



News Release

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County Executive Gardner Kicks Off Frederick County Public Libraries' Summer Challenge

FREDERICK, MD – Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner today kicked off the Frederick County Public Libraries' annual Summer Challenge, which will officially run from May 15 – Aug. 31. This year's Summer Challenge will feature events and programs to encourage participants of all ages to read and explore their community.

"I am so excited about the start of the Summer Challenge!" said Executive Gardner. "The Summer Reading Program will inspire reading and learning all summer through exciting and engaging activities at the library and throughout the community."

As part of the Summer Challenge, Frederick County Public Libraries will host a summer-long free concert series, featuring live music at libraries across the county. The series, called "Radio Frederick," will also feature a July 21 concert by award-winning musician Laurie Berkner.

The Summer Challenge was originally designed for school-aged children, but participants now include teens and adults. Prizes are available for all ages. Through encouraging children to participate, parents and caregivers can help avoid the "summer slide," in which students tend to lose some of the academic achievements they gained during the school year.

Activities for children include animal programs with Catoctin Creek and Fountain Rock Nature Centers, magicians, visits from Keyote and a Frederick Keys player, author events and more. Programs for teens include Equestrian Club, Teen Cuisine, Life-Sized games and more. Programs for adults include the ever popular Freedom Reads series in partnership with Flying Dog, author events, trivia nights and more.

Executive Gardner also thanked the many community sponsors of the Summer Challenge, including: 106.9 the Eagle, Bruster's Ice Cream, Catoctin Wildlife Preserve and Zoo, Key 103, Pump It Up, Rita's Italian Ice, River & Trail Outfitters, Shadowland Laser Adventures, The Frederick Keys, The Frederick News-Post, The Friends of the Frederick County Public Libraries, The Little Gym of Frederick, and Walkersville Southern Railroad.

For more information about this year's Summer Challenge, visit www.fcpl.org/Summer.

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