



Greater Grove Hall Newsletter



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September / October 2010

Greater Grove Hall Merchants' Monthly Meetings



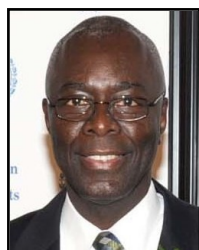
Our goal is to address safety and other concerns impacting the business community to support their success.



Greater Grove Hall Main Streets and Area B-2 Police Department have teamed up to meet monthly and discuss safety, transportation and parking concerns, and offer an open forum for businesses to discuss strategies to become more successful using the services of GGHMS and B-2.

Grove Hall Community Center
51 Geneva Avenue | Grove Hall, MA 02121
3rd Monday of each month | 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Allan Edwards of Allan's Formalwear



In 1947, Allan (Tom) Edwards was born in Happy Hill, Salem, Montserrat in the Caribbean. He is the third of five children by Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Rebecca (Daly) Edwards.

In 1960, he migrated to the US along with his mother, two sisters Becky and Ellen and three brothers, Beresford, Herman and Dolphon to be reunited with their father who was already living in Boston.

Allan attended the Phillips Brooks Elementary School, Patrick T. Campbell Middle School, Boston Technical High School, Bay State School of Technology, and received many certificates from various learning institutions in Boston.

In the summer of 1960, Allan received his first job selling fruits and vegetables from Mr. Bishop Burke at the United Fruits and Vegetables Market located on Blue Hill Avenue in Roxbury. At that job, Allan learned skills in customer service, merchandising and promotion. The fruit market was well patronized and was a frequent

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Allan Edwards of Allan's Formalwear

shopping place for legendary figures such as Minister Luis Farrakhan, Malcolm X and boxing champ Muhammad Ali. According to Allan, these men inspired him as a child and helped mold his character and helped to shape his outlook on life. Malcolm X presented Mr. Burke and Allan with a \$500.00 First Place Prize award for the best display at a bazaar held at the Boston Arena.

During 1965, Allan enhanced his business skills while employed by Mr. Richard West, the owner of West the Florist and Westgate Function Hall.



In January of 1967, during his senior year in high school Allan started Allan's Formal Wear. He purchased ten tuxedos with \$1,000.00 he had earned and saved.

In 1970, with the assistance of Mr. James Paul, Allan acquired a second shop on Blue Hill Avenue in Mattapan.

In August of 1976, Allan married Joycelyn Galloway. They have seven children Marilyn, Suzette, Alleana, Hameen, Anwar, Atiyah and Shakir and five grandchildren. The marriage prompted a business merger and expanded the tuxedo business to include bridal wear and floral arrangements.

In 1989, with the assistance of Mrs. Mary Greer and his sister Ellen Edwards, Allan and Joycelyn opened a bridal and tuxedo shop on Tremont Street in Boston's South End.

In 1991, Allan moved with his wife and their four youngest children to Nigeria, West Africa, leaving behind the three oldest children to operate the family business in Boston. While in Nigeria, Allan and Joycelyn taught the indigenous people how to effectively combine tuxedos, bridals and floral arrangements into one business.

During the 1990s Nigeria was the largest cassava producing country in the world. Allan used that opportunity to study the various uses of cassava as a food source and as a result developed many snack products from garri.

Allan's fondness of cassava bread and the tuber prompted Joycelyn and Allan to design and fabricate the first three electrically operated cassava grating machines to be used in Montserrat. Allan said, "The only time he was eager to go and cut fire-wood was when his mother would tell him she was going to bake cassava bread".

In 1997, Allan returned to Boston from Nigeria and resumed the management of his tuxedo business.

In 2006, Allan and his eldest son, Hameen opened a tuxedo shop at 142 Dudley Street in Roxbury.

In 2008, Allan celebrated Forty-one continuous years in the formalwear industry; his establishment has become the oldest formalwear store in Boston. Throughout Boston Mr. Allan, as he is affectionately known, is dubbed, "The Tuxedo Man."

Allan has high praise for Mr. Ernest (Ernie) Allen, who encouraged and advised him during the early years of the business and his cricket team-mates, Mr. Ben Bramble, John Lee, John Lynch, Edney Jules, Frank Thomas and others. He said, "These men's character[s] played a role in shaping his life and helped him to become the person he is today." Allan said, "They treated him like their very own son and made sure of his safety with a ride home after a club meeting, dance, party or a cricket match".

Allan Edwards of Allan's Formalwear

Over the years Allan has traveled to various countries including Nigeria, Ghana, Benin Republic, Togo, Hong Kong, China, Spain, Mexico, the Canary Islands and many of the Caribbean Islands.

Mr. Allan has been featured in various publications; *The Black Enterprise Magazine*, (1971); *The Daily Champion in Nigeria*, (1995); *The Boston Globe*, (2001); *The Montserrat Reporter* (2007). He has received numerous awards and commendations; including recognition from former Presidential candidate, Senator John Kerry. Business of the Year Award, (2001, 2009) presented by Mayor Thomas Menino and the African-American Making History Today Award, (2004) presented by Dr. Roger Harris. He also received the 'Stepping Out' Ronald M Leavell award in November 2006 presented by Clayton Turnbull for demonstrating professionalism, leadership, creativity and for his commitment to the community.



Mr. Allan's philanthropic contributions include the Parent Music Aid Society of Boston, Berea Seventh Day Adventist School, and the Donald Romeo's Academy, Good Health Africa in Kenya .

Mr. Allan likes to study history and is part of The Black Professional Consortium that gives presentations at the John W. McCormick Middle School in Boston . Allan is interested in learning to play golf and has begun taking tennis lessons from his son Hameen, who is a certified tennis instructor.

Interview with Robert George, Franklin Park Zoo



Robert George, Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer & Site Director of Franklin Park Zoo sits down with Greater Grove Hall Main Streets for an exciting interview where he details his past and present experiences at the Franklin Park Zoo and his aspirations for the Zoo's future.

The interview can be viewed at www.gretergrovehall.com or on youtube—search "Greater Grove Hall"

Got Ideas?

Got ideas for an exciting activity or promotion that will encourage residents and members of the greater Boston community to shop and visit the Grove Hall area? Email us: gretergrovehall@verizon.net, subject line "idea" and help us support our extraordinary neighborhood and make our community the place to live, shop and find entertainment.

Become a Member!

Greater Grove Hall Main Streets invites you to be a part of the revitalization of the Grove Hall Commercial District. Become a member of GGHMS today and be involved in the programming and planning of our district by joining one or more of our four committees: organization, design, economic restructuring, and or promotion. Feel free to contact us if you have questions or for further details.

September /
October Sponsor



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Dorchester, MA 02121

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Touch of Class Beauty
Salon

Brother's Super Liquors II



We exist to support Grove Hall's Commercial District

New Economic Initiatives Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Sponsored by:
Greater Grove Hall & Dudley Square Main Streets

Thursday, September 30, 2010 | 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Roxbury Boys & Girls Club | 115 Warren Street, Roxbury, MA 02119

Reginald Nunnally, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Supplier Diversity Office will discuss **strategies for small businesses to grow** and how to take advantage of the initiatives and resources in his office.

On June 29, 2010 Governor Deval Patrick signed an Executive Order establishing the Massachusetts Small Business Purchasing Program (SBPP). This program, within the Operational Services Division, will change current state procurement rules to target specific procurements to the small business community. In particular, the SBPP will require Executive Branch agencies to provide special consideration to eligible Massachusetts small businesses when seeking to purchase commodities and services valued between \$5,000 and \$150,000. In its second year, the SBPP will be expanded to include statewide contracts and Executive Department's large procurements valued at greater than \$150,000.

(source: Massachusetts Supplier Diversity Office Newsletter June 30, 2010; additional information can be found at www.somwba.state.ma.us/newsletterjune2010.html)

For more information contact:
Greater Grove Hall Main Streets | 617-427-2560

Events Calendar

New Economic Initiatives
Thursday, Sept. 30
8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

**QuickBooks and Year-End
Planning**
Tuesday, Nov. 9
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

***Business Finance and
Accounting Basics**
Tuesday, Dec. 7
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

***Business and Market Re-
search**
Thursday, Oct. 7
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

***Getting Started in Business**
Thursday, Nov. 18
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

***Business Law and Con-
tracts**
Tuesday, Dec. 21
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

*register online at www.sbdc.umb.edu/training or call 617-287-7750

Greater Grove Hall Main Streets would like to thank all those who joined us for an amazing Annual Meeting, July 27, 2010. The old and new members of the board were extremely excited to see such support.