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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Northline Commons offers families tips to beat the back-to-school blues and shop smart

August 11, 2008—Back-to-school shopping can stretch many families' budgets, but Northline Commons, one of Houston's newest open-air shopping destinations, is offering tips to beat the blues and shop smart.

1. Check your child's school dress code

Schools may change dress codes as new principals or other changes take place from year to year. Call your child's school to verify the uniform requirement, and don't forget to ask about clothes for gym class or sports teams.

2. Make a list and set a budget

Once you know the articles of clothing and shoes needed, make a list of the items and decide on a budget. Off-price retailers such as Marshalls at Northline offer brand name fashions at prices up to 60-percent less than department store prices to help families get more for their buck.

3. Shop tax free

The tax-free holiday weekend runs from Friday, August 15 until Sunday, August 17. During the weekend, families can save tax fees on most clothing and footwear priced under \$100.

4. Save time and money by driving less

Instead of driving from one store to the next, wasting time and gas money, try shopping at a shopping center where you can run in and out of the stores you need. Families can shop, bank, eat, and more, all at Northline's convenient open-air center.

5. Take a break and celebrate together

Take a break to eat, relax and celebrate back-to-school with your child, so your shopping experience will be a memorable one. Northline Commons is kicking off the tax-free weekend with a back-to-school bash complete with music, face painting and balloons for children, performances by school cheerleaders, and more on Friday, August 15 from 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Marshalls, Palais Royal, Footlocker, Pappa's BBQ, and Cici's Pizza are among the Northline merchants helping families with their back-to-school shopping. Northline Commons is located at 4400 North Freeway, 77022, on the corner of Crosstimbers St. and I-45 North. For more information, please visit www.northlinecommons.com.

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