



# Greater Grove Hall Newsletter



Greater Grove Hall Newsletter

May / June 2010

## Inside this Issue

- La Newton School of Beauty Culture
- Boston Buying Power
- Convenience Store Safety Initiative
- US Census Update
- Jeremiah E. Burke High School Scholarship Fund
- Basic Finance Tools Workshop
- **Spring in Grove Hall**
- Events Calendar

## La Newton School of Beauty Culture

Founded in 1949 by Elizabeth O. Newton, the La Newton School of Beauty Culture opened its doors at 462 Massachusetts Avenue in the South End. That same year, Ola B. Gregory, fresh out of college, ventured north to Massachusetts with seven children and a desire to do hair. Six years after laying claim to Boston, Ola enrolled in La Newton making her dream a reality.

La Newton relocated to Grove Hall in 1962 to train growing numbers of African Americans in cosmetology. 636 Warren Street was the address for the next 48 years. As Murphy Gregory, son of Ola and current Director, puts it, “She [Elizabeth] and my mother could benefit from [La Newton] being in a black community, that is why it is here. Black people get their hair done and want to learn how to do hair.” Valarie Gregory, wife of Murphy and Co-Director followed up stating simply “there was a preponderance of black people in our area who wanted to learn cosmetology.”



The need for quality service and La Newton’s culture for superior standards fostered a strong bond between Grove Hall and La Newton. In 1969, Ola, was ready and able to purchase La Newton from Elizabeth. Ola kept the La Newton name and continued the standard of excellence. (continue page 2)

## Boston Buying Power—Need Help with Energy Bill?

When you join Boston Buying Power, your account is grouped with other local businesses to create purchasing power in the energy markets. EnergyAuctions is a state-of-the-art reverse auction platform that has suppliers compete to serve the aggregated energy requirements. Businesses that join Boston Buying Power are grouped with similar accounts for pricing efficiency. This saves businesses money. Each account retains its individual contracts and billing. EnergyAuctions carefully evaluates all eligible suppliers in the marketplace, giving our customers peace of mind knowing that all options are considered. (continued page 3)

For the next 18 years, Ola kept La Newton's footprint in Grove Hall, until her passing in 1987 leaving Murphy and Valarie to take the helm.

As the oldest continually owned minority cosmetology school in New England, La Newton out grew its facility after nearly 5 decades at 636 Warren Street. While students continued to receive an exemplary education, the Gregorys believed the school needed to modernize. Other cosmetology schools could claim a salon atmosphere for students, so La Newton, second to none, believed students deserved no less and moved to 350 Blue Hill Avenue, still keeping its Grove Hall presence. "We didn't need the large lobby we used to have, but we did want the latest equipment, fresh paint and new chairs to attract younger students," stated Murphy.



The demographics in Grove Hall have changed from La Newton's first appearance, but students of all backgrounds continue to find La Newton a launching pad for their careers. Over 4000 cosmetology professionals have called La Newton home and alumni consist of African Americans, Latinos, Haitians, Jamaicans, European Americans and countless other groups. These outstanding graduates go on to open salons and have learned techniques for sculpting ethnic hairstyles other competitive schools have not offered.

La Newton, a family business, understands that students have intense schedules. Flexibility is key to accommodating mothers, fathers and individuals employed full or part time. There is also limited scholarship aid available. Valarie and Murphy live, shop and work tirelessly in Grove Hall. They continue to build their business and serve the community. The Gregorys are proud that La Newton is Black owned and have enjoyed watching additional Grove Hall businesses follow suit. As the dust settles in La Newton's new Grove Hall location, Murphy and Valarie look forward to passing the torch on to their children. As current business managers and instructors, this next generation is expected to continue La Newton's legacy for decades to come.

Anyone interested in learning more about La Newton School of Beauty Culture is encouraged to view their website [www.lanewton-beauty.com/school/](http://www.lanewton-beauty.com/school/)



*"Grove Hall has economically gone up and down and up and down, but remained a viable community"* - Valerie A. Gregory

Hours of operation: Monday—Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Friday 9:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Anyone 18 or older, high school or GED or Ability to benefit test. Offer 1000 hours vocational education program. Full time 10 – 12 months, part time 1.5 years to 2 years.

## Convenience Store Safety Initiative

The Department of Neighborhood Development (DND) is providing a "Convenience Store Safety Grant" of up to \$500 for eligible convenience stores to purchase a security camera, monitoring system, and a Digital Video Recorder (DVR). Applicants interested in participating in the program should contact the Greater Grove Hall Main Streets (GGHMS) or DND's Office of Neighborhood Development no later than the June 1, 2010, the application deadline. For more information and details about the program, contact the GGHMS at 617.427.2560 or the Department of Neighborhood Development at 617.635.3880. Lets have a safe and secure summer!

Want to apply? Contact the Office of Business Development (617.635.0355) or the Greater Grove Hall Main Streets (617.427.2560 or [greatergrovehall@verizon.net](mailto:greatergrovehall@verizon.net))

## Boston Buying Power—Need Help Lowering Your Energy Bills? (continued)

Purchasing energy is only one component of utility management. Before your purchase is made, there are many ways to save energy dollars. After your purchase is made, there are also ways to save energy dollars. Boston Buying Power takes advantage of these opportunities. They benchmark your usage to similar businesses, identify options to reduce your consumption and choose suppliers to complete the work. UtilityModule provides all members with the tools and services available to isolate problems, plan solutions, increase efficiencies and lower costs. Join a growing number of Grove Hall businesses that have already signed up.

Interested?

Call: 857.244.6900 or Toll free: 888.317.3923.

## US Census

The deadline to mail in your census has past and data collectors are out in the community to tally our population. A full count of Roxbury and Dorchester residents is imperative so our community can be allocated what it is due. Funding for schools, hospitals and countless other services come from the Federal Government based on population. Any questions feel free to contact the Boston South Local Census Office 617.602.1190. Be Counted!!!

## Burke Scholarship Fund

We are fundraising to provide a scholarship to a graduating Burke Senior. Helping the Burke's scholars is important to us and we want to send them off to college to take the world by storm. The selected student will receive his or her scholarship during our *Spring in Grove Hall* reception Friday, May 21, 2010. To contribute to the scholarship fund contact us or make the check payable to "Greater Grove Hall Main Streets and in the memo write "Burke Scholarship."



May Sponsor



594 Blue Hill Avenue  
Dorchester, MA 02121  
617-427-8930

Want to sponsor or  
be featured in one  
of our Newsletters?

Contact us!



Roxbury Trust

The Waldwin Group

United Housing

US Census

Neighborhood Develop-  
ment Corporation of  
Grove Hall

Project R.I.G.H.T. Inc.

Quincy Geneva Housing  
Corporation

Touch of Class Beauty  
Salon

Brother's Super Liquors II



We exist to support Grove Hall's Commercial District

# BASIC FINANCE TOOLS WITH MAIN STREETS

Do you need help getting your finances together? Need a brief refresher course? Join the Greater Grove Hall and Dudley Square Main Streets, with Business expert Steven Brown from the Massachusetts Small Business Development Center Network to discuss what every business needs to know when managing their bookkeeping. Get prepared to take advantage of the programs to grow your business.

Wednesday, May 26, 2010  
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.  
Boys & Girls Club  
115 Warren Street  
Roxbury, MA 02119

For more information contact:  
Greater Grove Hall Main Streets, or  
Dudley Square Main Streets  
617-541-4644  
Joyce.stanley2@verizon.net

## Spring in Grove Hall

Celebrate the

### Greatness of Grove Hall

Friday, May 21, 2010 · 6:00 - 10:00 p.m.  
The National Center of Afro-American Artists  
300 Walnut Avenue · Roxbury, MA

2010's Grove Hall's Greats

Walter Little · Sister Virginia Morrison  
Arnold W. James Scholarship Award

Entertainment by  
Elan Trotman

Tickets  
\$20

Catering by  
Chef Nadine &  
Epicurean Salon

Silent Auction with  
Boston Red Sox · New England Patriots · Boston Celtics  
Memorabilia and Theater Tickets

Contact GGHMS for tickets and for more information  
(contact information below)

### Events Calendar (details at [www.gretergrovehall.com/events](http://www.gretergrovehall.com/events))

Business & Volunteer of the  
Year Awards Ceremony  
(Wednesday, May 19)

Bookkeeping & Finance with  
Main Streets  
(Wednesday, May 26)

Got an event that may be  
of interest to Grove Hall  
Businesses?

Spring In Grove Hall  
(Friday, May 21)

Grove Hall Community Multi-  
Cultural Festival  
(Saturday, June 26)

Email us and let us know!

Subject line: "Business Event"