

Sugar Land Teens Take The Wheel

Tips for Parents of New Drivers

Written by Rebecca Bearden

The acres of parking lots attached to Sugar Land high schools are a sure sign of the impact that young drivers have in our community. Passing by any of these lots between 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. can be a practice of patience as the droves of young people hit the streets of Sugar Land. As fellow drivers, it's important to remember that young drivers will make mistakes. But as parents and family members of teens, it's essential to educate and set boundaries as protection for them and other drivers.

Driving Schools in Sugar Land

Colony Driving School
3352 Hwy. 6
Sugar Land
281-265-2277
Colonydrivingschool.com

Fort Bend Driving School
3554 Hwy. 6
Sugar Land
281-242-7366
Forbenddrivingschool.com

Lone Star Driving School
736 Murphy Rd.
Stafford
281-499-3624

"It's essential to educate and set boundaries as protection for them and other drivers."



Experts recommend a safe used car to start with

Pick Your Method

The first step to ensuring your teen is a safe driver is to choose the drivers' education route that best fits your family's needs. Sugar Land area driving schools work for many families. When picking out a driving school, make sure they are state certified to teach young teen drivers. And because your teen is learning to drive, it's very important to make certain the school you choose has late model sedans with high safety ratings. With instructors trained to educate young drivers and convenient hours, this option will cost parents \$365-\$390.

Car Shopping?

Check out these safe rides.

Top Choices under \$20,000

- 🚗 Volkswagen Jetta
- 🚗 Volkswagen GTI
- 🚗 Ford Focus SVT
- 🚗 Mini Cooper
- 🚗 Honda Accord
- 🚗 Honda CR-V
- 🚗 Hyundai Tiburon

Top Choices under \$15,000

- 🚗 Nissan Sentra
- 🚗 Chevrolet S-10
- 🚗 Chevrolet Cavalier
- 🚗 Toyota Corolla

*compiled by carsmart.com.

Helpful Tip for Sugar Land Parents!

Buy your teen driver a sturdy used car that can withstand the inevitable bumps and scratches before investing in a new car.

*Big City Amenities
&
Sweet Sugar Land Charm*

Walking Distance to Restaurants & Fast Food

NOW OPEN!




Each Best Western hotel is independently owned and operated.






Pillow-Top Mattresses · Outdoor Pool & Heated Whirlpool · Entirely Non-Smoking Facility · Kitchenettes



© 2008 Sugar Land Magazine

Best Western Sugar Land Inn
 6330 East Riverpark Dr, Sugar Land 77479
 (Behind the HEB Shopping Plaza)
 Phone: 281.232.0680
 BWSugarland@yahoo.com

Complimentary Services
 Full Continental Breakfast
 Wired & Wireless High Speed Access
 Refrigerator & Microwave in Every Room
 Cable with Premium Movie Channels
 24-HR Business Center - Fitness Center



Teens with provisional licenses in Texas are not allowed to talk on cell phones or text message while driving

Minors Driving in Texas

The Texas Graduated Driver License (GDL) creates a specific provisional driver's license for drivers under age 18. Here are a few of the restrictions.

- Ⓜ Must have an instruction permit for a minimum of six months prior to receiving their provisional license.
- Ⓜ May not have more than one passenger in the vehicle under the age of 21 who is not a family member.
- Ⓜ May not drive between midnight and 5:00 a.m. (Except for some work or school related activities or medical reasons.)
- Ⓜ May not drive while talking on a cell phone or text messaging.

Another option for parents with teen drivers is the hands-on approach. Guidance for parents choosing this path can be given by products such as Driver Ed in a Box. Some parents prefer this method of educating their teens because it's less time constricting and for some teens, a more comfortable way to learn to drive.

Sign a Contract

The concept of the parent/teen driver contract is growing in popularity amidst a rise in recent years of avoidable accidents in which teen drivers were

involved. The idea is for parents to form a pact with their teen to drive safely. Also included in the contracts are restrictions such as a driving curfew, specific terms for cell phone use while in the vehicle, permissible areas to drive in, and who can be in the vehicle with the teen driver. As with any contract, there's a section included for punishments if these rules and conditions are not followed.

Teen Driving Technology

For parents who want more piece of mind when their young

driver is out on Sugar Land streets, the electronics market provides many products. A popular way to track where your teen driver has been is through the use of a GPS device. They're offered in a wide range of prices and capability. Some of these devices run real-time feeds so parents can monitor their teen driver's decisions on the road. Another feature included on various models is a record of the driver's speed. With capabilities of preprogramming the device to send a cell phone or email alert when preset speed limits have been broken, parents can

further educate and instill good driving skills in their teenage drivers. For many Sugar Land parents it's not an issue of an invasion of their teen driver's privacy, but rather a safe guard to better insure their young drivers are kept out of harms way.

Many states, including Texas, have adopted various versions of the graduated licensing program. This has been crucial in reducing accidents involving young drivers. And with Sugar Land parents taking an active role in the education of their teenage drivers, the streets are a safer place for everyone. SLM

DID YOU KNOW?

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, teenage drivers and passengers are among those least likely to wear their seat belts. This statistic is a contributing factor for the high amount of teenage driver injuries and even deaths each year. Be an example for your teen. Always wear your seatbelt, and encourage them to do the same.

Got a story idea?

*Email editor@
sugarlandmagazine.com.*

Full Service Auto Repair



SID

One year warranty on parts and labor
 WE SERVICE FLEET VEHICLES
 NEW FLEET ACCOUNTS WELCOME
 24 hour wrecker service
 OFFICIAL VEHICLE INSPECTION STATION



EXCEL
Auto Clinic



*Commitment to Excellence
 Not Just a Slogan – It's How We Do Business*

Please visit www.excelautoclinictx.com for valuable coupons.

Same Day Service - Mon-Fri 7am-6pm - Sat 7am-3pm

1210 Eldridge Rd. at Jess Pirtle • 281-240-2200

© 2008 Sugar Land Magazine

Where to Find Sugar Land Magazine

Look for Sugar Land Magazine at these fine area establishments.

24 Hour Emergency Room

16000 Southwest Freeway,
 Ste. 100
 Sugar Land, TX 77479

59 Diner

12550 Southwest Freeway
 Stafford, TX 77477

Café Adobe

2339 Highway 6
 Sugar Land, TX 77478

Chick-Fil-A of Greatwood

20010 Southwest Freeway
 Sugar Land, TX 77479

Cliff's Old Fashion Grill

17440 W. Grand Parkway S.
 Sugar Land, TX 77478

CVS Drug Store

5757 New Territory Blvd
 Sugar Land, TX 77479

CVS Drug Store

1250 Highway 6
 Sugar Land, TX 77479

CVS Drug Store

2102 Eldridge Road
 Sugar Land, TX 77478

CVS Drug Store

13829 Southwest Freeway
 Sugar Land, TX 77478

CVS Drug Store

16515 Lexington Blvd
 Sugar Land, TX 77478

Holiday Inn Express

Hotel and Suites
 27927 Southwest Freeway
 Rosenberg, TX 77471

Kwik Kar Full Service

Car Wash
 11902 Highway 6 S
 Sugar Land, TX 77478

Lupe Tortilla

15801 Southwest Freeway
 Sugar Land, TX 77478

Pappa La Rosa Flying Pizza

16227 Lexington Blvd
 Sugar Land, TX 77479

Ragin Cajun

16100 Kesington #400
 Sugar Land, TX 77478

Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers

1529 S Highway 6
 Sugar Land, TX 77478

The UPS Store

16107 Kensington Dr.
 Sugar Land, TX 77479

Walgreens

17330 Grand Parkway
 Sugar Land, TX 77479

Walgreens

3902 FM 762
 Rosenberg, TX 77469

Walgreens

2103 Eldridge Road
 Sugar Land, TX 77478

Walgreens

4711 Sweetwater Blvd
 Sugar Land, TX 77479

Walgreens

3316 Highway 6
 Sugar Land, TX 77478

Walgreens

4790 Lexington Blvd
 Missouri City, TX 77459

Whole Foods Market

15900 Southwest Freeway
 Sugar Land, TX 77479

STOCK SUGAR LAND MAGAZINE

It's free! If you would like a Sugar Land Magazine rack at your high-traffic business, call us. Your company will be listed here and on SugarLandMagazine.com

Call 281-579-7944
 or email us at
distribution@sugarlandmagazine.com.

SUGAR LAND
 MAGAZINE

MAKING

Sartartia Middle School Cheerleaders at Camp.



Austin High School Mascot



Austin High School Varsity Cheerleaders



Austin High School Varsity Squad



Kemper High School Varsity Cheerleaders with Mascot Scooter



HIP HIP HOORAY

Send us news about your squad or team!
Email editor@sugarlandmagazine.com

THE SQUAD

WHAT IT TAKES TO CHEER IN SUGAR LAND

- ★ Start Early! Find a competitive cheer squad to join before junior high or high school.
- ★ Take gymnastics and cheer lessons at a local gym.
- ★ Confidence is key!
- ★ Dedication. High school cheerleaders don't get an off season.
- ★ Attend the workshops preceding tryouts.
- ★ Stay in shape. Cheering requires coordination, timing, flexibility, and strength.

START CHEERING TODAY!

BILL AUSTINS GYMNASSTICS
16215 Lexington Blvd.
Sugar Land
281-240-0999

GYMTEX GYMNASSTICS & CHEERLEADING
4502 Hwy. 6
Sugar Land
832-876-9888

MEGA GYMNASSTICS
1109 Eldridge Rd.
Sugar Land
281-313-6342

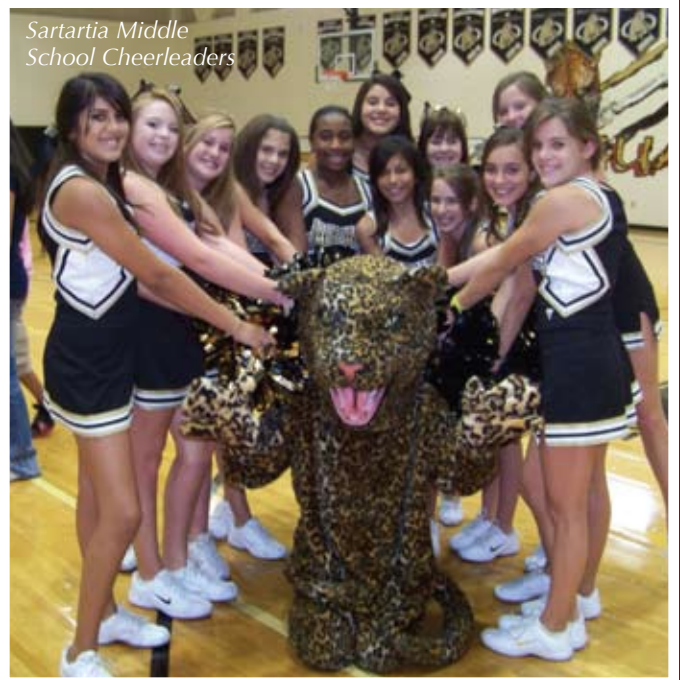
STORM CHEER
12620 W. Airport Blvd.
Sugar Land
281-240-8833

SUGARWOOD GYMNASSTICS ACADEMY
4791 Lexington Blvd.
Missouri City
281-403-3400

TEXAS THUNDER ALL-STAR CHEERLEADING
1106 Herndon
Richmond
281-232-3320

THE LITTLE GYM
3571 Hwy. 6 S.
Sugar Land
281-277-5470

VICTORY VIPERS ALL-STAR CHEERLEADING
750 Sartartia Rd.
Sugar Land
281-240-2437



Sartartia Middle School Cheerleaders

Convenient Pet Care in the Comfort of Your Own Home!

- Flexible pet sitting... no term too long or short
- Quality personal care
- 13 years experience & references in the Sugar Land area!
- Security of home... mail and papers picked up daily
- Current clients short notice okay



POOCH PATROL
SUGAR LAND, TEXAS

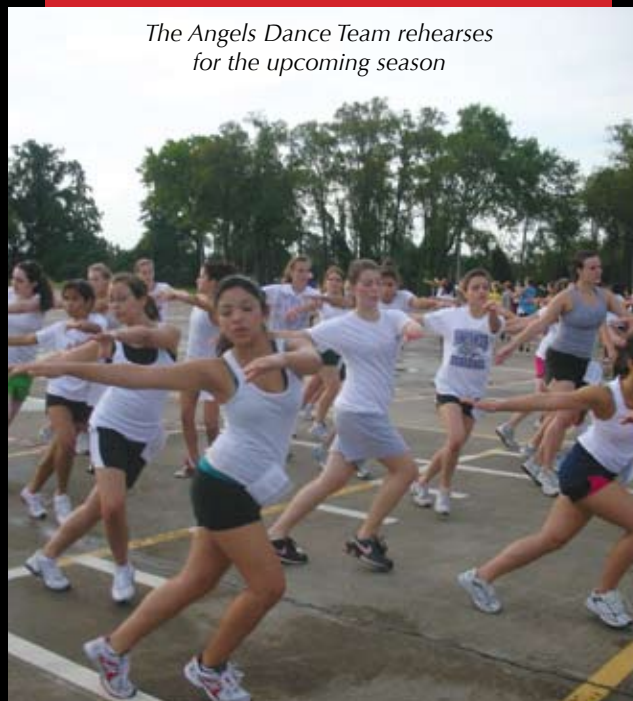
281-343-5777

poochpatrol@houston.tx.com
www.poochpatrol.com

CAMPUS SNAP SHOTS

Sugar Land School Happenings

The Angels Dance Team rehearses for the upcoming season



Austin High School Band Camp

Austin High School Bulldog Marching Band and the Angels Dance Team prepared for the marching season with three weeks of band camp recently. The band and Angels learned their new music and marching formations. This year's show is titled Meditations. The band is under the direction of Dustin Winson, Adrian Caswell, and Brain Stevens.

Austin High School Senior Makes Perfect Score on SAT

Nirav Mehta, a senior at Austin High School, made a perfect score of 2400 on his first attempt at taking the SAT Test. To prepare for the exam, he completed a PSAT study class. An honor student, Nirav is vice president of the Speech and Debate Team, a member of Mu Alpha Theta, the Spanish National Honor Society, and a student conductor of his school's orchestra.

Nirav Mehta made a perfect score on his first attempt at the SAT



Send us your school news! Email editor@sugarlandmagazine.com.



Students Emily, Ricky, Dominic, and Taylor; Mel Morgan, FBISD Community Partnership Coordinator; parents Gladys Monique, and Leara; and Jason Morris, Academy Store Manager.



Shown holding some of the school supplies are (L-R): Brenda Foster, Aetna Volunteer ABC Committee member; Pamela Shaw, FBISD Volunteer Program Coordinator; and Julia Mueck, Co-chair, Aetna Volunteer Council.

Academy Sports & Outdoors Helps FBISD Students

Thirty lucky Fort Bend ISD students received a free shopping spree at Academy Sports & Outdoors in Pearland just in time for the new school year. Through Academy's "Adopt a Class" program, five students from six campuses each received two school uniform tops and bottoms, a backpack, a pack of socks, a pair of tennis shoes and a belt. "At Academy, we know that a new school uniform can make all the difference to a child who needs one at the start of the school year," said Rey Mendiola, Store Director at the Pearland location.

Aetna supports FBISD's Shared Dreams

To help Fort Bend ISD students prepare for a new school year, Aetna South Dental Management conducted its annual Shared Dreams School Supply Drive, with employees collecting six large boxes of school supplies and three large bags of gently-used clothing. The items were donated to the Shared Dreams Program, which provides clothing and toiletries for students in need of assistance.

Discover Your Inner Musician

private and group lessons for all ages and abilities

🎹 Piano
🎤 Voice

🎸 Guitar
🎻 Violin

🥁 Drums
🎭 Theater

© 2008 Sugar Land Magazine

**Piano & Band Instrument
Sales & Rentals**

Instruction from music
and voice professionals

12919 SW Freeway, Suite 160
Stafford, TX 77477
281-494-5885
www.ftbendmusic.com



PEDIATRIC URGENT CARE

Quality Urgent Care for Your Child...

*when your pediatricians
office is closed.*

- Personal pediatric care you are accustomed to after hours.
- Caring for children of all ages, treating most illnesses, minor fractures & lacerations.
- We do camp and sports physicals by appointment!

Monday–Friday
5:00 p.m.–11:00 p.m.
Weekends & Holidays
Noon–7:00 p.m.

15551 Southwest Freeway
Sugar Land, TX 77478
(next to Babies “R” Us)

281-325-1010

info@nightlightpediatrics.com
www.nightlightpediatrics.com



©2006 Sugar Land Magazine

Local Schools Named To TBEC Honor Roll

The Texas Business & Education Coalition (TBEC) Honor Roll recognizes schools for academic performance and honors those students, teachers, principals, and superintendents who have won their championships in the classroom, not on the athletic field. Walker Station Elementary School and Sartartia Middle School (New Territory) have been named one of the top elementary/middle schools in the state by the Texas Business and Education Coalition, which placed these schools on its prestigious Honor Roll School list for 2008. The TBEC identifies Honor Roll schools by analyzing three years of performance data for every public school in Texas. A TBEC Honor Roll school must have a high percentage of students meeting state standards on every TAKS test for three consecutive years.

Opportunities for Homeless Youth

It's the policy of Fort Bend ISD to ensure that each homeless youth has access to the same free public education and related services as every other school-age student that resides within district boundaries. Fort Bend ISD's Special Programs Department and campuses work together to improve the educational outcomes for homeless students by addressing areas of enrollment, transportation, academic, social and psychological needs. Amanda Hartley in Special Programs serves as FBISD's homeless liaison and can be reached at 281-634-1355.

Hightower HS Earns 18 National Medals

A team of 38 Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) members from Hightower High School's Medical Science Academy competed in the National HOSA Competition in Dallas and earned 18 medals - one gold, nine silver and eight bronze. Team members Jonathan Vo and Matthew Lee were also named to the Mastery Level of the Kaiser Permanente Medical Current Events Roster due to their placement in the U.S. Top 10. The competition gave students the opportunity to test their medical knowledge and practical skill against competitors from all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia.

School Supplies for Fort Bend ISD

Employees of Prudential Gary Greene, Realtors in Sienna Plantation held a school supply drive to benefit students at three Fort Bend ISD schools, Scanlan Oaks, Sienna Crossing, and the new Schiff Elementary School. They collected such items as pencils, crayons, loose-leaf paper, and folders - all of which will lead to the success of students at the three schools.



Pictured (L-R): Charmayne Lacewell (Prudential Gary Greene, Realtors), Latonya Land (Sienna Crossing Elementary School counselor), Stephanie Tolbert (Schiff Elementary School counselor), and Nikki Owen (Prudential Gary Greene, Realtors)

DS&S and Rolls Royce employee volunteers help Blue Ridge Elementary staff prepare their classrooms.



Business Partners help Blue Ridge Elementary

To help Blue Ridge Elementary School students and staff prepare for the start of school, employees from Rolls-Royce and DS&S (Data Systems and Solutions) generously donated their time and resources toward several back-to-school initiatives. The business partners conducted a campus beautification project for the recently renovated campus to help with landscaping needs, classroom setup and other staff needs prior to the start of school. They also donated school supplies and backpacks for students, a gift bag of supplies for each teacher, classroom supplies for bilingual classes, floor decorations for the front lobby, a back-to-school staff breakfast, and contributed over \$3,500 for the school. Employee volunteers from both Rolls-Royce and DS&S will also revisit the campus throughout the school year to teach science lessons to students and will offer tours of their facilities during student fieldtrips.

Do you have school news you'd like to share with the community? Email editor@sugarlandmagazine.com.



Medinet Family Care Clinic

One Healthy Decision!

- Family Practice
- Internal Medicine
- On Site X-Ray/Lab
- Immigration Physicals

Bharat Gandhi, MD, MRO • Jalpa Patel, P.A.C. • Karen Scott, P.A.C.
Board Certified Physician and Physician Assistants

9130 Hwy 6 South, just north of Bissonnet
281 564-3300

6860 Hwy 6 North @ FM 529
281-550-8181

medinetclinic.com