

4th Wednesday-of-the-Month In-Person Membership Meetings
CANCELLED Until Further Notice
Look for Announcements of Virtual Membership Meetings

Greater Bustleton Civic League News

July 2020



President's Corner

Hello neighbor,

I hope you and your family are doing well, and that you're surviving this week's heat.

The coronavirus has disrupted so many of our conveniences and social routines. Holidays, celebrations, travel, friends and family, have been exchanged with grab-and-go restaurants, online doctor's visits, drive-by graduations. While some businesses and activities are beginning to open, my own advice would be to plan for the long-term with regard to the inconveniences and routines.

However, we will be having our first membership get-together this Wednesday, July 8, but it won't be in person. Our meeting this month will be a conference call that all members can dial in to and listen. Look inside the newsletter under ZONING for directions on calling in. I hope you can join us.

Thank you,
Jack O'Hara, President

Bits and Pieces

- **UPS Warehouse at 1 Red Lion Road Subject to Civic Design Review.**

The 24 hour-a-day, 7 day-a-week, 1 million square foot, package-delivery distribution center will now undergo a **Civic Design Review** (CDR). A CDR is a project review conducted by design and development professionals who have been appointed by the Mayor, along with community representatives. The review committee evaluates projects in a public, advertised forum, which the when and how has yet to be determined. CDR meetings take place once a month, typically on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

The purpose of a CDR is to enhance the design of a project within a community and to give the public a voice on its eventual appearance. But to be completely accurate, a CDR is an advisory-only process and has no teeth to it. Input and recommendations from the community and committee members are rarely followed or enforced. Generally, a CDR would not be necessary since the land is zoned industrial today. However, projects of a certain size and/or location can trigger a CDR. While the CDR is not binding, the process should guarantee to some extent that area residents and businesses will receive a thorough picture of what to expect and learn all the details of the massive project. For a description of a CDR on the city's website view [here](#).

At present, the owner of the parcel, CDC, is assembling the application materials to be submitted to Philadelphia City Planning Commission. A traffic study conducted by the owner will be part of the materials submitted, has also been submitted to PennDOT and city traffic engineers for their review. The traffic study is currently going back and forth, being reviewed and amended by both the state and city. When the traffic study is completed and plans finalized, the public will then be able to view and comment on the work.

As the GBCL has 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 Bustleton/Somerton/Lower Moreland communities continue to ask for support of their opposition from their elected officials. In the next weeks the GBCL will email each of them directly and ask what they can do to assist our opposition efforts. In our next newsletter we will include the email we sent, along with the response received back from each of them. We ask them to listen to the opinions of their constituents, and help them in their opposition efforts.

- **Fireworks** – Who doesn't enjoy a little fireworks around the holidays? But if only it were a "little" fireworks, and if only it were not every day, at all hours of the day. Today, the use of fireworks regularly goes unchecked and is now out-of-control. They are very frightening to our pets, people with autism and those who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Besides disrupting sleep, they are adding to the psychological trauma being felt by many from the pandemic and civil unrest.
Fireworks were quietly legalized across the state three years ago for revenue-generating purposes, and with new coronavirus related expenses, it doesn't appear likely the state will be going back. For comparison, fireworks taxes raised \$8.2 million for the state in fiscal year 2018-19 and \$7.4 million in fiscal year 2019-20. Is that revenue worth all the quality-of-life declines, throughout the entire state?
It is very difficult to use fireworks legally in most of the city.
 - You have to be at least 18 years old.
 - You can't set off fireworks within 150 feet of an occupied structure — including houses or commercial buildings that are in use, which covers most residential neighborhoods.
 - You can't light a fuse under any trees, or power lines.
 - You must have permission (in writing) from whoever owns the land. Unless you get approval from Parks & Rec, that crosses off most of the public space that would be big enough to meet the 150-foot rule.
 - Setting off fireworks illegally is a summary offense, punishable with a \$100 fine. But officials admit it's hard to enforce since it's difficult to find the people who set them off.
- **Randi's Restaurant** – We are saddened to announce the passing of **Randi D'Amico**, co-owner, with her husband Jim, of Randi's Restaurant. Randi and Jim are both residents and business owners in Bustleton. They've been good neighbors and great supporters of the GBCL for many years. They have provided their restaurant space for many a GBCL and PSA-2 meeting. Randi was a smiling, friendly woman, and she will surely be missed.
- **Coronavirus** – On July 1 Gov. Wolf ordered that masks must be worn in all public spaces, whether indoors or outdoors, whenever anyone leaves their home and can't maintain a proper social distance from others. Masks are also required when using public transportation, taxis, or a ride-sharing service. Indoor dining is still permitted in Pennsylvania counties that have entered the "green" phase of reopening, though Philadelphia has pushed back indoor dining to at least Aug. 1. At this time law enforcement will not be charged with enforcing this latest order with citations for noncompliance," a Health Department spokesperson said. Wolf suggested the state's mask mandate will remain in effect until a coronavirus vaccine is publicly available.
- **Speed Cameras on Roosevelt Blvd** - The new cameras were turned on June 1, and after a 60-day warning period, drivers will start to get ticketed for speeding. For now, the Philadelphia Parking Authority will only issue warnings, by mail, to drivers traveling more than 11 mph above the speed limit. The cameras are operated by the PPA and cover an 11 3/4-mile stretch of the boulevard and are positioned at eight locations: Banks Way (2nd St. area), F Street, Devereaux Street, Harbison Avenue, Strahle Street, Grant Avenue, Red Lion Road near Whitten Street, and Southampton Road near Horning Road.

- **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. You will not be asked for your Social Security number or bank/credit card information. You will also not be asked for money, for anything.
- **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.

ZONING - ZBA hearings resume on July 14th. The GBCL received word that ZBA hearings will soon be held, remotely, with opportunities to participate over the web or by phone. Hearings will be held twice a week through July to hear rescheduled cases. Because of the city shut down, the ZBA has 520 postponed cases to hear. A link to the announcement can be found [here](#).

ZONING - PRESENTATION & VOTE:

As mentioned earlier, the GBCL will make its first attempt at holding a virtual membership meeting, and also to review one zoning matter. The format for the meeting will be the easiest format for our members to access, a simple conference call. At 7 PM on Wednesday the 8th you will:

1st - Dial: **978-990-5268**

You'll hear some instructions, and then...

2nd - Dial the access code: **1095085** and then the # sign.

All listeners will be muted during the call. An attorney for the applicant will give an overview of the business and its location. All questions, concerns and votes can be emailed to gbustletoncl@gmail.com or left on our call line at 215-676-6890. Over the following week we will respond to any questions and accept votes, after all questions have been satisfied. A tally of the votes will be advertised once it's completed.

The zoning matter being reviewed:

- **9898 E. Roosevelt Boulevard.** – The applicant, Aspen Dental, needs a variance to move into the commercially zoned center because the center lies in an overlay district that prohibits certain uses: medical, dental and health practitioner.
We've included in this mailing the accompanying L&I REFUSAL and a BROCHURE describing the location within the center. On our Wednesday night call, we will review the need for the variance, and hear a description of the dental business. When the review is done, we will ask for your vote, or any questions/clarifications, to be emailed or called in. This is our first attempt at a virtual meeting, so wish us luck.

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

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

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