EASTERN DELAWARE COUNTY JOINT RECREATION DISTRICT

Community Center Update

Where We Are and Where We Go Next | October 23, 2026

Since 2025, the Eastern Delaware County Joint Recreation District (JRD) has planned a community center for the City of Sunbury, the Village of Galena, and Berkshire Township, because **together** our communities can achieve more.

The Board has paused this effort.

After Berkshire Township's vote to withdraw, this eliminated approximately 40% of the JRD's population.
We need to hear from all residents before deciding what comes next.

1 The Vision

A center for all ages and abilities: the working concept is about 90,000 square feet; residents indicated about 100,000.

- **Spaces:** pools, a two-court gym, fitness, a walking track, senior and teen rooms, child watch, program rooms
- **Principles:** accessible to all residents, flexible as needs change, and expandable on a site with room to grow

2 The Community's Voice

Two surveys (1,430 and 695 responses), two workshops, and a focus group shaped the plan.

- **Interest:** more than 9 in 10 respondents said they would join
- **Priorities:** aquatics first, then fitness, courts, and a walking track, closer than today's 20-to-35-minute drive
- **Concerns:** taxes, affordability, location

3 The Financial Options

All figures preliminary and subject to change

- **Project cost:** $45 to $75 million for the building; it is anticipated that it would lean towards the upper end of the range
- **Funding:** Construction: voter-approved bond. Operations: voter-approved levy
- **Example tax impact:** 3.2 to 5.3 mills with all **three** communities, or about $446 to $744 per year on a $400,000 home
- **Timeline:** about 3 years from voter approval to opening; construction costs rise significantly every year

4 Berkshire's withdrawal impact

The plan: all **three** communities shaped this work, and progress was on track for a May 2027 ballot.

- **What changed:** Berkshire trustees voted **unanimously** on 10/12/26 to withdraw, without prior notice or inquiries
- **Rework:** the study, costs, tax figures, and schedule assumed **three** communities.
- **Next:** with your input, the JRD Board will decide whether to continue, at what size, and when

Your voice will decide what happens next

1. Is a community center right for our community, and what matters most to you on size, cost, and timing?
2. Should the JRD continue with Sunbury and Galena, explore other options, or stop?

Every perspective counts. Ways to be Involved:

- **JRD Board:** Thu., 10/29/26, 6 p.m., Sunbury Town Hall, 51 E. Cherry St., 3rd floor
- **Berkshire Township Trustees:** Mon., 11/09/26, 7 p.m., Berkshire Township Hall, 1454 Rome Corners Rd., Galena
- **City of Sunbury Council:** Wed., 11/04/26, 7:30 p.m., Sunbury Town Hall, 51 E. Cherry St., 3rd floor
- **Village of Galena Council:** Mon., 10/26/26, 6 p.m., Galena Village Hall, 109 Harrison St., Galena
- **Contact us at easterndelawarejrd.org, or contact your elected officials below.**

Community	Elected officials	JRD Board members
City of Sunbury	Mayor Joe St. John and City Council **sunburyohio.org**	Bernie Kooi (Chair), Jody Grieger (Secretary)
Village of Galena	Mayor Jeff Kinnel and Village Council **galenaohio.gov**	Halli Watson (Vice Chair), Todd Musacchio
Berkshire Township	Trustees Mike Dattilo (Chair), Mary Howard, Stephen Ciacchi **berkshiretwp.org**	Maria Sobota, Greg Elliott (Treasurer)