

# Pamunkey Regional Library (PRL) System

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Presented to Hanover GOP

May 11, 2023

Author: Christy Schumacher [crschumacher@gmail.com](mailto:crschumacher@gmail.com)

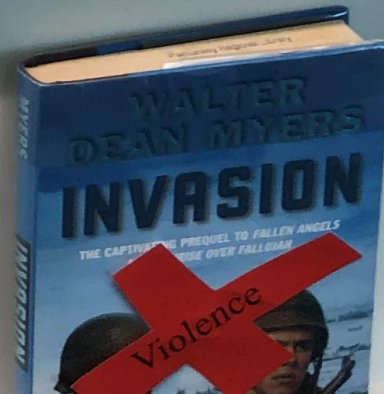
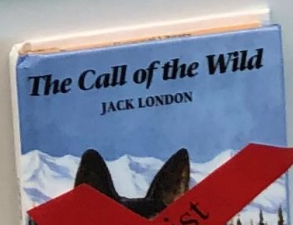
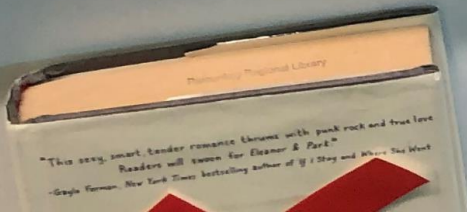
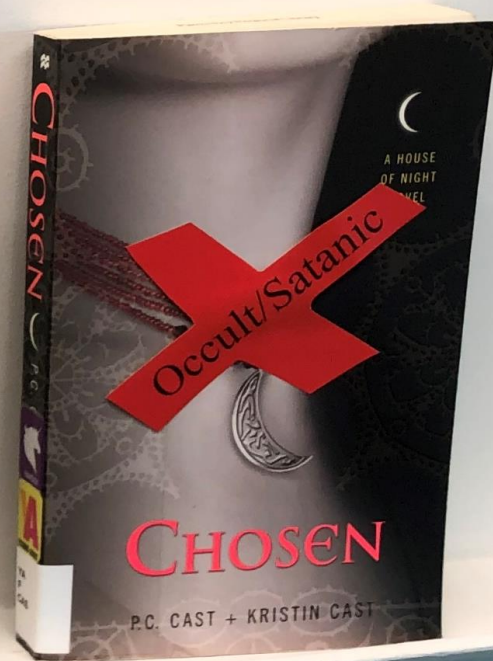
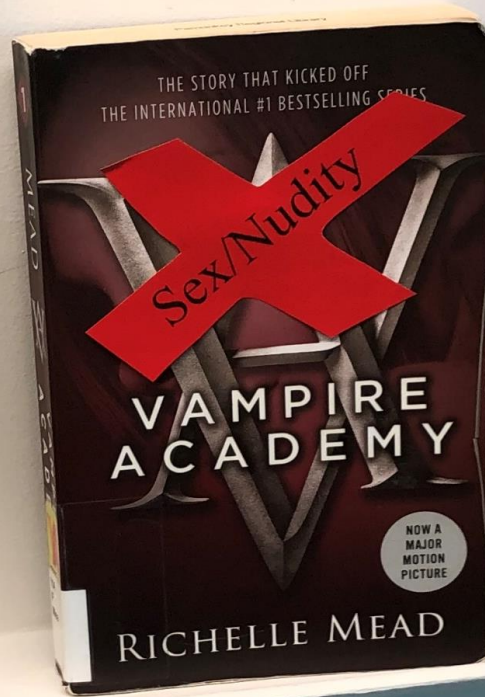
How It Started:  
Inappropriate  
Display for  
Minor Children

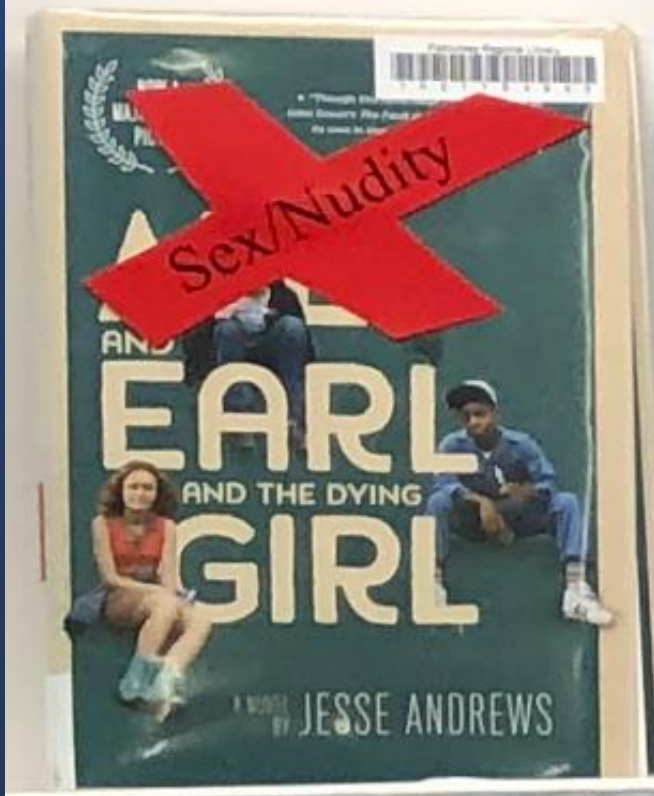
# Atlee Library – Young Adults Section- September 2022

## Banned Books Week



Check out!  
Learn why we were banned!



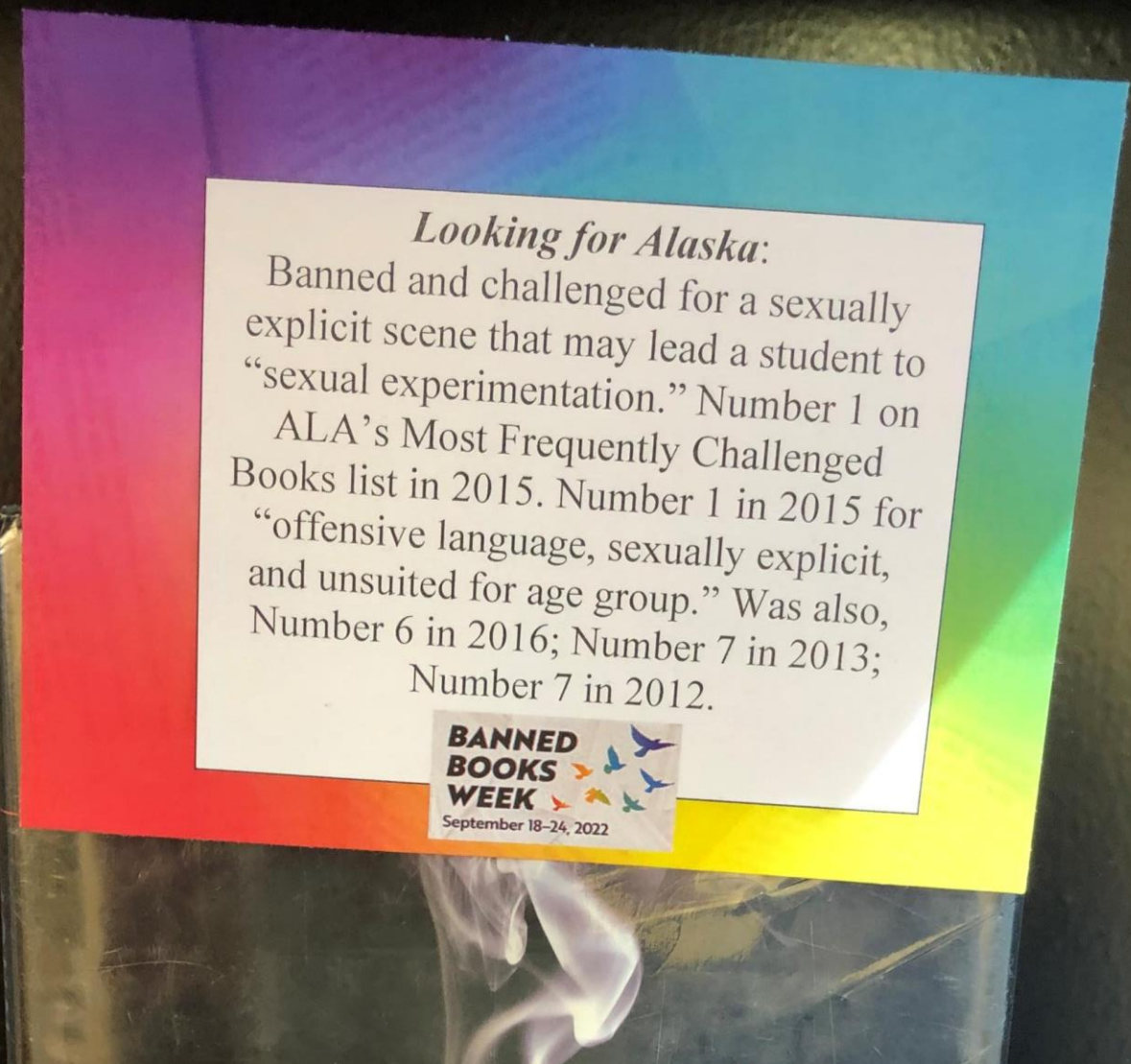




# Meanwhile in the Adult Section - Atlee Library

September 2022

Topics - Back to School Time: Pickup A New Skill or Hobby  
& Food Glorious Food (Cookbooks)



Mechanicsville Library – Sept 2022  
[Banned Books Week](#)

# Banned Books Week

[Banned Books Week | October 1 – 7, 2023](#)



Home About Latest News Promotional Tools Events Virtual Read-Out Videos Resources

f t v p i

# TOP 13

## MOST CHALLENGED BOOKS OF 2022

ALA.ORG/BBOOKS

Navigation arrows: < >

**Mark your calendars:**

# TOP 13

## MOST CHALLENGED BOOKS OF 2022

The American Library Association tracked **1,269 challenges** to library, school, and university materials and services in 2022. Of the **2,571 unique titles** that were challenged or banned in 2022, here are the top 13 most challenged.

LET FREEDOM READ

Helpful Resources For Reviewing Books:

[www.ratedbooks.org](http://www.ratedbooks.org)

[www.betweenthebookcovers.com](http://www.betweenthebookcovers.com)

[www.booklooks.org](http://www.booklooks.org)

American Library Association (ALA) uses the words “banned” and “censored” to illicit an emotional response from people. In reality, there are no banned or censored books today. There are many places where books can be loaned or purchased. Even in their own documentation they often interchange the word “challenged”. This means, in most cases, that a book was challenged because its content is not appropriate for the Young Adult (YA) section (13-18 years old).

1



**GENDER QUEER**  
by Maia Kobabe  
**REASONS:** LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit

2



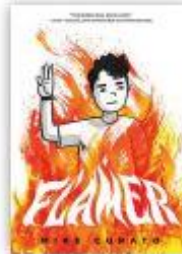
**ALL BOYS AREN'T BLUE**  
by George M. Johnson  
**REASONS:** LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit

3



**THE BLUEST EYE**  
by Toni Morrison  
**REASONS:** rape, incest, claimed to be sexually explicit, EDI content

4



**FLAMER**  
by Mike Curato  
**REASONS:** LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit

5



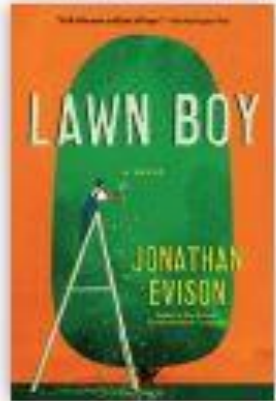
**LOOKING FOR ALASKA**  
by John Green  
**REASONS:** claimed to be sexually explicit, LGBTQIA+ content



**THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER**  
by Stephen Chbosky  
**REASONS:** claimed to be sexually explicit, LGBTQIA+ content, rape, drugs, profanity



7

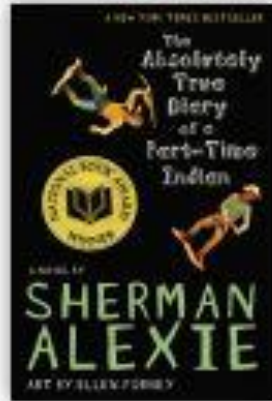


**LAWN BOY**

by Jonathan Evison

**REASONS:** LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit

8

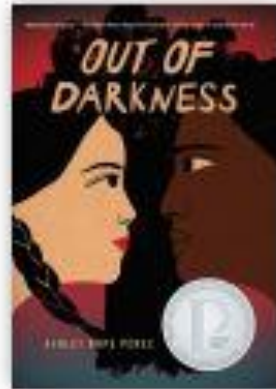


**THE ABSOLUTELY TRUE DIARY OF A PART-TIME INDIAN**

by Sherman Alexie

**REASONS:** claimed to be sexually explicit, profanity

9



**OUT OF DARKNESS**

by Ashley Hope Perez

**REASON:** claimed to be sexually explicit

10



**A COURT OF MIST AND FURY**

by Sarah J. Maas

**REASON:** claimed to be sexually explicit



**CRANK**

by Ellen Hopkins

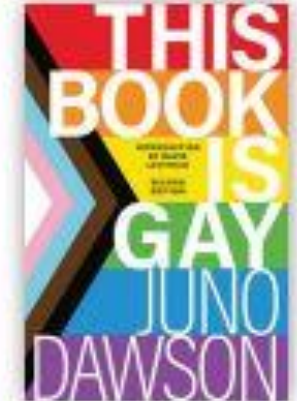
**REASONS:** claimed to be sexually explicit, drugs



**ME AND EARL AND THE DYING GIRL**

by Jesse Andrews

**REASONS:** claimed to be sexually explicit, profanity



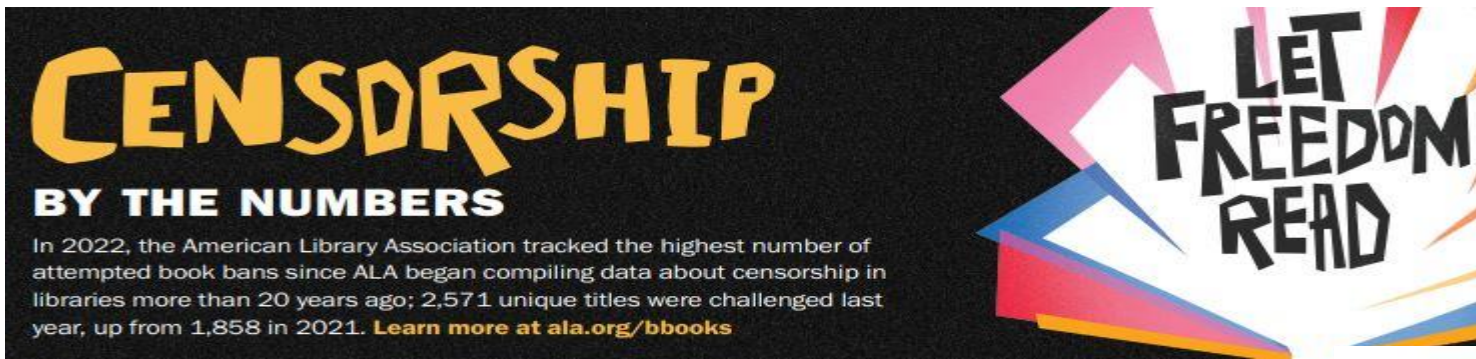
**THIS BOOK IS GAY**

by Juno Dawson

**REASONS:** LGBTQIA+ content, sex education, claimed to be sexually explicit



OFFICE FOR  
*Intellectual Freedom*  
American Library Association



Many “challenges” come from parents & the majority of patrons mentioned are most likely parents as well.

**American Library Association (ALA)** [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org)

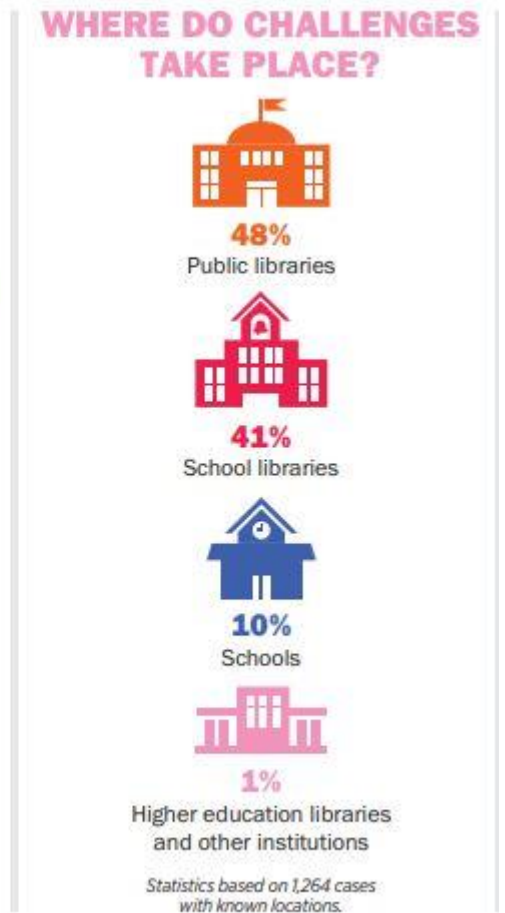
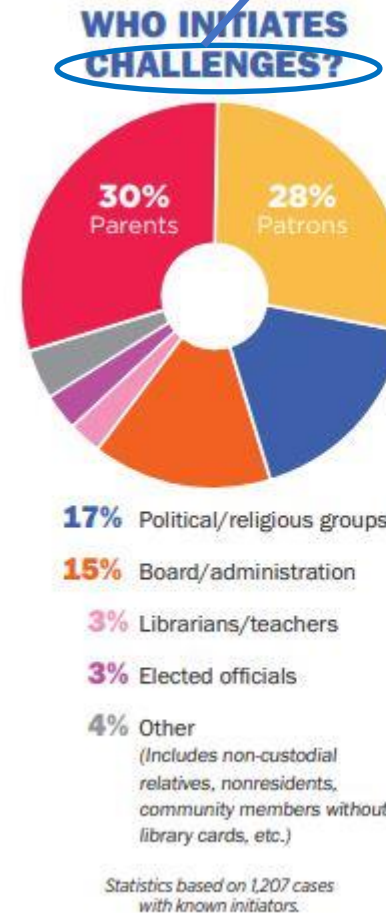
1. Funded by major progressive organizations like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, George Soros’ Open Society. ([www.capitalresearch.org/article/librarians-for-the-left/](http://www.capitalresearch.org/article/librarians-for-the-left/))

2. Elected a self-identified Marxist to become the President in July 2023 (<https://thefederalist.com/2022/04/22>)

[Librarians go radical as new woke policies take over: experts \(nypost.com\)](https://www.nypost.com)

3. The ALA has obliterated the distinction between adults and minors by inserted the word "age" into its so-called Library Bill of Rights. They fight for kids of all ages to have access to everything in the library. When parents object to materials, librarians just invoke the ALA’s policies.

[Schools and Minors’ Rights | Advocacy, Legislation & Issues \(ala.org\)](https://www.ala.org)



# Pamunkey Regional Library Director Mr. Tom Shepley

- Hired in 2009 & accountable to the Library Board of Trustees
- Member of the Virginia Library Association (VLA), a state association under the ALA  
[https://www.vla.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=1415:2020-vla-election-of-officers&catid=20:site-content#TomShepley](https://www.vla.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1415:2020-vla-election-of-officers&catid=20:site-content#TomShepley)
- Part of the VLA Legislative Committee for the last 10 years.
- Presently he is the Chair of the Legislative Committee and “he has assisted with nearly every political or legislative issue that has faced VLA during his membership on Legislative Committee. .”
- Here is a VLA post from February 2023 where they are celebrating the defeat of many bills in the General Assembly that would have provided protections to our children by requiring parental advisory labeling for sexually explicit materials, redefining obscene, and removing libraries’ exemption from the Virginia Code (§ 18.2-391. Unlawful acts; penalties) which prohibits renting or loaning harmful materials to a juvenile.  
[https://www.vla.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=2211:-vla--legislation-affecting-libraries-defeated--update-on-general-assembly-february-20--2023&catid=20:site-content](https://www.vla.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2211:-vla--legislation-affecting-libraries-defeated--update-on-general-assembly-february-20--2023&catid=20:site-content)

# Pamunkey Regional Library Board of Trustees

– 10 members, Governing Board

- Hanover County (4 members) – Ryan Martin, Julie May, Joe O'Connor (Vice-Chair), and Mike Smith
- Goochland County (2 members) – Barb Sensabaugh, Barb Young
- King William County (2 members) – John Edwards, Mary Shipman
- King & Queen County (2 members) – Patricia Simpkins (Chair) & Vacant

- Email addresses for the Board of Trustees: [martinryan15@gmail.com](mailto:martinryan15@gmail.com), [JulieMayy@protonmail.com](mailto:JulieMayy@protonmail.com), [joemarsn@comcast.net](mailto:joemarsn@comcast.net), [mssmithusa@comcast.net](mailto:mssmithusa@comcast.net), [bsensabaugh53@gmail.com](mailto:bsensabaugh53@gmail.com), [youngbarbarap@gmail.com](mailto:youngbarbarap@gmail.com), [jedwards@west-point.va.us](mailto:jedwards@west-point.va.us), [amax3000@gmail.com](mailto:amax3000@gmail.com), [PatriciaSimpkins31@gmail.com](mailto:PatriciaSimpkins31@gmail.com)

# FY23 BUDGET (pamunkeylibrary.org)

County	FY22 Contribution	FY23 Request	Percent increase
Goochland	465,493	576,611	23.9%
Hanover	2,941,000	3,635,795	23.6%
King and Queen	173,135	235,191	35.8%
King William	444,597	593,969	33.4%

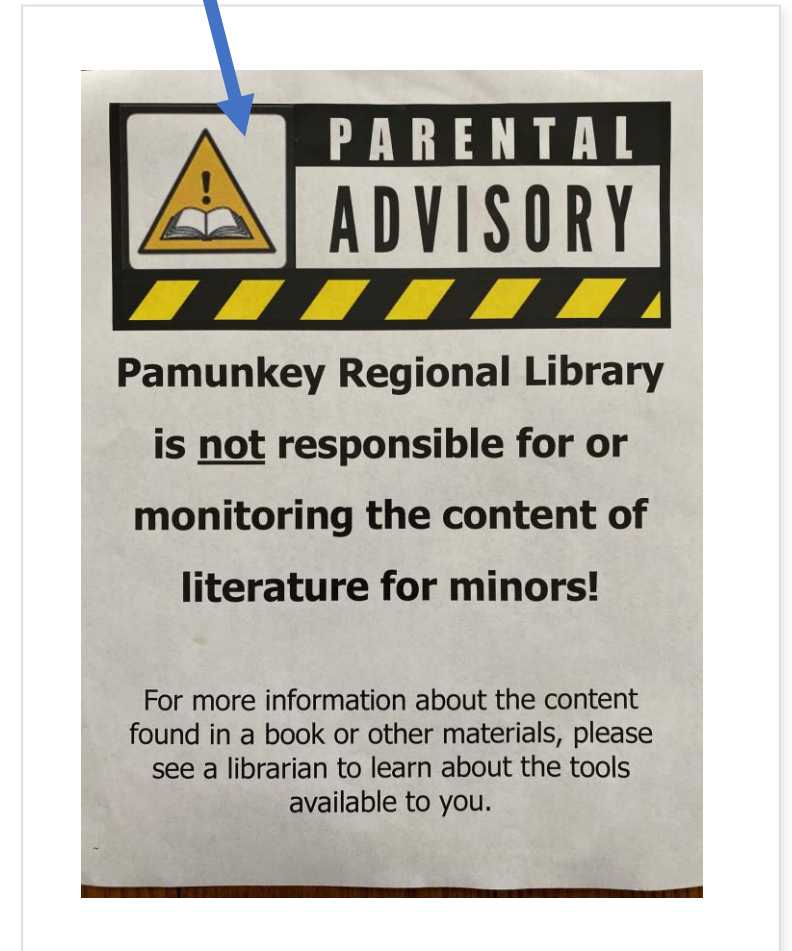
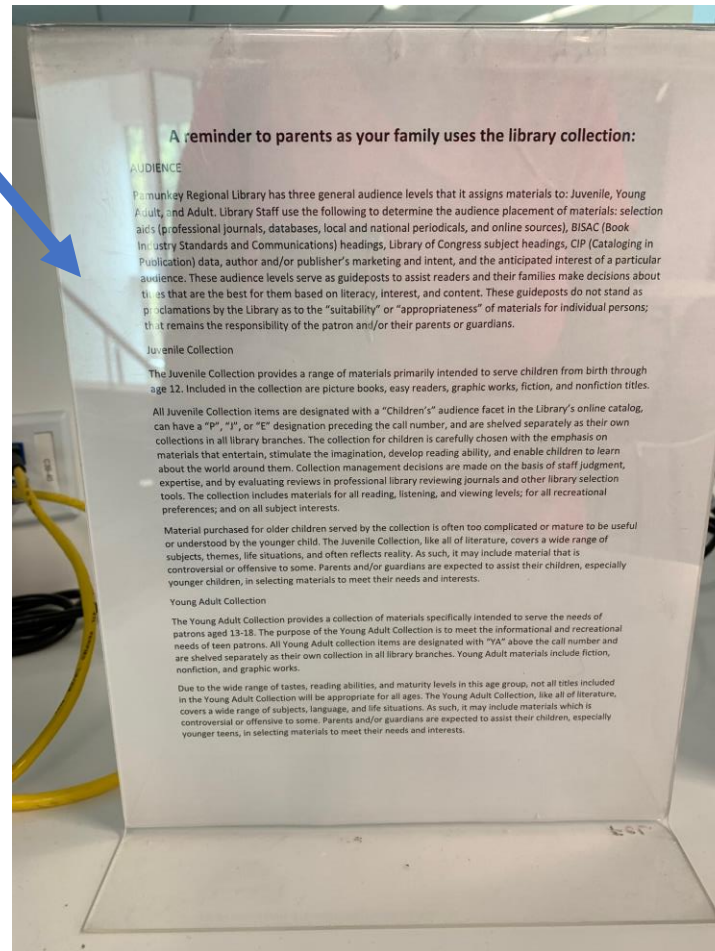
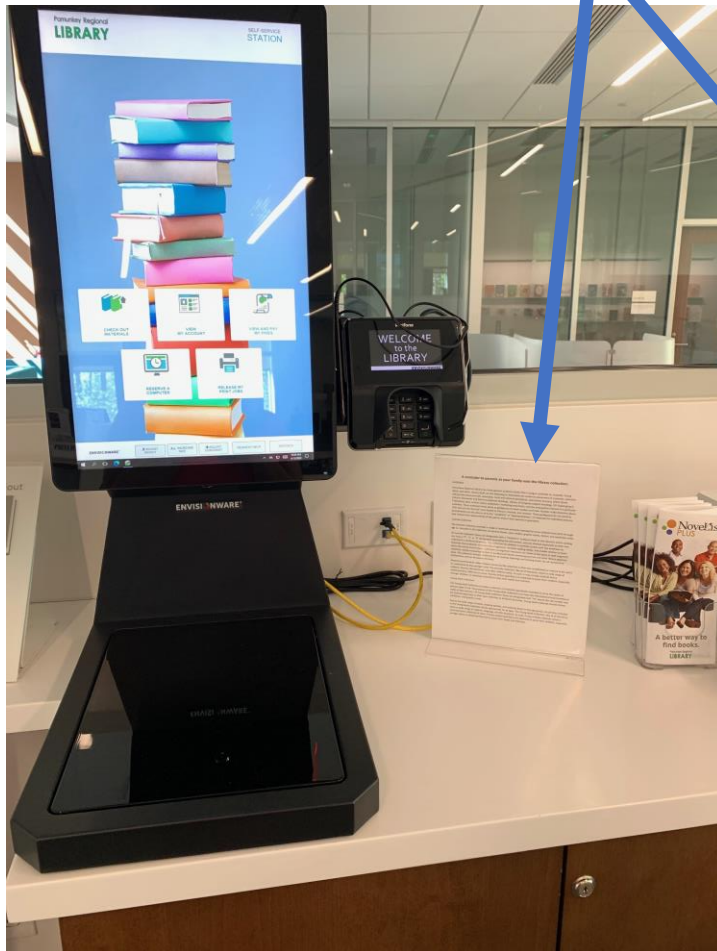
Hanover's Financial Contribution to Operate 6 PRL Libraries in the County – Ashland, Atlee, Hanover Courthouse, Mechanicsville, Montpelier, Rockville

# What is going on in the library?

- March 2023: New library policies (collections, displays, and programming) passed (6-2) which do not provide any protections for minor children. Only Ryan Martin from Hanover and Barb Young from Goochland voted against these policies as written. [POLICIES \(pamunkeylibrary.org\)](https://pamunkeylibrary.org)
- We have asked the library to clearly communicate with parents that they are not monitoring the content of children's books. Many parents are not aware that it is authors, publishers, reviewers, and national organizations like the ALA which are now making these decisions for our children. PRL Board has asked staff to provide signage for parents in the library. Examples of what was produced on the next slide...

# Present Signage Advising Parents of Their Responsibility Does not communicate effectively!!

Suggested:



- Elevate the use of **NoveList** within the library. Some success with this in highlighting on the website and producing brochures. Have asked them to include links within the catalog & have dedicated terminals with NoveList so that parents can easily review a book's content.

The image shows a screenshot of the Pamunkey Regional Library website. At the top left, the text reads "Pamunkey Regional LIBRARY" with "LIBRARY" in large green letters. To the right, a green navigation bar contains links for "Log In", "My Account", "My Lists", "Get A Card", and icons for a plus sign and a question mark. Below this is a search bar with a home icon, a dropdown menu set to "Everything", another dropdown menu set to "All Fields", a search input field, a green "SEARCH" button, and a link to "Advanced Search". A green horizontal menu below the search bar lists "Locations", "Digital Library", "Calendar", "Learn & Explore", "Services", and "About PRL". The main content area features a banner with a photograph of a woman and two children reading a book together. To the right of the photo, the text reads "A better way to find books for young readers." Below this text is the NoveList logo, which consists of three colored circles (blue, purple, orange) and the text "NoveList® K-8 PLUS".



## How to Get Involved:

1. Keep your eyes open. Speak up.
2. Attend meetings.
3. Submit Request for Reconsiderations for materials that are unsuitable.
4. Request book titles that line up with your values.

**1. Keep your eyes open. Speak up.**

Sign Prominently Displayed on Entrance Door and Top of the Stairs in the Atlee Library on May 10, 2023 – See next slide for more info about the website here.



**VIRGINIA LIBRARIES  
ARE FOR  
EVERYONE**

<https://www.hafuboti.com/>

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**VDH** VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH

# HAFUBOTI

## Fighting for Good – HAFUBOTI

LIBRARY BLOG

### Fighting for Good

By Hafuboti • April 30, 2023

Quotes from a recent blog post written by the person who designed the sign in the Atlee Library:

- “This question was posed by a **Christian Terrorist**, who is part of a small cell that now not only wants a mural designed by me removed from a public library, but to have the entire library destroyed.”
- “These **terrorists** who have made the librarians in that community feel afraid to do their jobs.”
- “I can imagine Christians reading this and feeling shocked and appalled that I would lump them into an **extremist hate group**. *How do you think Muslims feel?*”
- “We might not yet be at the place where armed **religious terrorists** stop girls from going to school, and massacre them on a school bus. But we have Christians who believe that this country is *theirs and no one else’s*, who believe that women are less-than and can’t make their own decisions – medically or how they dress (to name just a few of their dehumanizing beliefs) – and who are **fine with massacres** happening time and again on school grounds. All while the **terrorists get a pass from a government** that has lost any sort of façade of having a separation between the Christian church and state.”
- “Here’s part of my emailed response to the **cell of Christian Terrorists** in Waycross, GA.”

This sign was “temporarily removed” from the Atlee Library on May 11, 2023 as an internal review is conducted, per Mr. Tom Shepley.

## 2. Attend Meetings.

### Upcoming Library Board Meetings with Public Comment

~~Wednesday, May 17 Executive & Personnel Committee Meeting  
10 am Ashland Branch~~

This meeting has been cancelled and rescheduled to June 7, 2023, at the Ashland Branch.

Wednesday, May 24 Full Board Meeting  
10 am Upper King William

Wednesday, June 28 Full Board Meeting  
10 am Mechanicsville Branch

Meeting Updates are posted here:

[BoTMeetingSchedule \(pamunkeylibrary.org\)](https://pamunkeylibrary.org/BoTMeetingSchedule)

To find this form on the website:

### 3. Submit a Request for Reconsideration

Form can be found on page 7 of this document:

[PRL-COLLECTIONV3.pdf](http://pamunkeylibrary.org/PRL-COLLECTIONV3.pdf)  
([pamunkeylibrary.org](http://pamunkeylibrary.org))

These forms can also be requested from a librarian at your local branch and turned into them upon completion.



## About PRL



Board of Trustees



Policies



Administration



Job & Volunteer Opportunities



## Policies

- [Collection Development Policy](#)
- [Library Sponsored Programs Policy](#)
- [Library Display Policy](#)

**Request for Reconsideration** (Please fill out form in its entirety)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Do you represent self?  Organization?  If organization, please list: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you read Pamunkey Regional Library's Collection Development Policy?  Yes  No

Have you read Pamunkey Regional Library's Library-Sponsored Program Policy?  Yes  No

Have you read Pamunkey Regional Library's Library Display Policy?  Yes  No

1. Resource on which you are commenting:

Book  Video  Magazine  Newspaper  Audio Recording

Electronic Resource  Library Display  Library Program  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Author/Producer/Director \_\_\_\_\_

# 4. Request a Book on the PRL Website

[Request \(pamunkeylibrary.org\)](http://pamunkeylibrary.org)

## Library Services



Email us



Ask a Question



Books for Babies



Classes



Copies/Printing/FAX  
3D Printing



Exhibit Spaces



How Do I?...



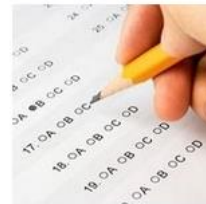
Media Transfer  
Station



Mobile  
Hotspots



Newspapers



Proctoring



Readers' Advisory



Request a Title



Reserve A Room



Storytimes