

Virtual Membership Zoom Call - Tuesday, September 28, 7PM

Greater Bustleton Civic League News

September 2021



President's Corner

Hello neighbor,

Where did the summer go? Kids are back in school, and the Eagles season opens September 12th in Atlanta. It's back to work with our GBCL meetings after our July/August summer recess.

Many people have expressed to us how much they miss coming out and socializing at our monthly membership meetings. We had hoped to start back with in-person meetings this month, but the recent spike in new virus cases has changed those plans. For now, we will be keeping with monthly Zoom meetings, which you can also simply call in and listen to if you choose. Also, our meetings have moved to the **4th-Tuesday-of the-month**, and not the 4th Wednesday.

We will be providing a number of Bustleton related updates on the **September 28 Zoom call**. Most importantly, we just learned the **2nd UPS Warehouse Appeal Hearing is now scheduled for Tuesday, October 12 at 9:30 AM**. More on that later. We will also hear a zoning presentation on a variance needed for an oversized shed at a home on Welsh Road.

We look forward to sharing the updates with you and hope you will dial-in for the call.

Thank you,
Jack O'Hara, President

Greater Bustleton Civic league

Community Updates

- **Monthly Membership Meetings** – As mentioned above, the GBCL’s membership meetings will continue to take place by way of Zoom. The benefits of meeting in person we know are many, but the trade-off for our members safety is much more important. Until our members are comfortable again meeting in person, and after more of our residents become vaccinated, we will be staying with Zoom calls for the foreseeable future.

- **For reference, your current Executive Board:**
 - President – Jack O’Hara
 - Vice President – John McKeever
 - Treasurer – Mike Herskovitz
 - Corresponding Secretary – David Bauer
 - Recording Secretary – OPEN
 - Chairman Community Safety Committee - Ellen Dwyer
 - Chairman Zoning Committee – Carl Jadach

- **7th Police District**
 1. EVENT: Hero Thrill Show, 9/11/21 - Noon-5:00pm in the parking lot of the Wells Fargo Center. Performances by the Philadelphia Highway Patrol Motorcycle Drill Team, Philadelphia Fire Department, and K-9 Unit. [Purchase Tickets.](#)
<http://www.herotrillshow.org/>
 2. EVENT: Family Fun Day at Bustleton and Bowler St. District Office, 9/25/21, 9 to 2 PM – Raffle, food & police vehicles. [7Th District](#)
 3. Stolen Mail. There have been a few incidents reported recently of deposited mail being removed from collection boxes, with two occurring right at the Bustleton Ave. Post Office. Thieves steal checks, forge signatures, and amass personal information from the mail to commit identity theft. The USPS has worked to make collection box openings smaller and more secure. Recommendations: monitor your bank accounts, report any mail fraud incidents you discover, and avoid depositing mail into the boxes after they’ve been collected for the day.
 4. Theft of Catalytic Converters Continues. You know you’re a victim if you start your car and it now sounds like a race car. The converters are coveted by thieves because of the precious metals they contain; platinum, palladium, or rhodium. Newer, hybrid vehicles like the Honda Pilot and Prius are particularly valuable. Theft prevention suggestions are below.

Prevent Catalytic Converter Theft

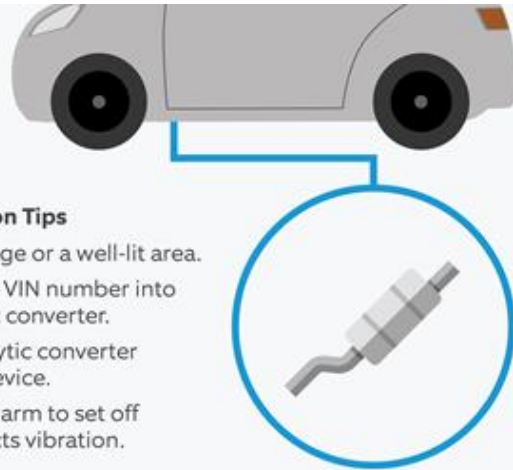
What is it?

- It is a critical component of your car's exhaust system and can cost up to \$2,000 to replace.
- Thieves target it because it contains expensive metals, has a street value of up to \$200, and removal can take less than 1 minute.

Source: Allstate

Theft Prevention Tips

- Park in a garage or a well-lit area.
- Engrave your VIN number into your catalytic converter.
- Install a catalytic converter protection device.
- Install a car alarm to set off when it detects vibration.



- **Bustleton Bengals** <https://www.bustletonbengals.org/>
 - Engraved Bricks – Bengals fundraiser is still available. immortalize your support.
 - Clothing Drive – Saturday, Oct 2nd, 2021, 7 AM to 3 PM.
- **Bag Ban** – The City of Philadelphia ban on One-Use Plastic Bags began on July 1, though the new law won't be fully enforced until April of 2022. Unless properly disposed of, many of these bags become litter in our streets, waterways, and commercial corridors. Retail establishments must post signs stating that the establishment will no longer provide single-use plastic bags and non-recycled content paper bags as of Oct. 1. [Plastic Bag Ban.](#)
- **Water Bills Going Up.** Philadelphia water customers will see their monthly bills increase about 3.6% starting September 1, and by a larger amount Sept. 1, 2022, for a total of 10.3% over two years. [PWD Announcement.](#)
- **Help Keep Bustleton Attractive** – This is a consistent theme with the GBCL, but certainly worth mentioning again. Bustleton is truly one of the most sought-after sections in the city. Please do what you can to keep your neighborhoods litter free, and with well-kept front yards if you just so happen to have a green thumb. It makes driving down your street a whole lot more enjoyable.
- **Back-to-School** - full day, in-person learning, five days a week has started. At present, masks are mandated for all staff and students. Vaccination mandates are being considered. When driving, please be mindful of school buses and our school student pedestrians. [PA School Bus Safety.](#)

- **COVID/Vaccinations in Bustleton/19115** - Just when we thought we were out of the woods, and the promise of a return to all the things we love after such a tough year, have all now been spoiled by the rise of the delta variant of the virus. Many Philadelphia companies are pushing back on their return-to-office dates. Only about a third of city employees have returned to their offices. The percentage of residents with at least one vaccine dose ranges from 35% in the Logan/Fern Rock area (19141) to 82% in Center City's 19102 zip code. As of August, **percentage of Bustleton residents vaccinated: 51.4%**, and we can do better than that. Almost 80% of Philadelphia's adults have had at least one vaccine dose, which is one of the highest rates of vaccination of large cities in the country, as per city's Department of Public Health.
 - State healthcare workers are vaccine mandated. All city employees may soon be vaccine mandated.
 - Growing number of Philadelphia-area restaurants announced they'll require proof of vaccination for indoor dining.
 - *Please* pitch in to help slow the spread of the virus by getting vaccinated. It is the only road back to normal.

City's COVID-19 homepage: www.phila.gov/covid-19

- **HOTWORX, coming to Grant Plaza** (old Radio Shack space) – Another first-in-the-state business for our Bustleton area. HOTWORX is a national chain of unorthodox workout studios that started in 2018. Uncommon because the various workout routines are conducted in infrared, sauna rooms, with 2 or 3 people at a time, and conducted by virtual instructors. You heard that right, pay for virtual workouts in a sauna. [HOTWORX](#)
- **SEPTA is testing a new name for itself: the “Metro”** - The potential rebrand is part of a \$40 million effort to make the public transit system easier for new riders. The rebrand would affect six SEPTA routes: the Market-Frankford Line, the Broad Street Line, city trolleys, the Norristown High Speed Line, and the Media-Sharon Hill Line. In addition to their new name, each route will be identified by a new color and a single letter.
- **SLOW 911 Emergency Calls** – It's been reported that 911 calls into the radio room of Philadelphia Police Department headquarters at 8th and Race streets are sometimes picked up slower now than in the past. The slow response time is because of near-daily staff shortages, for a variety of reasons. In addition, call volume has risen in recent years from 2.3 million in 2018 to over 2.4 million last year. It was advised that should you need to make a 911 call and you experience a delay, **DON'T HANG UP**, no matter how many times it rings. Hanging up only puts you in the back of the line. Know your location, house or apartment, and address. Be patient with the operator and their questions. They have a very difficult job.

Zoning

- **PRESENTATION To Membership, September 28 - 821 WELSH RD**

Owner is seeking a variance for the erection of a two-car garage. As per the Zoning Code, private residence garages and carports may not exceed a maximum depth of 25 ft. and a maximum width of 35 ft. Whereas the proposed garage is 44 ft deep x 28 ft wide. ZBA Hearing is scheduled for November 3rd, 3:30.

- **FUTURE Variance PRESENTATION to Membership – 2000 Welsh Road**



The owner of 2000 Welsh, next to Saint Luke's Episcopal Church and Cemetery, is seeking a zoning variance for side and rear additions, for use as retail sales, along with single family dwelling, and with the rear addition used as a walk-in cooler for the commercial space. Multi-uses, and specifically retail use, is prohibited in the residential RSA-2 zoning district. ZBA Hearing date is scheduled for November 17 at 2:00 PM. Project plans will be presented to residents on the October 26th GBCL membership Zoom call. [ZBA Hearing Calendar](#)

- **Fulmer Street Condos**, at Bustleton Ave., Cobblestone Court – The new owner of the Fulmer St. parcel has gone through PWD, Planning Commission and is in discussions with the Streets Department for a development of townhouses. The developer, now owner, made a preliminary project presentation to our membership in 2020. Plans are for 65 Units, on 8 ½ acres, with a dog park and walking trail. A 3.7-acre tract at the dead-end street was recently purchased and added to the original parcel. A project presentation will be made to membership for input before the owner applies for L&I building permits.

- **WHAT'S HAPPENING AT...9042 Roosevelt Blvd?**



It has been confirmed that plans are still on track for the construction of a Citizens Bank branch building. The developer of the project gave a Zoom presentation on the GBCL's November 2020 membership call.

- **WHAT'S HAPPENING AT...9422-32 Bustleton, SWC of Bustleton & Grant?**



The old gas station was lawfully demolished, and its next occupant has yet to be identified. The parcel is zoned CA1, Auto-Oriented Commercial-1, and the owner is listed as Albert Kuoch of BUS Properties, LLC.

- **WHAT'S HAPPENING AT...1075 Welsh, and Walley Ave.?**



The new single-family home on the corner lot is on its way to completion. A project presentation for a two-story, single-family home was first made to membership in April of 2019. After some plan adjustments, a second presentation was made in November of 2019 that included an increased setback off Walley Avenue.

- **WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH...9706 Morefield Rd?**



The owner/variance applicant presented plans for a 12 ft. x 24 ft. shed, which was listed as detached garage space, at our June 23 membership call. Side and rear-yard setback plans did not meet minimum requirements and required a variance. After some dialogue with immediate neighbors, the owner/variance applicant was asked to consider plan changes or provisos that would reduce its size and location, but did not respond back with any modifications. The ZBA hearing is still scheduled for October 13th at 9:30. A membership vote was never taken on submitted plans and the GBCL letter to the ZBA will reflect that history. [ZBA Hearing Calendar](#)

- **PECO Property, 9358 Old Bustleton Avenue - Zoning Violations**



The debris filled vacant lot next to Kelly's Seafood has been an ugly, visual eyesore along Old Bustleton Avenue longer than is needed. The PECO "sub-tenant", a construction company, vacated the property months ago. PECO has been asked multiple times to clean up the debris and vehicles, remove the illegal fence, and regrade the soil to its original configuration. PECO has yet to remediate the lot and the community is still waiting. If you want to help the GBCL's efforts, contact the PECO RE Manager and complain about the lot's appearance: **Mike Maronski at 215-841-5471, Michael.Maronski@exeloncorp.com**

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

The 2nd ZBA Appeal Hearing Now Scheduled for Tuesday, October 12 at 9:30 AM.

ZBA Zoom Hearing instructions are [HERE](#). Before the hearing the GBCL will hold a hearing prep-call and will announce the date once it's scheduled.

The massive, proposed UPS warehouse remains the most harmful development ever to threaten the Bustleton community, and the GBCL plans to continue fighting and oppose the damage it would inflict.

The consistent and central reason for our opposition to the project is its SIZE, and the intense traffic volume it will push out into our neighborhoods and roadways. The substantial increase in traffic volume will lower our property values, reduce our daily quality-of-life routines, and create unsafe driving conditions. Opposing development that harms a community is what's expected of a Registered Community Organization.

Greater Bustleton Civic League

The Bustleton/Somerton/Lower Moreland communities are united in their opinion of the project and the damage it will bring. Sandmeyer Lane businesses are also united with the GBCL in opposing the mammoth project. It is a very rare occasion when both residents and businesses of a community agree on the impact of a project.

We continue to hold out hope that our elected officials will listen to the opinions of their constituents, help with our opposition efforts, and introduce a project that will better coexist in our community.

The upcoming ZBA and court hearings are going to expose the alarming details of the project. As the hearings progress, the community will get a very clear and disturbing picture of what they could be left to live with. We encourage members to attend these hearings, ask questions of their elected officials, and decide for themselves if this 24/7, beehive of trucks in their neighborhood is something they see themselves living with. Please contact your elected officials and let them know your opinion.

1. **City Councilman Brian O'Neill:**
brian.oneill@phila.gov
 - 215-686-3422
 - 215-685-6431
 - 215-685-0432
 - 215-437-9167
2. **State House Rep Martina White:**
mwhite@pahousegop.com
 - 215 330-3711
 - 215-330-3711
 - 215-632-3237
 - 717-787-6740
3. **State Rep. Kevin Boyle:**
kboyle@pahouse.net
 - 215-331-2600
4. **State House Rep Tom Murt:**
tmurt@pahousegop.com
 - 215-674-3755
 - 717-787-6886
5. **State Senate Rep John Sabatina Jr:**
Sabatina@pasenate.com
State Transportation Committee
 - 717 787-9608
 - 215-695-1020
6. **State Attorney General Josh Shapiro:**
info@attorneygeneral.gov
 - 215-886-7376
 - 717-787-3391
 - 888-538-8541
7. **US Rep. Brendan Boyle:**
 - 267 335-5643