



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
MARCH 19, 2020

CONTACT: [Vivian Laxton](#)
Communications Director, 301-600-1315

Executive Gardner Highlights Schools, Libraries and Other Major Projects in Preliminary Capital Budget

March 23rd Public Hearing to Be Virtual

FREDERICK, MD –County Executive Jan Gardner today shared highlights of major construction projects included in the preliminary capital budget, reviewed operating budget requests, and announced plans to hold a virtual public hearing on the upcoming fiscal year. The budget is based on no property or income tax rate increases. Highlights of the six-year Capital Improvement Program include moving up construction of a new Brunswick Elementary School, a library in Middletown, and the expansion and renovation of Animal Control. Executive Gardner encouraged the community to share their priorities via email, phone or social media.

“Preparing and presenting the county budget is the most important responsibility I have as County Executive and the most significant task we do together as a community,” said Executive Gardner. “During this public health crisis, a virtual public hearing is the safest way for residents to share their priorities.”

In the draft capital budget, priority school projects remain on track. These include the construction of new Urbana Elementary and Rock Creek schools, a new and expanded Waverley Elementary School, a new Blue Heron Elementary School in Lake Linganore, and a 300-seat addition to Oakdale Middle School. Other construction projects in the six-year Capital Improvement Program include renovations to Linganore Hall at Frederick Community College and new park development and expansion. Funding for fire stations, improvements to Gas House Pike, technology, and other requests are also in the draft budget. Fiscal Year 2021 begins July 1, 2020.

A full list of budget appeals is available for review at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/Budget. The public hearing is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Monday, March 23. Because of the current State of Emergency in Maryland, only members of the media will be permitted in the room. The public can watch the hearing live on cable channels 19 and 1085, online at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/FCGTV, and on Facebook. Comments will be accepted into the public record in several ways:

- Via email to CountyExecutive@FrederickCountyMD.gov, now through close of business on Wednesday, March 25;
- Via phone call to 301-600-1622. Callers are asked to leave a message with their name and comment about the budget;
- Via comment on the Facebook Live video, which will be streamed live from www.Facebook.com/JanGardnerExec

Comments submitted prior to 7 p.m. Monday will be shared during the hearing as time allows. For more information, visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/budget or contact Budget Director Kelly Weaver at 301-600-1185 or via e-mail at kweaver@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

###