

# Greater Bustleton Civic League

June 25, 2024 Membership Meeting

*Summer Recess during July & August*

**UPS Warehouse Update: Thursday, July 25**

**Next Membership Meeting: September 24**

*Thank you for your continued interest in our  
Bustleton / 19115 community.*

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

## **Tonight's Agenda**

- Housekeeping – Treasurers Report
- Community Updates and Public Service Announcements

The GBCL is privileged and honored to have with us tonight:

- Police Inspector Francis Bachmayer, Divisional Town Hall - Northeast Division: 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, & 15<sup>th</sup> Districts.
- City Controller Christy Brady
- Clean & Green initiative Director Carlton Williams

## **What is the Greater Bustleton Civic League?**

- The **GBCL** is an all-volunteer, neighborhood organization that works to keep residents and businesses of Bustleton / 19115 informed on issues affecting our neighborhood.
- We are a non-political, non-religious group, with no offices, no salaries, no benefits, and all Bustleton volunteers.
- The GBCL acts as a voice for the Bustleton community to advocate for policies that better the community and improve our quality of life.

### **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

Please consider volunteering to help with:

- Membership Meetings
- Membership Drive
- Social Media
- Website, etc.

## Housekeeping:

- GBCL welcomes our **elected officials** or their representatives attending tonight.
- The GBCL is very grateful for the **American Heritage Credit Union** and its staff for their continued generosity.
- **Treasurers Report** – Mike Herskovitz, Treasurer
  - PayPal option is now available.
  - Please consider a DONATION to the GBCL.
  - **D&O Insurance - \$ 6,017 PAID – Fund Drive Needed**
  - General Liability -- \$710 PAID

## Community Updates & PSA's

**Please welcome Police Inspector Francis Bachmayer** -  
Divisional Town Hall

- Aggressive driving behavior
  - Illegal use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), car meetups, and nuisance businesses.
    - Vehicles riding through Pennypack Park
  - Tractor Trailers on streets and parked in residential driveways.
  - Retail theft
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- **7th Police District:**
    - Captain Steven O'Brian

- **Community Relations Officer Joe Staszak** –  
Supposedly retiring in July of 2024.  
The GBCL will truly miss his involvement in the  
Bustleton community.  
Thank you, Joe, for all you've done for us.



- **7th PDAC – Basket of Cheer Fundraiser** – Drawing held  
**July 19**. Tickets for sale: 3 for \$20.
- **7th District Family Fun Day** - Saturday, **September 7**,  
11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M – GBCL Volunteers needed.
- **Fireworks are ILLEGAL**

- **National Night Out** - Tuesday, Aug. 6, at 6 p.m. Fox Chase Elementary School yard, 500 Rhawn St. There will be a DJ and food.
- **PA bans handheld phone use while driving.** Effective next year, Pennsylvania is banning drivers from talking on a handheld device while driving. Drivers also cannot text, record video, take pictures, play games, send emails, or use social media under the new law. Pennsylvania was the only state in the region that allowed drivers to talk on the phone while driving. [Inquirer ARTICLE](#)
- **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 with three or more unpaid tickets are eligible for boot.
- [Report abandoned vehicle](#) - 311 site.
- [License Plate Not Displayed](#)

## Public Service Announcements

- “NO SWIMMING” signs – Requested by GBCL



- **Homestead Exemption Increased to \$100,000** – New property reassessment NOTICES for 2025 due out in June, the first reassessment in three years.
- [Northeast Philadelphia History Network](#). Local historical presentations 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every 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. Multiple programs and adults and kids throughout the summer.
- [Classic Body Worx](#) **DISCOUNT**, 9902 Bustleton Ave, offering **10% DISCOUNT to all GBCL members**. Discounts are given on out-of-pocket repairs only. Joe Pellegrini.
- **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](#)
- **Pennsylvania 2023 Property Tax/Rent Rebate**  
 STILL OPEN, 888-222-9190. [Applications](#) for 2023 Rebates are **due by December 31, 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. Rebates will begin to be issued in July. [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.

- **SLAPP suit Bill** - Voters approved ballot measure giving community groups legal protection. Providing City Indemnification & Defense for RCOs and help RCO's fulfill their obligation under the zoning code. After being signed by the Mayor, question will appear again at the November 5 General Election.

SLAPP suit Bill gained momentum in part because of the lawsuit brought against the GBCL by the UPS warehouse developer.



## ZONING – Proposed UPS Warehouse – 1 Red Lion Rd.



The proposed UPS warehouse is the most damaging development our community has ever faced.

- **Our community is asking our elected officials to reexamine the project plans, and recognize the impact.**

**They could then have an informed discussion with the owner regarding the impact on the community and the parcel's future use.**

- Despite being sued by the UPS developer, the GBCL looks forward to when we'll finally be allowed to put on our case and validate the community's opposition.

## UPS Warehouse Legal Status

GBCL is involved in two (2) ongoing proceedings.

### 1. Zoning Appeal in PA Commonwealth Court.

- Our Appeal in Commonwealth Court is not a determination of the critical zoning issues.
- The Commonwealth Appeal is a procedural request for “due process” permitting us to put on our full case, which has never been allowed to take place.

### 2. UPS developer Suing GBCL and its 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?

- Spread the story.
- Contact your **elected officials**:

### **1<sup>st</sup> - City Councilman Brian O’Neill:**

**[brian.oneill@phila.gov](mailto:brian.oneill@phila.gov) 215-686-3422, 215-685-6431, 215-685-0432**

- **State Senator Jim Dillon**: 215-281-2539, 717-787-9608, [info@dillonforpasenate.com](mailto:info@dillonforpasenate.com)
- **State Representative Martina White**: 215 330-3711 [mwhite@pahousegop.com](mailto:mwhite@pahousegop.com) (717) 787-6740, (215) 330-3711, (215) 632-3237
- **State Representative Nancy Guenst**: 215-259-5962 [RepGuenst@pahouse.net](mailto:RepGuenst@pahouse.net)
- **UPS Carol Tome**, CEO [ctome@ups.com](mailto:ctome@ups.com)
- **UPS Mark Giuffre**, State Government Affairs, [mgiuffre@ups.com](mailto:mgiuffre@ups.com) 502-727-7539

## **Please welcome City Controller Christy Brady**

- Two L&I Divisions: inspections, safety, and compliance. The other on “quality of life” issues and business code enforcement.
- Financial Literacy
- L&I Enforcement

## **Please welcome Clean & Green initiative – Director Carlton Williams**

- Addressing quality-of-life issues, like illegal dumping, abandoned cars and litter.
- City crews are cleaning each Philly block. Bustleton dates: Aug. 12 to Aug. 16
- Request speed cushions: [LINK](#)
- GBCL has always involved itself in neighborhood cleanups.

## Upcoming 19115 ZBA Hearings by date:

- **9969 Wisteria** - ZBA Hearing: **June 26, 2024**, 03:30 PM – Large rear garage. 22 SUPPORT, 1 OPPOSED
- **260 Geiger** – ZBA Hearing **June 26, 2024**, 2:00 PM – Childcare center. 27 OPPOSED, 2 SUPPORT - **CONTINUED**
- **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.
- **90 Red Lion RD.** – ZBA Hearing **August 7, 2024**, 3:30 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.

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