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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Northline Commons offers families tips to beat the back-to-school blues and shop smart ***School supplies tax-free for the first time ever***

August 11, 2009—Back-to-school shopping can stretch many families' budgets, but Northline Commons, one of Houston's open-air shopping destinations, is offering tips to beat the blues and shop smart, especially as changes to the tax-free weekend offer more savings this year.

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, Aug. 21 until Sunday, Aug. 23. During the weekend, families can save tax fees on most clothing and footwear priced under \$100, and for the first time ever can also save taxes on school supplies from crayons to lunch boxes.

A complete list of tax-free items can be found here:

http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/taxpubs/tx98_490/tx98_490.html

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 hosting a back-to-school bash complete with music, food, performances by a marching band and school cheerleaders, and chances to win free school supplies and a \$100 shopping spree, on Saturday, Aug. 22 from 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Marshalls, Palais Royal, Tree Dollar, Ross, Shoe Carnival, 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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