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DeKalb unveils first construction projects

May 30 was a day of celebration at the first of the DeKalb County Public Library System's major construction projects to be completed. DeKalb County CEO Burrell Ellis, county commissioners, the system's board of trustees and the Northlake-Barbara Loar branch staff invited the public to the dedication of the enlarged and renovated facility in Tucker. The ceremony included a ribbon cutting, tours of the building and refreshments.

The branch, with its additional 5,000 square feet of space, officially reopened for business on June 1. It features a larger collection, a new teen area and twice as many public access computers as before.

Money for the library's expansion came from a 2006 bond referendum approved by voters in unincorporated DeKalb County. The referendum covers an additional 12 projects, including the system's Toco Hill-Avis G. Williams branch, which held its own dedication ceremony and open house on June 20 in Decatur.

The new facility is nearly twice the size of the old Toco Hill-Avis G. Williams Library, which it replaced on the same site. It now offers a collection of 64,000 library



Cutting the ribbon to open the Toco Hill-Avis G. Williams branch are (from left): Deborah Torbush, board member; Jeff Rader, DeKalb County commissioner; Judge Desiree Sutton Peagler, board member; Darro Willey, director of DeKalb County Public Library; Kathie Gannon, DeKalb County commissioner; Bettye Davis, DeKalb County CEO's deputy chief of staff; and Herbert Sprague, board member.

materials, additional public computers, a technology training center, special areas for children and teens, a larger meeting room and new study and conference rooms. Service at the branch resumed on June 22.

The system's Dunwoody branch is currently closed for renovations but will reopen on July 6. Construction projects there will give the library improved accessibility and an updated look. ►►

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