

# Greater Bustleton Civic League

November 19, 2024 Monthly Meeting

Next Membership Meeting:

**Tuesday, December 17, 2024**



***Our Bustleton / 19115 community improves  
from your concern for your neighborhood  
and your involvement with the GBCL.***

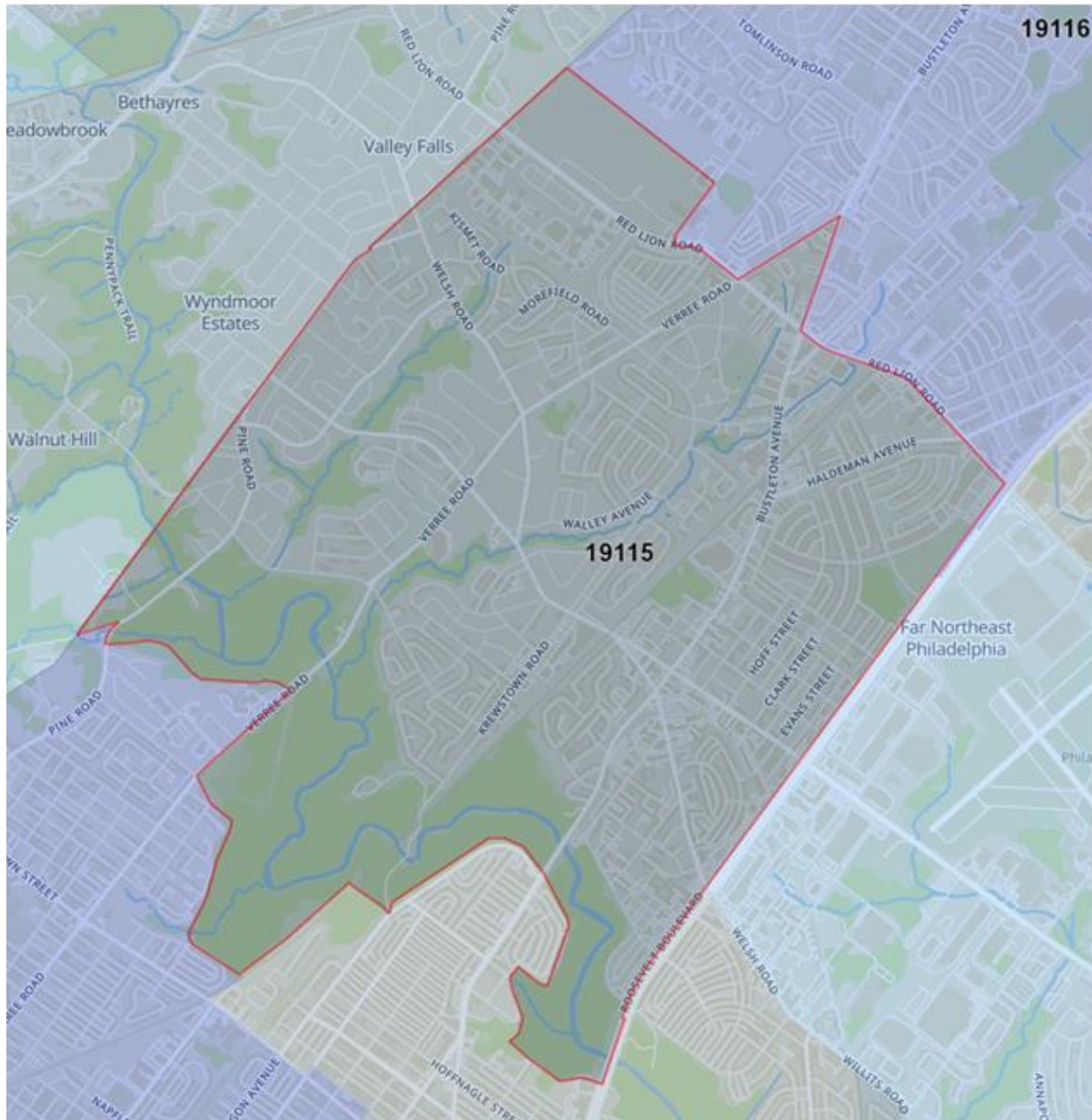
Remember to pick up your 50/50 tickets at our Sign-In table.

## **Tonight's Agenda:**

- Housekeeping: Welcome elected officials. Treasurers Report
- 7<sup>th</sup> District Police Reporting
- Community Updates & Public Service Announcement's
- ONE Zoning presentation tonight, 225 – 73 Geiger Rd.

## 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 and involved in issues affecting our neighborhood.



- The GBCL is a non-political, non-religious group. No offices, no salaries, no benefits, and all Bustleton volunteers.

- We interact with the 7th Police District. We represent Bustleton at Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) hearings, and more.
- The GBCL acts as a voice for the Bustleton community and advocates for policies that better the community and improve our quality of life. We help promote Bustleton events and organize neighborhood clean-ups.

### **Current Executive Board:**

- President – Jack O’Hara
  - Vice President – John McKeever - Retiring
- 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 and Website.

### **Housekeeping**

- Many thanks to our host, **American Heritage Credit Union**
  - **AHCU Annual Grand Illumination – Saturday, November 30th, 2024 at 7:00 PM.** The celebration has become one of the most celebrated beloved holiday traditions in Bustleton and includes the lighting of two 40-foot Christmas trees, hundreds of wreaths, and over 400,000 lights. Music, fireworks, free hot chocolate, all with Ben Franklin and Betsy Ross in attendance.

- **In the spirit of giving**, residents are encouraged to **please bring a canned food item** to help **American Heritage** reach its goal of 20,000 lbs. for its annual holiday food drive.
- **We welcome our elected officials** and their representatives.
- **Treasurers Report** – Mike Herskovitz, Treasurer
  - **Insurance Fund Drive** – Please help in our effort to offset increase due to UPS Warehouse developer lawsuit.
  - **PayPal option** is now available.
  - Please consider a DONATION to the GBCL.
  - Friendly Reminder: **Membership renewals** are now due for 2025.
  - Invite your friends & neighbors to attend and join.

## **7<sup>th</sup> Police District**



7<sup>th</sup> District Halloween Trunk or Treat – October 30, 2024

- **Captain - Steven O'Brian**
  - Police Officer of the Month: P/O **Joseph Walker #2416**
- **Community Relations Officer - Al Fiorentino**
  - **If you witness a crime or suspicious activity**, the entire community will benefit if you call 911 and report it.



## **Community Updates & Public Service Announcement's**

- **Gantry Road / Geiger Business Park** benefiting from city-wide **PPL rotation program**. PPL stands for **Police, PPA** and **L&I** QOL operations. After a problem area has been selected, PPL team keeps returning until complete compliance with regulations is achieved. Community concerned business owners in the park have proven their determination and persistence in reporting infractions to the police and L&I.
- **PSA-2 Meeting** – 1st Tuesday of every month at AHCU, 7.
- **Red Light Cameras** - The Red-Light Camera program has demonstrated substantial effectiveness in decreasing traffic accidents and fatalities. During FY 2024 the PPA saw a significant increase of issued violations. Increased enforcement is on the way as dozens more red-light cameras are being installed. At present there are 34 red-light camera locations. City council has approved seven new red-light cameras to be installed. Construction at these new locations is set to begin next year. PPA Red Light Program report: [LINK](#)
- **Aggressive Driving** is a nationwide problem – We've all witnessed it, and according to AAA nearly 80% of drivers have experienced anger, aggression, or road rage behind the wheel in the last 30 days. Switching lanes quickly, making rude gestures or honking at other drivers endlessly, tailgating, running stop lights and stop signs. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, two-thirds of accidents nationwide involve some type<sup>6</sup> of aggressive driving. 66% of all traffic fatalities are caused by aggressive driving.

Aggressive driving that leads to **road-rage** incidents is also on the rise nationally. Road-rage is an intentional assault by a driver or passenger with a motor vehicle or a weapon that occurs on the roadway. **Road-rage shootings** have surged by over 400% in the last ten years and tend to be most prevalent in larger cities. 37% of aggressive driving incidents involve a firearm. Males under the age of 19 are the most likely to exhibit road rage.

What to do. Experts advise motorists to stay cool and collected behind the wheel, especially during the holiday travel months. Experts also say the best way to respond when another driver seems to be venting his or her anger in your direction is not to react at all. Slow down and give them room to pass. Do not respond with obscene gestures or equally hostile actions. Never exit your vehicle to confront the other person if you're at a traffic signal or are otherwise stopped.

- **Electric Bikes (ebikes)** – It was a surprise to many, but in Philadelphia, and across Pennsylvania, electric bikes are classified as bicycles, not motorized vehicles, meaning they do not require registration, licensing, or insurance and are treated the same as a regular bicycle under the law; meaning you can ride them wherever bicycles are allowed. The operator does not require a driver's license but must be at least 16 years of age.

Pennsylvania Vehicle Code states that e-bikes weigh no more than 100 pounds, do not exceed 20 miles-per-hour using the motor, and have motors that do not exceed 750 watts. [PA E-Bike Laws](#).

- **Mechanical leaves pick up. THIS WEEK.** See this [MAP](#). Area is scheduled for week beginning Monday, Nov. 18 to Fri, Nov. 22

### [SCHEDULE](#)

#### Tuesday, November 19

- Verree Road to Dedaker Street, from Grant to Morefield

#### Wednesday, November 20

- Morefield Ave. to Welsh Road, from Verree to Pine

#### Thursday, November 21

- Welsh Road to Bloomfield, from Verree Road to Pine Road

#### Friday, November 22

- Verree Road to Krewstown Road, from Rising Sun to Grant

- **American Legion Post 810** - 9151 Old Newtown Rd – **Family Christmas Party**, Saturday, December 7, 11 AM to 2 PM. Please RSVP by 12/1 at 215-815-3462. And, you can watch all your **EAGLES** games at the 810.

- **RECYCLING – Big improvement in Philadelphia** - Many have witnessed their *recycling* bins emptied into regular trash trucks, disappointed their debris would not be transformed into new products and kept from the landfills. That shouldn't be the case going forward with Waste Management's new \$40 million automated facility on Bleigh Avenue in Holmesburg. The plant emphasized that even though an item might have the recycling symbol on it, that does not mean the city can recycle it. Undesirable items contaminate recyclable waste. For a guide to what items are recyclable and which are not, see the Streets Dept: [GUIDE](#)



- **Disposing of large trash items.** The Department of Sanitation will now handle the pickup of bulk collection items by appointment. The new program is expected to make disposing of refrigerators, air conditioners, and tires much easier. Collection will be free, and hopefully will discourage illegal dumping. You can schedule a pick-up online or call 311.

[ONLINE FORM](#)

- **KleinLife Farmers Market** - 10100 Jamison Ave., has a farmers market every Friday from noon to 3 p.m. Proceeds go to support the Cook For a Friend program.

- **Bustleton Bengals** –Consider the gift of an **Engraved Brick** to memorialize a loved one, while also making a donation to the Bengals. The red bricks look great and will be placed in the ground around the outside of the gym.

- **Truck Tractors parked at Residential Properties are increasing and is illegal.**

Please REPORT violations to the Police, 911.

[CODE 12-1135](#)- Prohibited Parking or Maintaining of trailers and Truck Tractors at [Residential Properties](#).

- [Tractor Trailer Enforcement](#)
- [Tractor Trailer Enforcement Request Page](#) - Picture is required. \$100 tickets. Multiple tickets eligible for boot.
- [Report abandoned vehicle](#) - 311 site.
- [License Plate Not Displayed](#)

- [Northeast Philadelphia History Network](#). Local historical presentations on the 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. Lots of programs for all ages throughout the winter.
- [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 began 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.

## ZONING

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



The proposed UPS warehouse has been determined to be the most damaging development our community has ever faced and the worst disregard the GBCL has ever had to contend with.

Our community OPPOSESES the SIZE of the massive project and the impact truck traffic activity will have on our community.

The basis for the community's opposition has never been evaluated in court. Our zoning appeal has been dismissed by the ZBA, Philadelphia Common Pleas Court, PA Commonwealth Court, and now waits for a decision with the PA Supreme Court.

The silence and lack of involvement by our elected officials is insulting to the community they represent.

## UPS Warehouse Legal Status

GBCL is involved in two (2) ongoing proceedings.

### 1. Zoning Appeal in PA Court.

- Our Appeal working through the Courts is **not** a determination on the underlying **zoning issues** but is a request to receive our **“due process”** and allow us to put on our full case, with witnesses, which has not happened to date.

### 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 is aggressively defending against it.

## What can you do to help your community?

- Share the story.
- Contact your elected officials:

**1<sup>st</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> District 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

## ZONING cont.

### Recent ZBA Hearing Outcomes:

- **90 Red Lion RD.** – Variance request **DENIED**

### Upcoming ZBA Hearings in 19115 by date:

- **260 Geiger** – ZBA Hearing **December 11, 2024**, 2:00 PM – Childcare center. 27 OPPOSED, 2 SUPPORT
- **225-273 Geiger** – ZBA Hearing: **December 11, 2024**. 2 PM

### Zoning Presentation TONIGHT

- **225-73 Geiger** – ZBA Hearing: **December 11, 2024**. 2 PM  
Variance request is for the “ERECTION OF A REAR ADDITION, USES: ASSEMBLY AND ENTERTAINMENT. Owner stated the construction and use are for a pickle-ball courts.

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

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