

Greater Bustleton Civic League
November 28, 2023 Membership Meeting

NEXT MEETING: **Thursday, December 21, 2023**

The GBCL is Alive and Active.

Thank you for supporting our Bustleton community.

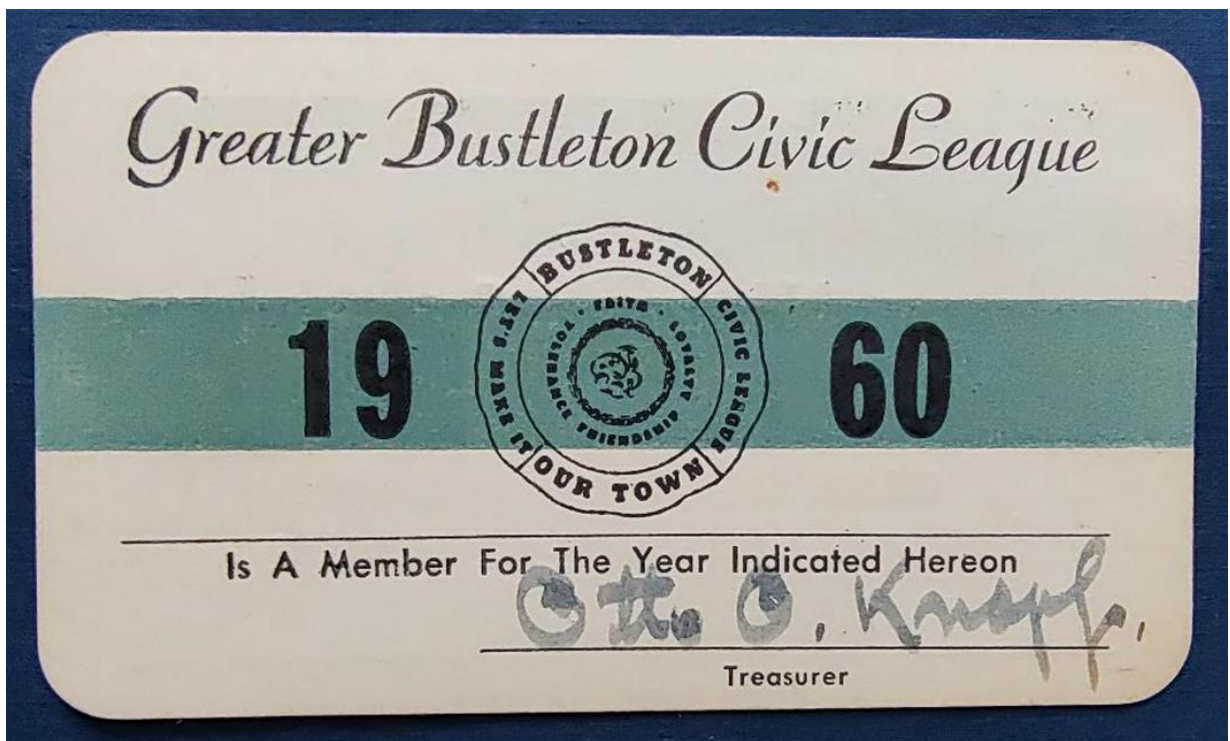
Please pick up your 50/50 tickets at the Sign-In table.

Tonight's Agenda

- GBCL is Open and Active
- Housekeeping – Treasurers Report
- Community Updates
- PRESENTATION – “Complete Streets” - OTIS, Office of Transportation, Infrastructure, and Sustainability - Andrew Simpson - Verree Road modifications.
- Opposition to UPS Warehouse continues, as does the lawsuit against the GBCL and its Officers.
- PRESENTATION – Modifications being made at Sloane Honda, 9903 Bustleton Ave. Civic Design Review required for proposed modifications.

The **Greater Bustleton Civic League** is an all-volunteer, non-political, neighborhood organization that works to keep residents and businesses of Bustleton / 19115 informed of issues affecting our neighborhood. No offices, no salaries, no benefits; we are all Bustleton volunteers. We have existed in Bustleton for over 70 years.

Inside inscription: "Faith - Loyalty - Friendship – Tolerance"



Current Executive Board:

- President – Jack O’Hara
- Vice President – John McKeever
- Treasurer – Mike Herskovitz
- Chairperson Community Safety Committee - Ellen Dwyer
- Chairperson Zoning Committee – Carl Jadach

GBCL welcomes our elected officials and their representatives attending tonight.

Phila.gov:

- “Registered Community Organizations (RCOs) are community groups that are *concerned with the physical development of their community.*”
- “Organize and conduct public meetings where community members can comment on planned developments in their neighborhood”.

GBCL has limited resources, and volunteers are needed:

- Membership Meetings
- Membership Drive
- Website

Please consider donating some of your free time to help operate the GBCL. Thank you.

Housekeeping:

- The GBCL is very grateful to the **American Heritage Credit Union** and its staff for providing a safe and comfortable meeting space for our membership meetings.
- Treasurers Report – Mike Herskovitz, Treasurer
 - PayPal option is now available.
 - Please RENEW your Membership for 2024.
 - Please consider a DONATION to the GBCL.

Community Updates

- **7th Police District:**
 - **Captain Steven O'Brian**
 - **Joe Staszak, Community Relations Officer**
 - Report of Race Car Caravan Fri 11/10-11:30 PM
 - "Toys for Tots" – New, unwrapped toys can be dropped off at the 7th District until Dec. 8.
 - Special Needs Kids Christmas Party – Donations are needed to make this a success.
 - PSA 2 Meeting (Police Service Area 2) Speak directly with a representative of the 7th District. Tue. Dec. 6, 7PM. Randi's, Grant Plaza
- Quality-of-life ordinances are in effect on **illegal street racing** and **"boom parties"** (cars equipped with massive music speakers). Bill authorizes PPD to issue violation notices and could also seize vehicle. [CODE 12-1136](#)
- **Truck Tractors** - It is illegal for trailer or truck tractor to park on any residential street. [CODE 12-1135](#)
 - [Tractor Trailer Enforcement](#)
 - [Tractor Trailer Enforcement Request Page](#) - Picture is required. \$100 tickets. Vehicles W/ three or more unpaid tickets eligible for boot.
 - [Report abandoned vehicle](#) - 311 site.
 - [License Plate Not Displayed](#)

- **Thanksgiving Meal Baskets** distributed. The GBCL wants to thank the Goldenberg Group of Blue Bell, PA for their continued generosity toward our Bustleton community.
- **Northeast Philadelphia History Network**. Virtual/in-person meetings every 1st Wednesday. Wednesday, December 6, 7 PM, “Northeast Philadelphia Rowhouses”.
- **Pennypack Environmental Center**, 8600 Verree Rd. Upcoming Events. Facebook. A true Bustleton jewel.
- **Bustleton Bengals** <https://www.bustletonbengals.org/>
 - **Engraved Bricks** - Purchase a fundraising brick that will be placed outside the gym and remembered forever.
- **PA 2022 Property Tax/Rent Rebate**
Deadline to apply for a rebate is **December 31, 2023**.
<https://www.revenue.pa.gov/IncentivesCreditsPrograms/PropertyTaxRentRebateProgram/Pages/default.aspx>
- **Zoning Code Quick Guide September 2022 link.**
- **Helpful city Zoning links** for your home projects:
 - **SHEDs:**
https://www.phila.gov/media/20200904104416/PG_011-FAQ_Shed.pdf
 - **DECKs:** <https://business.phila.gov/media/EZ-Deck-Permit1.pdf>
 - **FENCES:** <https://www.phila.gov/services/permits-violations-licenses/apply-for-a-permit/building-and-repair/get-a-fence-permit/>

- **PRESENTATION – “Complete Streets”** - Andrew Simpson, Yihong Hu - OTIS, Office of Transportation, Infrastructure, and Sustainability – Complete Streets program works to ensure safe transportation options for all Philadelphians, whether they walk, bike, drive, or ride transit, and represents best practices in street design.

Community feedback is welcomed on potential safety improvements for Verree Road through the Pennypack Park area.

UPS Warehouse UPDATE

Community opposition continues to the proposed 1.1 Million square foot warehouse.



- **The GBCL invested considerable time and resources investigating the suitability of the massive sorting and distribution complex. The decision made to Appeal the zoning was thoughtful and justified.**
- **After 70 years in existence the GBCL is now being sued by the UPS warehouse developer.**
- **GBCL is very grateful for the citywide support and assistance that helped secure insurance coverage and allowed us to continue serving Bustleton community.**

Legal RECAP

- GBCL is involved in two ongoing proceedings.

1. Zoning Appeal in PA Commonwealth Court.

- After being denied the opportunity to present a case in Phila. court, GBCL appealed to the state asking the court to send the case back to the ZBA and allow us to present our evidence. GBCL is exercising its right to appeal and will continue to work through the law and the legal process. A PA Appeal hearing in 2024 has yet to be scheduled.

2. UPS warehouse developer suing GBCL and Officers.

- GBCL Defense Attorney continues preparing case. GBCL believes UPS developer lawsuit is without merit and will aggressively defend against it. We are confident the facts and law are in our favor.

The GBCL was very instrumental in the introduction of a bill that would protect RCO's from developer lawsuits.

Inquirer 11/14/23 – City Council President Darrell Clarke introduces legislation to deter so-called SLAPP suits against RCO's. If his proposal passes before the end of this term, it would be placed on the ballot during the primaries next April for voters to decide on.

[ARTICLE](#)

What can you do to help our community opposition?

- Continue to share our story with family and friends.
- Contact elected officials, UPS, and every News Outlet.

1st - City Councilman Brian O'Neill:

brian.oneill@phila.gov 215-686-3422, 215-685-6431, 215-685-0432

- **State Representative Kevin Boyle:** 215-331-2600, 215-695-1016, kboyle@pahouse.net
- **State Senator Jim Dillon:** 215-281-2539, 717-787-9608, info@dillonforpasenate.com
- **State Representative Martina White:** 215 330-3711 mwhite@pahousegop.com (717) 787-6740, (215) 330-3711, (215) 632-3237
- **State Representative Nancy Guenst:** 215-259-5962 RepGuenst@pahouse.net
- **UPS Carol Tome**, CEO ctome@ups.com
- **UPS Mark Giuffre**, State Government Affairs, mgiuffre@ups.com 502-727-7539
- **UPS Kim Krebs**, UPS Public Relations, kkrebs@ups.com 404.828.4404

Zoning Updates:

- **9916 Bustleton Ave.** – 90 Apartments. APPROVED
- **2050 Welsh** – Change to Commercial. DENIED
- **9800 Bustleton Ave** Parcel B & Fulmer/Cobblestone Condos. WITHDRAWN.
I-2 Zoned parcel advertised for warehouses. No variance, no ZBA hearing required.
- **9877 Verree Road** - Legalize existing fence. VOTE: 10 opposed, 5 Support - ZBA Hearing 1/31/24 @ 9:30
- **90 Red Lion RD.** – ZBA Hearing: Wed. February 14, 2 PM - 1/24/23 GBCL VOTE: 13 to 4, to SUPPORT, with 5 PROVISOS:
 1. No additional signage added to existing sign.
 2. No SALE signs in or on vehicles
 3. No additional outside lighting to be added.
 4. No parking of vehicles on Red Lion Rd. front grass area.
 5. No parking of vehicles on Red Lion Rd. or Geiger Rd.
- **9855-89 Bustleton Ave** - ZBA Hearing: March 27, 2024, 9:30 AM - Variance request for USE as an event center.
- **9504 Rising Sun Ave.** – ZBA Hearing: April 10, 2024, 9:30 AM - Variance request for Personal Home care for fourteen (14) adults in single-family home.

December 2023 PRESENTATIONS:

- **Parks & Rec** - Executive Director Alex Doty, “Rec It Philly” Campaign. Campaign works to end the neglect and make park sites clean and safe for more recreation.
- **824-34 Red Lion Rd.** ZBA hearing 1/24/24 at 2 PM. Variance needed for erection of three (3) illuminated signs.
- **615 Alburger** - ZBA hearing 3/13/24, 9:30. Variance needed to legalize existing Side Deck, too close to party line.

Tonight’s Civic Design Review PRESENTATION:

9903 Bustleton Ave, Sloane Honda

Even when a development project doesn’t require any variances, some projects require a **Civic Design Review**, or CDR. Developers present their projects to the local RCO before they present them to City Planning Commission.

The developer and the RCO then appear at the CDR. At the RCO presentation residents get to provide input on projects that will affect their community, and developers get feedback on their plans from a fresh set of eyes. Any input provided is not mandatory instructions for the developer.