

**4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday-of-the-Month Membership Meetings  
CANCELLED Until Further Notice**

# **Greater Bustleton Civic League News**

**April 2020**



## **President's Corner**

Hello neighbor,

I sure hope you and your family are doing well.

There is no sugarcoating our current situation. These last couple months of events are nothing anyone could have ever imagined. The coronavirus has changed our daily routines in ways we never would have expected and will likely continue long after the worst of this crisis is behind us. We sit at home, isolated from friends and family, watching updates, with no idea of when it will all end. All this uncertainty is scary.

Fortunately, there are also a lot of positives. The daily acts of kindness and volunteering makes clear there are a lot of good people in our community out there. This Great Pause we're in has given us a unique opportunity to take a deep breath, reexamine routines, reconnect with old friends, or get involved with projects you haven't had time for. We should take advantage of it.

Consider taking a walk outside soon on a nice spring day, and stay safe.

Thank you,  
Jack O'Hara, President

Greater Bustleton Civic League

## Bits and Pieces

- **Coronavirus in Bustleton** – While Bustleton is not one of the more densely populated sections of the city, almost half of the residents tested in 19115 returned positive results of the virus. Bustleton/19115 has consistently been at the top of the list of city neighborhoods. (See [Results by Zip Code](#) link below) The GBCL inquired about the statistics and communicated directly with **Dr. Thomas Farley, Health Commissioner, Philadelphia Department of Health**. Dr. Farley stated that they “...honestly don’t know why some zip codes have higher rates than others. It may be random – where the virus happened to land first.” Testing supplies have been lacking in parts of the city and that it could also be that more people have been tested in Bustleton than in other zip codes. For whatever the reason for the high positive test results, Bustleton residents need to pay extra attention to the precautionary directives of our medical experts.

**Cancellations.** Nearly everything that the GBCL would normally be addressing at this time of year is either postponed or cancelled. Monthly membership meetings, Phillies opener, Neighborhood Spring Clean-Ups, PSA-2 meetings, Zoning presentation and hearings, BVM Carnival, Bustleton Bengals summer season, Pennypack Environmental Center events. We will keep you informed as to which, and when these events will take place.

**PA Opening** - Gov. Wolf extended the state’s stay-at-home order from April 30 to May 8, and as a “target date” to begin opening parts of the state’s economy. The process will be slow and gradual and may not initially include densely populated areas like Philadelphia. All construction sites will also reopen May 1, as long as they adhere to all safety precautions.

**Bustleton Businesses:** Please do what you can to support your favorite local business.

### Related Resources:

- **Phila. Coronavirus Test Results by Zip Code:** <https://www.phila.gov/programs/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/testing-and-data/#positive-covid-19-cases-by-zip-code>
- **Phila. Coronavirus:** <https://www.phila.gov/programs/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/>
- **Inquirer site, Tracking the Spread:**  
<https://www.inquirer.com/health/coronavirus/ing/coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-numbers-pennsylvania-new-jersey-20200319.html>
- **Phila. Dept. of Public Health, Homecare Instructions:**  
[https://www.phila.gov/media/20200313095812/Home-care-instructions-for-COVID-19-coronavirus\\_3\\_13\\_20.pdf](https://www.phila.gov/media/20200313095812/Home-care-instructions-for-COVID-19-coronavirus_3_13_20.pdf)
- **PA Department of Health:**  
<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>
- **Centers for Disease Control & Prevention:** [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html?s\\_cid=+fb\\_covid\\_19&fbclid=IwAR1zDJwLIWr9yuHlzZ0xYE4q5SovroZWldKnLYbiK-GB26PtswsxA3loMFC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html?s_cid=+fb_covid_19&fbclid=IwAR1zDJwLIWr9yuHlzZ0xYE4q5SovroZWldKnLYbiK-GB26PtswsxA3loMFC)
- **U.S. Response:** <https://www.usa.gov/coronavirus>
- **U.S. Map, by County** - from Weather Underground:  
[https://www.wunderground.com/wundermap?covid=1&lat=42.22&lon=-79.83&cm\\_ven=covid-map](https://www.wunderground.com/wundermap?covid=1&lat=42.22&lon=-79.83&cm_ven=covid-map)

- **UPS at 1 Red Lion Rd.: Update** – The GBCL spoke with the owner of the Red Lion Rd. parcel this week, CDC. They stated that they will continue to respond to any questions related to the Plan document sent to us March 31<sup>st</sup>. The NE Times ran article on the plans soon after they were sent: <https://northeasttimes.com/2020/04/07/more-details-about-ups-warehouse/> CDC sent their first set of responses to our initial questions which are posted on our website, and are included with the mailing of this newsletter. The GBCL continues to collect questions that will be consolidated and sent to CDC. CDC stated that the results of the Traffic Study they had conducted have been sent to city traffic engineers and PennDOT for comment. PennDOT has returned some comments to them and continues their review, while the city has yet to provide any feedback. CDC also stated that they are committed to hold in-person meetings with the community once conditions allow. While it's entirely understandable that most of us are distracted with the challenges and inconveniences the coronavirus crisis has brought us, please continue to call or write the GBCL with any questions or comments you have on the project.

As we have stated before, while we're grateful to finally be receiving some details on the project after two years of complete silence from our city and state elected officials, we haven't seen anything in the plans that changes our mind that a 24/7, massive package-delivery distribution warehouse, operating out of a residential neighborhood is anything but a colossal mistake. The risk to pedestrians, bicyclists, kids in school crossing lanes will increase dramatically with the addition of an army of delivery trucks rushing to their stops, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, on roads that are already overly congested.

The addition of hundreds of delivery trucks driving through our neighborhoods 24/7 comes at a time when pedestrian deaths are on the rise in Philadelphia. Seventeen people were killed by motor vehicles while walking on Philadelphia streets in just the first three months of 2020, and conditions are particularly dangerous in the northeast. See two WHYY Plan Philly articles on the subject: <https://whyy.org/articles/pedestrian-deaths-on-the-rise-in-philadelphia/> and <https://whyy.org/articles/2019-traffic-deaths-higher-in-north-northeast-philly-than-the-rest-of-the-city/>

As mentioned in earlier updates, CDC and UPS confirmed with the GBCL that work on the 1 million sq. ft., quarter-mile long warehouse will begin by the end of 2020 or early 2021, and be completed in 2022. The mountain of dirt that currently exists on the site will be added to in the coming months and will eventually be spread across the entire parcel.

The Bustleton/Somerton/Lower Moreland communities wait to receive the results of the traffic study and other additional project details. Eventually an in-person community meeting will take place for us to hear a complete project summary in one session. Until that time, we will continue to share details as they arrive and prepare a response. While the overwhelming majority of opinions expressed are in opposition to the massive warehouse, we sincerely do want to hear all opinions, regardless of the position.

- **Primary Election** - Governor Wolf postponed the PA Primary to **June 2, 2020**, and since no one knows for certain what the COVID-19 crisis will look like on June 2, it's safe to assume that voting by mail is the safest option through the states **'Stay Safe, Vote from Home'** mail-in program. For more information and to apply: [www.VotesPA.com](http://www.VotesPA.com)
- **GBCL Membership Conference Call** – In an attempt to staying better connected, the GBCL will conduct a conference call with **Captain Ritchie of the 7<sup>th</sup> District** on Friday, May 15 at 11:00 am. An agenda and dial-in instructions for the call will be sent to members as we get closer to the call date. We ask members to submit their questions or comments related to the community or police issues by leaving a message or sending an email: 215-676-6890, [gbustletoncl@gmail.com](mailto:gbustletoncl@gmail.com) Since we have no idea when our membership will get to meet next in person, we are exploring ways to keep the lines of communication open and flowing, so please bear with us.
- **American Heritage Blood Drive** – The American Heritage Federal Credit Union, in response to community needs of blood and personal protective equipment donations, is facilitating donations of both supplies and blood to local health providers. The blood drive will take place in AHFCU's Community Room on **Tuesday, April 28, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** AHFCU has also contributed financial relief, medical supplies, buildings and volunteers and is providing 50,000 PPE facemasks to local hospitals during the month of April. In addition, American Heritage has provided several support and relief programs for members, including waiving late fees, skip-a-pay loan options and surcharge-free ATMs for the public at all its locations. Register at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and use sponsor code AHFCU or call 800-733-2767
- **PennDOT Tailgating** - Tailgating contributes to more than a third of all car accidents. The PA Dept. of Transportation has witnessed the success of the "social distancing" slogan in helping to slow the virus spread and has now incorporated the distancing concept and slogan into their enforcement of tailgating on PA highways. (Sorry, not true. Late Aprils Fool joke)
- **Census 2020** – If you didn't submit your responses to the online Census questionnaire, you most likely recently received one in the mail. Using your given 12-digit ID you will be asked to count everyone who lives in your home as of April 1. The census is a count of every person who lives in the U.S. and its territories. It happens every 10 years and the 2020 census marks the 24th time that the United States has counted its population since 1790. You will not be asked for your Social Security number or bank/credit card information. You will also not be asked for money or for anything on behalf of a political party.
- **GBCL Elections** – The GBCL normally accepts nominations for officers at the March membership meeting, votes in April, with the new officers beginning their term in May. Because of the cancellation of public meetings we will be extending the voting process for another month. Anyone interested in nominating a member can contact nomination chairman Tommy James at [junie412@hotmail.com](mailto:junie412@hotmail.com) Executive Board officers hold one-year terms, May through April. To date no nominations have been received. A method for voting will be established after nominations have been received.

- **Keeping Bustleton Beautiful with 311** - The Philly311 contact center is Philadelphia's customer service center for all non-emergency inquiries. To help keep Bustleton Beautiful any resident can submit a service request or report an issue, on any subject that reduces our areas quality of life. You can submit a request anonymously online or by simply dialing 311. Abandoned cars, construction complaints, L&I issues, unlicensed business complaint, or graffiti removal as exemplified below on Verree Rd. and Walley Ave. and reported to 311 by the GBCL.



- **Wine & Spirits** - The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board plans to expand its curbside pickup program from the initial 175 stores selected to nearly all its stores on Monday, April 27. Stores will take orders by phone, paid for in advance by credit card, and will limit the order to no more than six bottles. Only one order will be accepted per caller, per store, per day. On a side note, the PA State police say crimes of all sorts have plummeted during the past month, including a roughly 75% drop in DUI arrests. Local Wine & Spirits stores:
  - 2550 Grant Avenue, Philadelphia, 215-330-1308
  - 11685 Bustleton Ave, Philadelphia, 215-856-603
  - 401 Franklin Mills Circle, Philadelphia, 215-281-2080
  - 935 Old York Road, just north of The Fairway, Jenkintown, 215-517-2993
- **Arts** - John Travolta was recently hospitalized for suspected COVID-19, but doctors now confirm that it was only the Saturday Night Fever, and they assure everyone that he is Staying Alive. Apparently, he had chills that were multiplying. (Sorry. Another silly, late Aprils Fool joke)

- **Bustleton Bengals - Clothing Drive – Saturday, April 25**, 7am to 3pm. Yes, this event will go on with all the required precautions taken, so get moving. Stop, Drop, and keep Rolling, after your curbside drop-off. Or, you can have your items picked up at your house by Vince Tarducci's beautiful wife, Chris. Just call her at 215-906-8179. Clothing, accessories like belts/ties/scarves, toys, household items like sheets/blankets/towels. What better way to spend your self-isolation time than cleaning out your closets? The Bustleton Bengals Youth Club is a valuable component to our Bustleton community; a non-profit organization whose mission is to help build strong character in kids and help maximize their potential as responsible citizens and leaders. Girls and boys, ages 4 years old and up learn "life lessons" that have value well beyond the playing field. For more information visit [www.bustletonbengals.org](http://www.bustletonbengals.org).
- **Friends of Pennypack Park** – We are sorry to report that another local volunteer group, Friends of Pennypack Park, have stopped all their park activities and ceased as an active organization. They have been unable to obtain liability insurance because of lawsuits stemming from two accidents that occurred in the park and in which they had no involvement, other than having "Pennypack" in their name. The tragic accidents were a drowning several years back, and more recently, a falling tree branch that injured a child. The GBCL has joined forces with the FOPP on many park cleanups over the years and they will surely be missed. While Parks & Recreation is responsible for maintaining the park, the litter pick up and trail maintenance you enjoy is usually the work of the FOPP. They are just a great bunch of local folks volunteering their time so we can enjoy the beauty of the park. An increase in outside activities brought on by the coronavirus has also brought a big increase in foot traffic throughout the park, and the damage and litter are piling up. If you want to help all Friends Groups and other Good Samaritans, you can contact your state representative and senator and ask them to support Pennsylvania House Bill 2310. The full bill and sponsors can be viewed at: [www.Legiscan.com/PA/Bill/HB2310/2019](http://www.Legiscan.com/PA/Bill/HB2310/2019)

### **Zoning:**

At present, all Zoning Board of Adjustment hearings and variance applicant presentations are on hold until further notice. Once the building and use permit process resumes, the backlog of applicant requests currently on hold will be reexamined by the GBCL and their presentation to the community scheduled.

Bustleton area projects on hold:

1. **Fulmer St/9800 Bustleton** – Possible townhouses.
2. **2050 Welsh Rd** - Two story Medical Center addition w/parking.
3. **842 Red Lion Rd** - Onyx Hookah Lounge
4. **9514 Bustleton Ave.** - Proposed use: Two-Family Household Living
5. **9898 Roosevelt Boulevard** – Medical, Dental, and Health Practitioner
6. **9566 Walley Ave** – Oversized shed

## 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
- Red Tiger Taekwon-do
- Wawa

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### 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

<https://gbcl.online/> 215-676-6890 [gbustletoncl@gmail.com](mailto:gbustletoncl@gmail.com)

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