

MEDIA ADVISORY

9/21/26

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DEKALB COUNTY TO BREAK GROUND ON A NEW \$11.1 MILLION FIRE STATION

Fire Station No. 16 is one of three new fire stations planned for construction in 2026 and funded through the DeKalb County Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) Program.

WHO: DeKalb County CEO Lorraine Cochran-Johnson and the Board of Commissioners; DeKalb County Public Safety Director Darnell Fullum; DeKalb County Fire Chief Melvin Carter; DeKalb SPLOST Program Management; Cooper Construction Management & Consulting; and Pond & Company. (See the Run of Show below.)

WHAT: DeKalb County officials will host Fire Station 16 Groundbreaking Ceremony. Serving as mistress of ceremonies, DeKalb County CEO Lorraine Cochran-Johnson will open the event, followed by remarks from County officials and a representative of the DeKalb SPLOST Program Management Team. The program will culminate with a ceremonial *Turning of the Dirt* (see attached Run of Show). The groundbreaking can be viewed on DCTV on Comcast Channel 23 or watch live at [DCTV Channel 23](#).

The new two-story 14,601 square-foot facility will include dedicated spaces for male and female firefighters and feature state-of-the-art amenities designed to support firefighter health, safety, and wellness. Fire Station No. 16 will incorporate designated hot and cold zones, with a separate area for soiled turnout gear and laundry located away from the living quarters. This design will help reduce the potential for cross-contamination and limit firefighters' exposure to carcinogens in sleeping and dining areas. Additional amenities will include individual sleeping quarters, a commercial-grade kitchen, a workout room, designed to support crew wellness, designated restrooms for all gender identifying crew, a multipurpose room for community use, and beautiful exterior landscaping. (See attached rendering.)

WHEN: Thursday, September 24 2026
10:00 a.m.

WHERE: 4242 Arthur J. Queen Drive (formally 4242 East Side Drive)
Decatur, Georgia

WHY: The existing Fire Station No. 16, located at 2750 Pleasant Wood Drive in Greater Decatur, was built in 1967. The facility will be replaced with a new, modern fire station at 4242 Arthur J. Queen Drive, formerly East Side Drive, in Decatur.

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RUN OF SHOW
Fire Station No. 16 | Groundbreaking Ceremony
4242 Arthur J. Queen Drive, Decatur, GA
Thursday, September 24, 2026 | 10:00 a.m.

Time:	Individual/Activity:	Length:
10:00 a.m.	Networking & Continental Breakfast	20 min
10:20 a.m.	Lorraine Cochran-Johnson CEO, DeKalb County • Mistress of Ceremonies/Opening Remarks	3-5 min
10:25 a.m.	Nicole Massiah District 3 Commissioner, DeKalb County • Greetings	2-3 min
10:28 a.m.	LaDena Bolton Super District 7 Commissioner, DeKalb County • Remarks	2-3 min
10:31 a.m.	Chris Kingsbury Program Manager, DeKalb County SPLOST • Project Overview	2-3 min
10:34 a.m.	Darnell Fullum Public Safety Director, DeKalb County • Historical Perspective	2-3 min
10:37 a.m.	Melvin Carter Fire Chief, DeKalb County • Closing Remarks	2-3 min
10:40 a.m.	Turning of the Dirt	13-15 min
10:55 a.m.	Ceremony Ends	

FIRE STATION NO. 16 RENDERING

