

Greater Bustleton Civic League

October 22, 2024 Monthly Meeting

Next Membership Meeting:

Tuesday, November 26, 2024

*Our Bustleton / 19115 community benefits
from your interest in our neighborhood
and your involvement with the GBCL.*

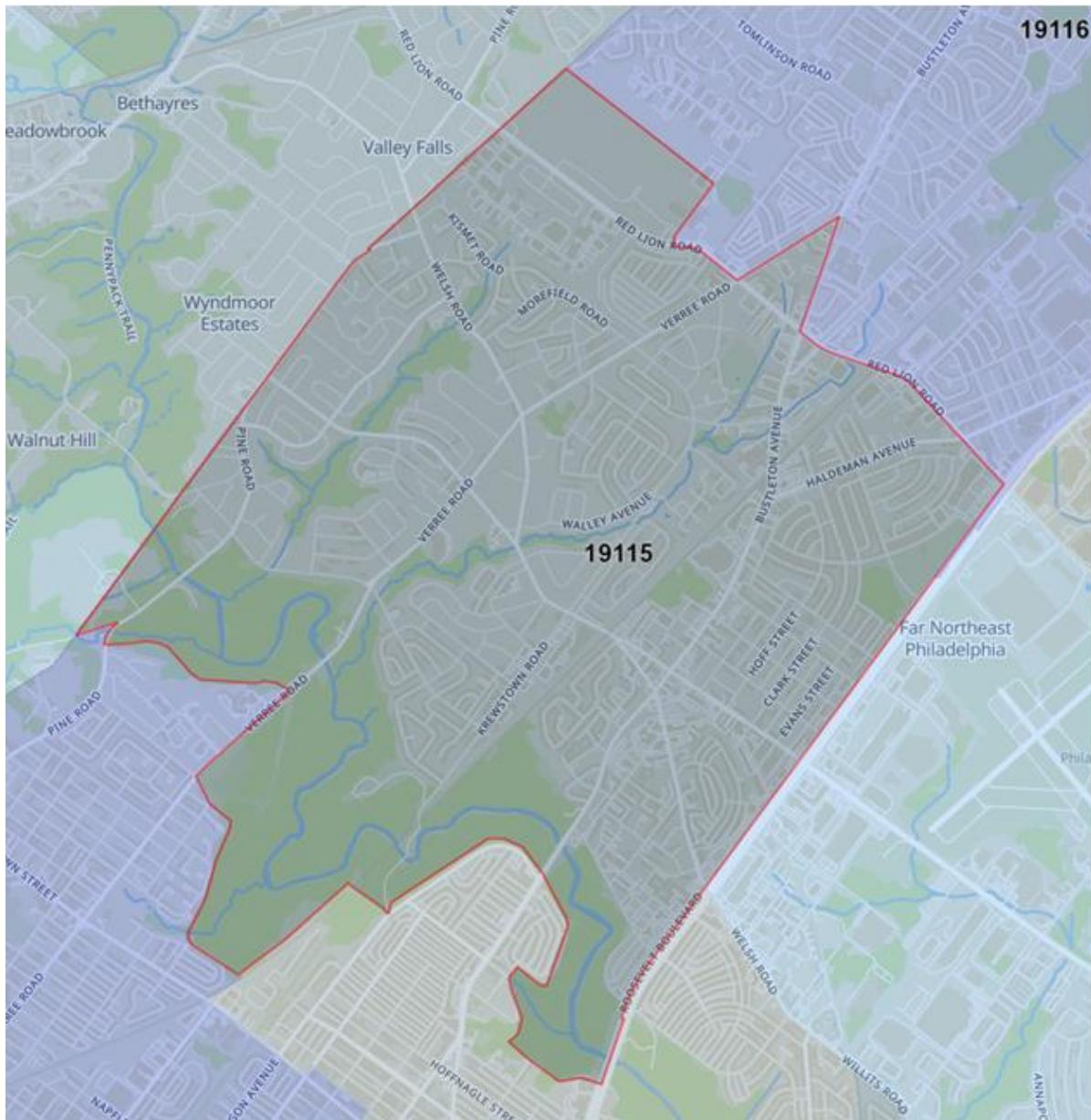
Remember to pick up your 50/50 tickets at our Sign-In table.

Tonight:

- Housekeeping: Welcome elected officials. Treasurers Report
- 7th District Police Reporting
- Community Updates & Public Service Announcement's
- NO Zoning presentations tonight. One in November.

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 of issues affecting our neighborhood.



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

- We interact with the 7th Police District. We represent Bustleton at Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) hearings, and a lot 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

- **Welcome elected officials** and their representatives.
- **Treasurers Report** – Mike Herskovitz, Treasurer
 - PayPal option is now available.
 - Please consider a DONATION to the GBCL.
 - Friendly Reminder: **Membership renewals** are now due for 2025. Please catch up on your 2024 membership dues if needed, and please consider a DONATION to the GBCL. Invite your friends & neighbors to attend and join.
- GBCL Guiding Principle: Community Concern and Involvement

7th Police District

- **Captain Steven O'Brian**
- **Community Relations Officer - Alfred Fiorentino**
 - Suspected club operating from **Paganini** Institute of Music & Arts, **2030 Grant Ave**, Garage Door #2. Neighbors complain of late-night noise and car congestion. Zoned CA-1, Auto Oriented Commercial. Permits granted for Child Care, Maintenance and Repair of Consumer Goods, Make-Safe permit for Roof Repair. In CA-1 Nightclubs and Private Clubs are NOT allowed. Assembly & Entertainment require Special Exception approval.
- **Coffee with the Controller & Police Commissioner**
Controller Christy Brady & Commissioner Kevin Bethel
Wednesday, October 23, 8:30-10am, Tiffanys Diner,
Roosevelt Boulevard and Welsh.

Community Updates & Public Service Announcement's

- **AHCU Annual Grand Illumination – Saturday, November 30th,** 2024 at 7:00 PM. Make plans now. The celebration has become one of the most 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, attendees are encouraged to bring a canned food item to help American Heritage reach its goal of 20,000 pounds for its annual holiday food drive.

- **Maternity BVM, Tribute to Jerry Blavet** – Saturday, November 16, 7 to 11 PM. 9322 Old Bustleton Avenue. Call Cathy for tickets: 267-446-0482, or Denise at 215-317-4117. Our own Bustleton resident and GBCL member **Jim Tighe** will DJ. \$40 includes dinner and non-alcoholic beverages. Yes, BYOB.
- **Thanksgiving Turkey Dinners** – Donated by the charitable arm of Goldenberg Group. Call GBCL with recipient recommendations.
- **GBCL received “Community Pride Award”** at our September 24 meeting. Presented by *Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful*, a subgroup of *Keep America Beautiful*. **Nominated by PA Senator Jimmy Dillons** office, the award is "*in recognition of your regular cleanup and maintenance efforts of the streets of Philadelphia and sections of Pennypack Park*".





There are many residents and members, past and present, that have contributed to this effort for many years. This award is for all of them. Thank you.

- **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 large household items such as 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., through the fall. Proceeds go to support the Cook for a Friend program as part of the Home Delivered Meals Program.

- **Bustleton Bengals** – Looking for holiday gift ideas? Consider purchasing an **Engraved Brick** to memorialize a loved one, while also making a donation to the Bengals. The bricks look great and will be placed in the ground near the outside of the gym and concession stand.
- **New Water Rates** - Typical residential monthly bill will increase by 12.3% from \$74.81 to \$84.03. Customers will first see the increase beginning in October bills.
- **New Property Tax Bills Received** - Tax bills are due March 31, 2025. Tax bills increase when assessments go up as property values grow over time. The new valuations capture two years of growth. After reviewing their assessment owners must decide whether to appeal before the Oct. 7 deadline. Owners who believe their assessments are inaccurate have two ways to contest the valuations. First, request OPA conduct a First Level Review. After the OPA checks its math owners can file a formal appeal with the Board of Revision of Taxes if they're unsatisfied. If a property owner wins an appeal after paying their property taxes, they may receive reimbursement or credit for their next year's taxes.
- **Truck Tractors parked at Residential Properties 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 1st 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 for all throughout the winter months.
- [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. ⁸

- **SLAPP Suit Question on November 5 Ballot** – (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation)
 - Bill will provide city indemnification and defense for Registered Community Organizations like the GBCL to help them fulfill their obligation under the zoning code.
 - The 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 has been designated the most damaging development our community has ever faced and the worst the GBCL has ever had to deal with.

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

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

UPS Warehouse Legal Status

GBCL is involved in two (2) ongoing proceedings.

1. Zoning Appeal in PA Commonwealth Court.

- Our Appeal working through Commonwealth Court is **not** a determination on underlying **zoning issues** but is a surprisingly difficult 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 will aggressively defend against it.

What can you do to help the community opposition?

- Share the story.
- Contact your elected officials:

1st - City Councilman Brian O'Neill:

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
- **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

ZONING cont.

Fast Food Coming to Welsh and Bustleton?

- **9367-9375 Bustleton Ave** – The old M&T Bank location.



Future occupant is unknown. Property is zoned CA1, Auto-Oriented Commercial-1. Permit information was obtained from City of Philadelphia Property App. Permits have been granted for Change of USE, Eating and Drinking Establishments – Sit-Down Restaurant and Drive Through. Retail Sales of Food, Beverages and Groceries. Permit also granted for outdoor Menu Board with Order Board Canopy. View Zoning Plans at [LINK](#)

Recent ZBA Hearing Outcomes:

- **720 Red Lion – APPROVED**

Existing sit-down restaurant needed a variance to allow it to expand into adjoining space. Variance was required because of recent changes to Commercial zoning in our 10th District. GBCL Vote total was 31 to Support, 9 Opposed.

- **90 Red Lion RD. – DECISION POSTPONED**

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 or Geiger Rd.

Since the GBCL’s January 2023 vote, business neighbors have filed multiple L&I complaints, and the five prerequisite provisos were not being adhered to during the time the applicant was awaiting their ZBA hearing. For this reason, the GBCL can no longer support the applicant’s request.

Zoning Presentation November 26, 2024

- **225-273 Geiger – ZBA Hearing: December 11, 2024. 2 PM**
Variance request is for the “ERECTION OF A REAR ADDITION, USES: ASSEMBLY AND ENTERTAINMENT

Upcoming ZBA Hearings in 19115 by date:

- **9877 Verree – ZBA Hearing: October 23, 2024. 9:30 AM -**
October 2023 Vote 10 to 5 to OPPOSE legalization of a non-compliant fence.
- **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**

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