

**Greater Bustleton Civic League
April 18, 2024 Membership Meeting**

**Next Membership Meeting: Tuesday May 28,
2024, 7 PM**

Thank you for your continued involvement.

Happy Passover

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 28, 2024

Please sign-in at the welcoming table,
and pick up your 50/50 tickets.

Tonight's Agenda

- Housekeeping – Treasurers Report
- GBCL Recognizes Bustleton Bengals Three-time, State Champs Seventh-grade Basketball Team
- Community Updates and Public Service Announcements

What is the Greater Bustleton Civic League?

The **GBCL** 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.

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 has limited resources. Please consider volunteering some of your time to help operate the GBCL; Membership Meetings, Membership Drive, Website.

Housekeeping:

- GBCL welcomes our elected officials or their representatives attending tonight.
- The GBCL is very grateful to the **American Heritage Credit Union** and its staff.
- Treasurers Report – Mike Herskovitz, Treasurer
 - PayPal option is now available.
 - Please consider a DONATION to the GBCL.

- **Bustleton Bengals** <https://www.bustletonbengals.org/>

The GBCL wants to recognize the individual players of the Bustleton Bengals Seventh-grade team for their incredible effort and performance, winning their 3rd State Championship.

Players: Alex McCormac, Anaya Days, Aubrey Dillon, Brielle Hubbard, Emma Mayer, Erin Maloney, Isabella Hernandez, Lilly Bass, Miabella Wild and Olivia Izzi.

NE Times [ARTICLE](#)



Congratulations to all of the Bustleton Bengals teams in winning their league championships. Great job by all the players and coaches.

Community Updates & PSA's

- **7th Police District:**
 - Captain Steven O'Brian
 - Philadelphia now bans license plate flippers. Violators will now be fined \$2,000 for using plate flippers.
 - Community Relations Officer Joe Staszak – April 12, 2024 “Coffee with a cop”.



- **Dates to remember:**
 - April 23, 2024 is the Primary Election.
 - November 5, 2024 is the General Election
 - GBCL membership meeting: May 28
- **April 23 Ballot Question (SLAPP suit Bill 230740):**

“Should the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter be amended to require the City to provide for the indemnification and defense of registered community organizations in connection with claims made against them arising directly out of their lawful participation in the City’s zoning variance process?”

YES

SLAPP suit Bill (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) gained momentum as a result of the recent lawsuits brought against the GBCL by the UPS warehouse developer.

- [Northeast Philadelphia History Network](#). Local historical presentations every 1st Wednesday of the month held at Pennepack Baptist Church, 8732 Krewstown, & via Zoom.

- **Pennypack Environmental Center, 8600 Verree Rd.** [Upcoming Events](#). [Facebook](#). A true Bustleton jewel to be enjoyed by all ages. **Saturday, April 27 @ 12 PM, Sheep Shearing Day at Fox Chase Farm**



- **The Pine Road Bridge over Pennypack Creek closed April 1st until the end of the year.** Streets Department project Fact Sheet: [LINK](#).

- **Pennsylvania 2023 Property Tax/Rent Rebate** - 888-222-9190. Applications for 2023 Rebates are **due by June 30, 2024**. The program is one of five programs supported by the Pennsylvania Lottery. Based on your income, this program provides a rebate ranging from **\$380 to \$1,000** to eligible older adults and people with disabilities age 18 and older. Since the program's inception, qualified recipients have received more than \$7.6 billion in tax and rent relief. [LINK](#) to apply.

Eligibility:

- 65 and older - Widows and widowers 50 and older
 - People with disabilities 18 and older
 - Household income must be \$45,000 or less annually.
 - [VIDEO](#) on how to apply.
- [Classic Body Worx DISCOUNT, 9902 Bustleton Ave, 10% DISCOUNT to all GBCL members](#). Discounts are given on out-of-pocket repairs only, not insurance repairs. Thank you, Joe Pellegrini.
- **GBCL Elections** – Annual Executive Board elections for President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer. Nominations submitted in April, voting in May. Volunteers for the election committee contact Tommy James at junie412@hotmail.com

- **Home Projects.** Check the rules first before you start.
Helpful links to Zoning Code Do's and Don'ts:
 1. [SHEDs](#)
 2. [DECKs](#)
 3. [FENCEs](#)

- **Shaare Shamayim Synagogue considering sale and move.** Details of their next steps are still being discussed. Shaare Shamayim grew up and expanded along with the Bustleton neighborhoods over the past sixty years. The GBCL is sad to see an old friend move away and wish them the very best.

- **Truck Tractors - It is illegal** for trailers or truck tractors to park on any residential street. Please REPORT violations to the Police, 911.
CODE 12-1135
 170.1 Added, Bill No. 230208 (approved July 12, 2023).
§ 12-1135. Prohibited Parking or Maintaining of Semitrailers and Truck Tractors at Residential Properties.
 - [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](#)

ZONING - UPS Warehouse UPDATE



- Recent hearing in PA Commonwealth Court was related to the GBCL requesting its “due process” and allowing the community a hearing to present the basis for its opposition. The date for a decision is unknown.
- One year ago GBCL was being dropped by our insurance carrier and was close to dissolving because of the lawsuit filed against the GBCL and officers.
- The GBCL considers the proposed 1.1 million square foot **warehouse the most damaging development** our Bustleton community has ever faced.

- Despite being sued by the UPS developer, the GBCL will continue to represent the community's opposition.
- GBCL is very grateful for the citywide support and assistance that helped secure insurance coverage.

UPS Warehouse Legal Summary

GBCL is involved in two (2) ongoing proceedings.

1. Zoning Appeal in PA Commonwealth Court.

- After being denied the opportunity to present a case in Phila., GBCL appealed to the state asking them to send the case back to Phila. and allow us our "due process" to present our evidence. GBCL is exercising its legal right to appeal and will continue to work through the law and the legal process.

2. UPS warehouse developer suing GBCL and Officers.

- Relteva Complaint: *"GBCL and Sandmeyer have submitted frivolous appeals of both the zoning and building permits lawfully issued to Relteva that have absolutely no legal merit and which were submitted solely for the purpose of delay, harassment and thwarting the development of the Property."*
- 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.

What can you do to help your community opposition?

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

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 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
- **State Senator Jim Dillon:** 215-281-2539, 717-787-9608, info@dillonforpasenate.com
- **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

Upcoming ZBA Hearings by date:

- **90 Red Lion RD.** – ZBA Hearing **May 1, 2024**, 2 PM -
1/24/23 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.
- **9877 Verree** – ZBA Hearing: **June 12, 2024**. 9:30 AM. October 2023 Vote to OPPOSE. “...*legalization of a fence with non-compliant portions that are six (6) feet tall and 100% opaque in the front yard and complaint portions in the side and rear yards*”.
- **9969 Wisteria** - ZBA Hearing: **June 26, 2024**, 03:30 PM – Large rear garage.
- **260 Geiger** – ZBA Hearing **June 26, 2024**, 2:00 PM – Childcare center.
- **615 Alburger** - ZBA hearing **August 7, 2024**, 09:30 AM. CONTINUED. Variance needed to legalize existing Side Deck, too close to party line. December '23 Presentation – VOTE to OPPOSE, 19 to 2.

Instructions on how to attend ZBA Hearings: [LINK](#)