

Membership Meeting: Wednesday, September 25, 2019 at 7:00 PM

American Heritage Federal Credit Union—Red Lion & Jamison Road

Greater Bustleton Civic League News

September 2019



President's Corner

Hello neighbor,

It's back-to-school for the GBCL and the return of our 4th-Wednesday-of-the-month membership meetings after a July/August vacation. The Bustleton community will get to hear several neighborhood issues discussed at our Wednesday, September 25th meeting.

On Wednesday we will be discussing the impact that the massive warehouse coming to the old Red Lion Road Budd plant, will have on our community. We will hear the 2nd zoning presentation, and then vote, for the erection of a two-story, single-family home on a vacant lot at 1075 Welsh. We will also receive a police update from Captain Ritchie of the 7th District. I hope you can come out Wednesday and lend your voice to the discussion.

Thank you,
Jack O'Hara, President

Bits and Pieces

- **Massive Warehouse Coming to 1 Red Lion Rd./Budd Plant** – For the past year and a half the GBCL has been working to learn details of a 1.85 million square foot warehouse announced for Red Lion Road. Further confirmation came in a September 12 Inquirer article quoting a UPS spokesperson: “UPS is among the companies considering the 138-acre former Budd Co. property on Red Lion Rd. as a potential distribution hub, according to local UPS and industry sources, speaking on condition they not be identified”. While the 138-acre parcel is properly zoned for a warehouse, authorities seem blind to the fact that hundreds of homes and small businesses now completely surround the once-farmland tract. Regardless of the eventual tenant, and given the advertised size and scale of the warehouse, the GBCL is of the opinion that the mammoth facility is clearly over-use of the plot and would have a devastating impact on the surrounding community. It’s been very frustrating not being able to speak with someone with knowledge of the project and address the community’s concerns. The GBCL would be incompetent if it didn’t continue to push and question the multiple safety and quality-of-life issues that should be addressed with any plan. The GBCL and the Somerton Civic Association will hold a follow up meeting on the project and will announce the date once time and location is locked down. Until then, the GBCL will continue to ask our elected officials to become involved in the planning and address the fears and concerns of their constituents. The GBCL strongly encourages all affected residents and businesses to call their elected representatives and do the same.
- **Medical Marijuana Today** – Seems like only yesterday when Holistic Pharma opened the Liberty Dispensary on Krewstown Road in July of 2018. At the time it was one of the four original medical marijuana dispensaries in Philadelphia. Today there are seven in Philadelphia and a total of sixty in the state with more to come. The GBCL got involved early in the business planning and pushed hard for the owners to invest in the outside appearance of the business to make it more visually appealing and be an upgrade to the corner. Community concerns about outside drug dealing, customer crowds and money handling, thankfully never materialized. Today there are 33 states and Washington DC that have legalized medical marijuana, and 11 states that have adopted laws legalizing marijuana for recreational use.
To receive a medical marijuana card in PA one must **1st)** Be at least 18 years of age and a resident of PA. **2nd)** Register online to create a profile with the Pennsylvania Patient and Caregiver Registry **3rd)** Find a licensed PA doctor who is registered with the state’s Department of Health, be evaluated and obtain a physician’s “certification” that shows the patient suffers from one of twenty-two qualifying conditions. **4th)** With the Certification, go online and pay \$50 for an application of a Medical Marijuana ID Card. **5th)** Once approved, a patient can then visit a state-licensed dispensary with their ID Card and purchase medical marijuana.

- **Police Update on Verree Rd. Party and Shooting** – Captain Bob Ritchie of the 7th District will give an update on the investigation of the August 3rd incidents at our 9/25 membership meeting. The GBCL was in regular contact with Captain Ritchie the following day of the incidents receiving details on the shootings. He gave an account of what happened at each location and has been providing the GBCL steady updates. A GBCL Board member also visited the Verree Road site the next day and met with some of the immediate neighbors who witnessed the event unfold firsthand. It was during these update exchanges with the Captain that the August 8 community meeting was scheduled, and the developing facts were shared with residents. Developments since that meeting will continue this Wednesday the 25th.
- **Fall Arts & Crafts Festival - Pennypack Environmental Center**, 8600 Verree Rd. Saturday, Sept. 28, 11 AM – 4 PM. The PEC will be celebrating its 50th anniversary this weekend and is one of the hidden jewels in Bustleton. They have been providing local residents nature and family-oriented attractions for generations and definitely worth a visit. Enjoy an afternoon of seasonal games, pumpkin painting, apple cidering, craft vendors and more at their annual festival.
- **Applefest – Fox Chase Farm**, Pine Road, Saturday, October 19, 2019, 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM Enjoy a day of cider pressing, apple butter making, hayrides, seasonal games, pumpkin painting, music and more. Pumpkins, apples, apple butter and cider for sale. Admission: \$5.00 Adults and \$3.00 Children ages 3 – 12; Children under age 3 are Free.
- **Hooka Bars** – This is a subject that will most likely come up in future GBCL discussions. Councilman Bob Henon introduced legislation for this fall that would add “smoking lounges” to the zoning code, and effectively ban hookah bars outside Center City. Bustleton Hooka bars (3):
 1. Aladdin Hookah Lounge 9855 Bustleton/Belair SC– 4PM to 2AM. Fri/Sat. 4PM to 3AM
 2. Onyx Hookah Lounge, 842 Red Lion/Bustleton 7PM to 2AM, Fri/Sat. 7 to 3AM
 3. Vapor Central, Holy Smokes, 1619 Grant/Plaza, 11 to 9pm, Fri/Sat. 11AM-9:30PM
 4. ~~Pulse Hookah Lounge~~, 1900 Grant Ave. – CLOSED, Nuisance bar evicted in July '18.
- **Speed Cushions** – Two (2) currently in Bustleton, with possibly more to come. 9600 Northeast Ave. (Krewstown) and Bloomfield Ave. Possibly coming to 8500 Verree Rd. (in front of Cora Services). Mayor Kenney’s Slow Zone Program is part of the City’s Vision Zero initiative, and has mandated the Streets Department to take measures to protect pedestrians, which includes the use of speed cushions.
 1. Residents must first request a traffic calming & safety study through the Streets Department to learn if the street qualifies.
 2. Requesting individual/party then prepares a petition requesting traffic calming measures, signed by 75% or more of the properties on the block.
 3. Petition is then forwarded to Councilmen O’Neill’s office who then sends an official letter to the Chief Traffic Engineer, formally requesting speed cushions.

[Speed Cushion FAQ's](#)

- **Bustleton Bengals Clothing Drive & Homecoming** - Sat. October 5, 7 AM to 3 PM. Clothing and accessories, small toys and household items. NO electronics please.
- **Police Service Area 2 (PSA-2) Monthly Meeting:** Monday, Oct. 14, 7PM, Randi's Restaurant, Grant Plaza. One-on-one conversation with a representative from the 7th Police District.
- **Alburger Avenue Ongoing Resurfacing** - Pine to Welsh Road. Sporadic delays and closures. Expected to be completed by mid-October. Work will be completed in three phases – street milling, the adjustment of manhole covers and resetting of utility boxes, and final paving.

Zoning UPDATES

- **OTC, Over-the-Counter, Permits Granted:**
 1. **1701 Welsh Rd.** (Strip center across from Grant Plaza) – Day Care with serving of food.
 2. **9432 Roosevelt Blvd** (at Grant) – Demolition of old Urgent care. Member Joe Cooper filed complaint w/L&I on dust and oil damage. GBCL representative met L&I Inspector on site.
 3. **648 Welsh Rd** (before Pine Rd.) – For the construction of a detached single-family household living.

Zoning PRESENTATIONS & VOTE - September 25, 2019

- **1075 Welsh Rd, at Walley. (2nd Presentation)** – Erection of two-story, single-family home on vacant lot. Minimum Front Setback of 35' is required. Whereas the proposed set back of 19'-6" from Walley Avenue is insufficient.
History: 1st presentation 4/24/19. Vote: 38 to 2, to Oppose. 1st ZBA hearing 5/22 was rescheduled. 2nd Hearing on 7/17 postponed, ZBA granting a 30-day extension to "leave the record open". Proposed, deficient setback went from 19' to 22'. New plans were received 9/12/19 and an immediate neighbors meeting was held 9/19 for their feedback.

Future PRESENTATION & VOTE:

- **9746 Chapel Road** – Variance is required for the installation of a 6 ft. high fence on a corner property.
- **9613 Dedaker St.** – 1 story garage doesn't meet aggregate or minimum side yard width. Required: 25 FT.& 10 FT. Proposed: 19 FT & 8 FT.

Businesses in Bustleton

The Bustleton community is a mix of residential homes and businesses. It's a mixture that has evolved over time into the community we enjoy today. The GBCL is mainly a group of area residents with a strong interest in preserving the best attributes of Bustleton and ensuring appropriate development. We're also very fortunate to have area businesses that share our vision.

Please support the businesses that support the GBCL.

- American Heritage Federal Credit Union
- American Legion Post 810
- AutoZone
- Bustleton Bengals Club
- Classic Body Worx
- Keller Williams Real Estate
- Kelly's Seafood
- Little Caesars Pizza
- Mazhu Axes
- PAWS
- Pennypack Flowers
- Randi's Restaurant
- Wawa

Greater Bustleton Civic League (GBCL) -- 2020 Membership Application

Check one: ___ Renewal ___ New Member Date: _____

Check one: ___ \$10 For Entire Household ___ \$7 For Seniors

Donation for _____ \$ _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Names of all adults in household: Please print!

Last name: _____, First name _____

Last name: _____, First name _____

Last name: _____, First name _____

Last name: _____, First name _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY): _____

This membership covers from the time it is received until December 31, 2020.

Thank you for supporting the GBCL!

Please mail check and this form to: **GBCL, PO BOX 51523, Philadelphia, PA 19115**