresses would stay the same.

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