

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Banned Books Week – “Let Books Be. Protect the Freedom to Read”

Banned Books Week is Sunday, Oct. 4 through Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026.

Mechanicsburg, PA – The Cumberland County Library System will recognize **Banned Books Week, Oct. 4–10, 2026**, with the theme **“Let Books Be. Protect the Freedom to Read.”** Banned Books Week highlights the importance of the freedom to read and open access to information. The annual observance brings together libraries, educators, booksellers, publishers, journalists and readers in support of the freedom to seek, read, and share ideas.

“During this annual effort to spotlight the risks of censorship and the importance of free access to information, we reaffirm our commitment to enabling parents and guardians to guide their children’s use of library resources,” said Carolyn Blatchley, executive director of the Cumberland County Library System.

The Cumberland County Library System does not restrict access to library services, materials or facilities based on age. Collections are organized by age level—children, teen and adult—and format for the convenience of library customers.

Most Challenged Books of 2025

The American Library Association’s 2025 list of the most challenged books includes:

- *Sold* by Patricia McCormick
- *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky
- *Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe
- *Empire of Storms* by Sarah J. Maas
- *Last Night at the Telegraph Club* by Malinda Lo
- *Tricks* by Ellen Hopkins
- *A Court of Thorns and Roses* by Sarah J. Maas
- *A Clockwork Orange* by Anthony Burgess
- *Identical* by Ellen Hopkins
- *Looking for Alaska* by John Green
- *Storm and Fury* by Jennifer L. Armentrout

Banned Books Week began in 1982 following a surge in challenges to books in libraries, schools and bookstores.

The Cumberland County Library System consists of seven federated local libraries and one branch and provides technology, materials, training and other support services to its member libraries. For more information visit www.cumberlandcountylibraries.org.

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Cumberland County Library System

Amelia Givin Library | Bosler Memorial Library

Cleve J. Fredricksen Library | Coy Public Library of Shippensburg

East Pennsboro Branch Library | John Graham Library

Joseph T. Simpson Library | New Cumberland Public Library

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