

Greater Bustleton Civic League

December 17, 2024 Monthly Meeting

Next Membership Meeting:

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

***Happy Hanukkah
and Merry Christmas***

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

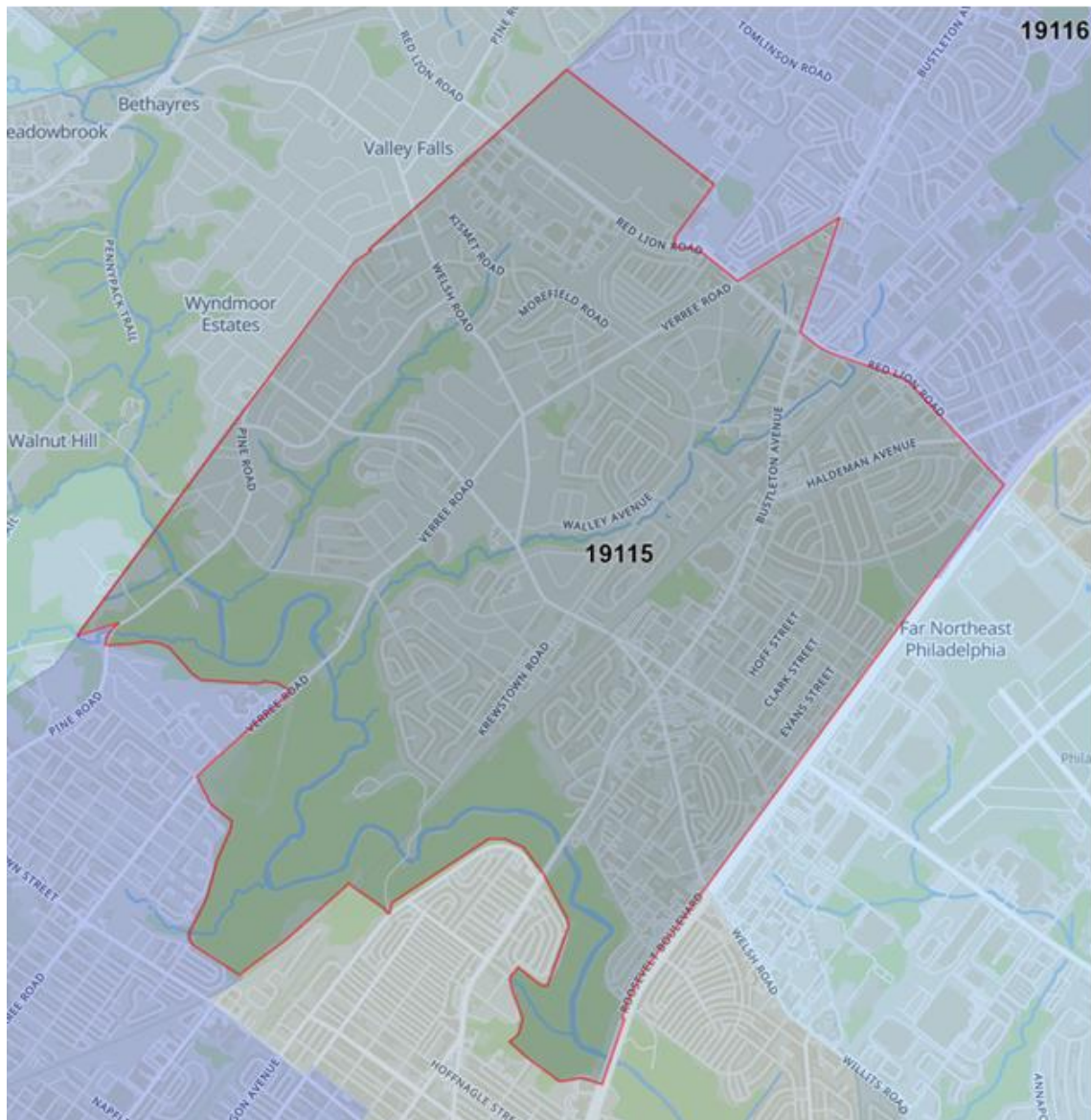
Remember to pick up your 50/50 tickets at Sign-In table.

Tonight's Agenda:

- Housekeeping: Welcome elected officials. Treasurers Report. Time to renew your membership.
- 7th District Police Reporting
- Community Updates & Public Service Announcement's
- NO Zoning presentations.

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.
- The GBCL acts as a voice for the Bustleton community and advocates for policies that better the community and protect our quality of life.

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
- Insurance Fund Drive
- Social Media and Website.

Housekeeping

- First, many thanks to our host, **American Heritage Credit Union** who have been very gracious over the past years.
 - **AHCU Annual Grand Illumination** – The exhibition has become one of the most beloved holiday traditions in Bustleton, and now the entire area.

- **We welcome our elected officials** and their representatives.

- **Treasurers Report** – Mike Herskovitz, Treasurer
 - **Insurance Fund Drive** – Please donate and help in our effort to offset the insurance premium increase due to the **UPS Warehouse developer suing the volunteer, neighborhood GBCL**. Directors & Officers insurance premium went from \$490 per year to **\$6,017 per year**.

 - **PayPal option** is now available.

 - Please consider a **DONATION**.

 - Friendly Reminder: **Membership renewals** are now due for 2025.

 - Feel free to invite friends & neighbors to attend.

7th Police District



Retiring Community Relations Officer Joe Staszak



Joe Staszak and Officer Al Fiorentino dancing [LINK](#)

- **Captain - Steven O'Brian**

- District has deployed an Aggressive Driving Detail along Bustleton Avenue.
- Police Officer of the Month: **Sherrelle Mitchell**
#6377

- **Community Relations Officer - Al Fiorentino**

- The bad guys are working extra hours this time of the year. Be extra mindful and take precautions.
- **If you witness a crime or suspicious activity**, the entire community will benefit if you call 911 and report it immediately.
- Consider purchasing a **Faraday pouch**. Thieves have the ability to pick up, amplify, or clone a car key's signal. The pouches block electromagnetic signals from entering or leaving the bag and help keep cars with keyless entry systems safe.
- Be sure your vehicle is locked before heading to bed.
- Make sure your home and garage doors are locked. Garage doors provide an easy entrance to a house.
- Avoid **road-rage** exchanges at all costs.
- Copied from November 2024 Agenda/Newsletter:
 - **“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 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 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."

Community Updates & Public Service Announcement's

- **Thanksgiving Dinners** – GBCL provided full, family dinner baskets to Baldi, Ann Frank, and Maternity BVM schools.

Community Updates, Public Service Announcement's cont.

- **Mayor Parker's 76's Arena Townhall at Baldi Middle School, Tuesday, December 10. Images: [LINK](#)**



- **Passing of Joan Rhodes** – Joan worked for the Philadelphia School Board before retiring and was the GBCL's Treasurer for many years.



- **Pine Road Bridge Project** – Opening this Saturday December 21!



Pine Road looking north toward Bloomfield Avenue.

- **PSA-2 (Police Service Area-2) Meeting.** – 1st Tuesday of every month at AHCU, 7 PM.



Retiring PSA-2 Coordinator Tommy James

- **American Legion Post 810** - 9151 Old Newtown Rd – Watch all your **EAGLES** games at the 810.
- **RECYCLING – Improved** - 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 thanks to a new automated facility in Holmesburg. For a guide to what items are recyclable and which are not, see the Streets Dept: [GUIDE](#)
- **Mini City Hall coming to Hayes Playground** – Ribbon Cutting Friday 12/20/2024 @ 12:30. NCAC (Neighborhood Community Action Centers or "Neighborhood City Halls") Each center will be staffed with a community manager and two organizers. Extra focus on **311 issues**.

- **Roosevelt Boulevard Reimagined** - Tuesday, January 7, 6 to 8 PM at American Heritage. PENNDot/SEPTA/City of Philadelphia Open House to update the community and gather feedback through an online survey. [LINK](#) / [SURVEY](#)

- **Disposing of large trash items.** The Department of Sanitation will now handle the pickup of bulk collection items by appointment. Refrigerators, air conditioners, tires and more can be picked up for FREE. You can schedule a pick-up online or call **311**. [ONLINE FORM](#)

- **Bustleton Bengals** –Consider the gift of an **Engraved Brick** to memorialize a loved one, while also making a donation to the Bustleton 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 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. Lots of programs for all ages throughout the winter.
- **Classic Body Worx DISCOUNT**, 9902 Bustleton Ave. 10% DISCOUNT for GBCL members still available for out-of-pocket repairs. Thank you, Joe Pellegrini. [LINK](#)
- **Home Projects**. Check the rules *before* you start your project. 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**. Based on your income, this program provides a rebate ranging from **\$380 to \$1,000** to older adults and people with disabilities age 18 and older. [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**

Past ZBA Hearing Outcomes:

- **225-273 Geiger** – Pickleball facility. **APPROVED.**
 - GBCL VOTE: 39 to 1 to SUPPORT.
 - CM Brian O’Neill supplied letter of support.
- **260 Geiger** – Childcare center. **APPROVED.**
 - GBCL VOTE: 27 to 2 to OPPOSE.

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 for its impact 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. 4,798 vehicles will be added to the road each day, of which **1,048 of those will be large tractor-trailers.**

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 our community.

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.** Our Appeal is a **request to receive "due process"** and allow us to put on a full case to validate our position, with witnesses, which has yet to happen.

2. UPS developer Suing the 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 support your community opposition?

- Share the story.
- Contact your **elected officials today:**

1st – 10th District City Councilman Brian O’Neill:

brian.oneill@phila.gov 215-686-3422,

215-685-6431 and 215-685-0432

- State Senator-elect Joe Picozzi: (717) 787-9608,
- State Representative-elect Sean Dougherty.
- 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