

4th Wednesday-of-the-Month *In-Person* Membership Meetings CANCELLED
Until Further Notice

[Virtual Membership Zoom Call Wednesday, January 27, 2021 - 7 PM](#)

Greater Bustleton Civic League News

January 2021

Punxsutawney Phil



How many weeks of winter remaining will be officially established on Tuesday, February 2nd.

President's Corner

Hello neighbor,

As you know, because of the coronavirus, our 4th Wednesday-of-the-Month, *in-person* membership meetings have been CANCELLED until further notice. As mentioned, we will hold our first Membership zoom call of the year this Wednesday, January 27, at 7PM.

If you join via computer, Laptop, smart phone, use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2153331174?pwd=YzIzMkweVNNM3NjWW5UMHNsSWUyUT09>

If you join by phone, call 301-715-8592 and when prompted, enter ID 2153331174 and then the password 478550.

We will be providing a number of Bustleton related updates, hearing two zoning presentations and hearing the latest on the UPS Red Lion Road warehouse. We hope you will dial-in for the call, as we inch back to normal.

Thank you,
Jack O'Hara, President

- **COVID-19 in Bustleton** – There is now a bright light at the end of the tunnel with the vaccine, and better days are surly in our future. But while the number of covid cases in Philadelphia is declining at the moment, our Bustleton/19115 area is consistently high on the city’s zip code list of COVID deaths and for the percentage of people who test positive for the virus. For some time, the GBCL has been in direct contact with Dr. Thomas Farley, Health Commissioner Philadelphia, and the **Department of Public Health** to learn the reasons behind our scores and what we can do to help lower the numbers. With that goal in mind the GBCL is currently coordinating with Public Health to schedule dial-in informational sessions, FREE Walk-Up testing in Bustleton, and contributing legwork with identifying potential vaccination sites.
 - The first **Informational Session** is scheduled for Thursday, January 28 from 11am to 12noon. The second is scheduled for Wednesday February 17 at 7:00 PM. To join dial: 301 715 8592, then ID: 817 5755 5099.
 - The first of several **FREE Walk-Up Testing** dates are scheduled for Saturday, February 20 and Saturday, February 27 and will take place in the parking lot of **the American Heritage Federal Credit Union**, 2060 Red Lion Road. Additional Bustleton testing dates are being scheduled and will be announced once they’re locked down.



- **Vaccinations.** While the COVID-19 vaccine is in the early stages of being distributed, in phases in Philadelphia, patience is needed since the process is still being ironed out. The GBCL is in contact with Public Health officials and area healthcare providers to learn the distribution sites that will be located in Bustleton when they eventually open. Several Bustleton businesses have generously offered up their buildings and facilities for vaccination sites, but at this time would need to partner with a healthcare provider or system to help administer the vaccines. We thank them all for their generous offers and community involvement. We will advertise those locations once they’re established.

The city of Philadelphia is making the vaccine available in phases, in groups, based on a person’s level of risk. You will be eligible to receive the vaccine when the city reaches the vaccine distribution phase of the group that you are in. Philadelphia has a different vaccination schedule than the rest of the state, so eligibility and the sign-up process will be different from

other PA counties. While **preregistering** does not sign you up for an appointment, you will be notified by the city or one of its many vaccine partners when it is your turn to be vaccinated. You can preregister your name with the city at [*COVID-19 Vaccine Interest Form*](https://covid-vaccine-interest.phila.gov/?mc_cid=1b685ee82a&mc_eid=1245e87aa2) or https://covid-vaccine-interest.phila.gov/?mc_cid=1b685ee82a&mc_eid=1245e87aa2

For general covid questions you can use **Phila. Public Health helpline: 215-685-5488**

- **PECO Property Zoning Violations – 9358 Old Bustleton Avenue** - The commercially zoned PECO property just south of Kelly’s Seafood on Old Bustleton, is in violation of several zoning code regulations. The GBCL has been trying to correct the infractions for over a year. Equipment and Materials Storage Yards, Commercial Vehicle Repair and Maintenance, Long and short-term storage of large vehicles, altered stormwater runoff, surrounding fence taller than 6 feet, are all violations in the Philadelphia Zoning Code for a Commercial Mixed-Use-2 zoned parcel. In addition to the existing zoning code violations, PECO’s contractor tenant has expanded the construction yard and is believed to now be encroaching onto property owned by Maternity B.V. M. Church. The GBCL has been urging the city to upgrade the commercial block for some time and made multiple complaints and had multiple conversations with PECO with no success. The PECO Real Estate & Facilities Manager stated that the case is still being reviewed, after one full year. The GBCL will continue its efforts to correct the violations and encroachment issue. If you have any questions for the PECO RE Manager, Mike Maronski, he can be reached at 215-841-5471. [Google Map View of 9358](#) - [City Atlas Map of 9358](#)



- **Groundhog Day - February 2nd, 2021** – With not a lot of good news lately, many are looking forward to the arrival of some warmer weather. For proof that we’re inching toward spring, Punxsutawney Phil is scheduled to leave his burrow soon at Gobbler's Knob, wearing his covid-mask, to make his annual weather prediction for the remainder of winter. If he crawls out and sees his shadow, he regards it as an omen of six more weeks of bad weather and returns to his hole. If the day is cloudy and shadowless, he takes it as a sign of an early spring and stays above ground. He, like many of us, is still getting comfortable with wearing a mask out in public.

- **Bustleton Squatters – 1813 Gregg Street** – This Bustleton news item is difficult to believe and understand how it got this far. The unfortunate neighbors to 1813 Gregg have had to endure the existence of a filthy group of individuals who broke in illegally and brazenly took up residence in a house they had absolutely no ownership or connection to. A 6 ft. high fence was erected in the front of the house and the yard is now completely covered with litter and debris. The property never had rental tenants and the squatters never had a lease, which eliminates any landlord-tenant argument. Since there is no landlord-tenant relationship, the owner had to seek a resolution through a lengthy and expensive *ejectment* process in the Court of Common Pleas. Having been successful in court, the owner’s attorney has told the GBCL that they are now waiting for the Philadelphia Sheriff’s Office to forcibly eject the criminal squatter. The GBCL will follow up with the attorney and provide any updates.



- **Anne Frank Elementary School, Addition and Major Renovation** - Anne Frank, at 2000 Bowler Street, is a K-5 school that serves 1,321 students and is currently over capacity. Renovations of offices and classrooms, and the reconstruction of the bridge connecting the two existing buildings currently underway will make attendance much more productive. A two-story addition will provide the school with more space, and an improved building layout. The project is expected to be completed by September 30, 2022. The 2018 Completion Project Report can be viewed here:

<https://www.philasd.org/capitalprograms/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2018/10/Exhibit-A-2018-10-12-Anne-Frank-ES-SDR-Final.pdf>



TUTORIAL for Zoom Calls

Our monthly Zoom membership meetings look to be here for the foreseeable future. We're always looking to improve on our presentation and make them a good experience for everyone. Below is information intended to assist you in participating on these calls.






For starters, you can join a Zoom meeting either by computer for the video benefit, or simply by phone if you prefer, either a landline or mobile phone. By phone it's pretty easy. Simply dial the number provided, and, when asked, enter the meeting number, and the meeting password, both of which will be listed in the meeting information you will get before each meeting.

To join a meeting with your computer, smartphone, or iPad, use the link or URL address that's provided with the meeting information. The link includes the meeting ID and password, so you won't need to enter this information separately.

Regardless how you join, be sure you know:

- how to mute and un-mute your microphone
- how to increase and lower the volume on your side.
 - To make sure others can hear you clearly, be sure to be close to your microphone on your mobile phone or laptop.

Once you are in the Zoom meeting, you should expect:

- Your microphone will be muted, so no one will hear you. This is done to prevent background noise. You can unmute when you need to ask a question or make a statement.  
- You will see images of those individuals already at the meeting. (like the Brady Bunch)
- If you have a camera (i.e., smartphone, laptop), you may set it to be on or off; it's your choice.  
- However, if you do choose to keep your camera ON, please remember that everyone sees what your camera sees. So, be aware of the direction of the camera, your surroundings, appearance and your actions while on the call.
- If you set your camera to OFF, you can still participate in the meeting, but no one will see you; they will only hear you.
- If you wish to speak, you may click on the "raise your hand" icon  and wait to be recognized. This is done to avoid multiple people talking all at the same time.

Feel free to email any questions you have: gbustletoncl@gmail.com

- **GBCL Membership Drive** – It's that time of the year to renew your GBCL membership if you haven't already. And, if you know a neighbor who wants to stay informed about events affecting their Bustleton community, give them a copy of the membership form on the last page of this newsletter and suggest they attend a monthly membership zoom call.

- **UPS Warehouse / 1 Red Lion Road UPDATE**

The GBCL's opposition to the planned, massive warehouse continues. As expected, Philadelphia's Department of License and Inspection issued a ZONING permit to the owner after satisfying their Civic Design and Review requirement. Issuance of the zoning permit is the step before BUILDING permits are issued. But first project approvals must come from the Streets Department and the Philadelphia Water Department.

The GBCL has filed an APPEAL of the zoning permit issued, as did SANDMEYER STEEL who also filed an appeal. The appeals will eventually be heard in front of the Zoning Board of Adjustment at a future date that has yet to be scheduled.

After a considerable amount of research and expense, the GBCL feels confident with our position of opposition, a position that is based on facts. Our position has also been endorsed by several different traffic and environmental experts. One example, our own traffic engineer presented data that questioned the validity of the traffic volume estimates that were submitted by the developer. As a result, PennDOT is now requiring UPS to provide detailed backup documentation to support their trip generation estimates.

The GBCL's case opposing the placement of a massive sorting and distribution warehouse in the middle of a residential area has grown in its complexity. Over the past two years there has been a number of individuals who have contributed to our cause with their own research and expertise and have helped get us to where we are today. We cannot thank them enough.

In the near future, the GBCL will hold a stand-alone meeting devoted exclusively to providing an update and hearing feedback from all area residents and businesses. We will advertise the meeting once a date has been selected.

ZONING - PRESENTATION & VOTE:

We will hear two zoning presentations and then vote at Wednesday's Zoom meeting.

- **9721 Dedaker St.** – Variance is needed for an oversized shed. ZBA hearing March 3rd, 2021.
- **1325 Grant Ave.** – Variance is need for the conversion of garage into living space, and for the addition of an added parking space. ZBA hearing February 2, 2021.

The attorneys for the applicants will give an overview, followed by a Q&A session for attendees to get additional clarification. Please send any questions and opinions you have, before or after the call, either in support of or opposing, to gbustletoncl@gmail.com or call **215-676-6890**.

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 a volunteer group of area residents and businesses with a strong interest in preserving the very best attributes of Bustleton, and ensuring that all new development is appropriate for our neighborhoods.

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) -- 2021 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, 2021.

Thank you for supporting the GBCL!

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

Visit us at <https://gbcl.online/> (215) 676-6890