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Sweet Sixteen And Free To Drive

By K Snow

Turning sixteen means the keys to a set of wheels – that's what makes it such an important day in

most young people's lives. It's not just the fact of driving, it's the thought of the freedom that it brings with it. It's the threshold to a new phase in your life, the stepping stone to independence. It's a cutting away from the apron strings. But it is essential to remember that it takes preparation and training. This is when the basics of driving will be ingrained in you and it's better to start right.

Many young people depend on their parents to teach them and this may not be such a good idea. For one thing, personal issues come into play. For another, a parent is not really qualified in the art and science of driving. Bad habits could be passed down without realizing. The parent might have learned well when he was young but a lot of essentials could have been left by the wayside over the years. Most parents feel the job is done once their child can start, steer, navigate, brake and park. "There's nothing to it...I'll teach you in a day!"

It's best to realize that driver training should be viewed in a serious light and should ideally be left to the professionals. There are many recognized training schools across the country. You'll find they usually offer an in-class and on-the-road combination of teaching. On the road, the special training car ensures the trainer has control of the car as well to avoid accidents. Theory in the class is followed up by practical demonstration on the road. The basics of driving etiquette as well as the rules are hammered in. Safe habits are inculcated right in the beginning as it's always difficult to change a bad habit that's set in.

When it is taught officially and formally, driving also becomes a discipline. We need more responsible drivers on our roads. So let's teach them young. To treat the road with care, to treat pedestrians with respect and to treat themselves with discipline.

For more articles about transport and travel issues visit

<http://www.transport-planet.com>

New Lofts in Phoenix Arizona as of 3/01/06

By Wil Daly

Look for a ton of new hip, cool, edgy and architecturally interesting loft projects to come to Phoenix over the next year or more. Three of the more interesting or more recent ones include:

Portland Place is one of my favorite of the larger projects coming to Phoenix. It's a three phase, two hundred unit, condo flat, two story loft, and brownstone flat project located at the edge of the Phoenix art district, next to the new Phoenix light rail line, walking distance from the Phoenix Art Museum and Phoenix Library and a short drive from downtown Phoenix. The floor plans are great, the architecture is interesting and I like the location. The entire project includes three buildings with six, eight and ten stories to house 184 flats and lofts. Four other two story buildings will house sixteen brownstone style flats (their description). The flats and lofts range from small 892 square foot studios to large two bedrooms plus den lofts with 2829 square feet. The brownstone models have two bedrooms with 1563 square feet. All floor plans come with just one parking space (ouch) but some additional spaces are available to purchase. Hopefully with the new Phoenix light rail line owners will need fewer parking spaces.

A super condo conversion with a retro feel like that at the newly redone Valley Ho Hotel is coming to Phoenix near 16th Street and Missouri. The Palmaire with eighteen one, two and three bedroom condo flats is just waiting for the Public Report from the City of Phoenix Planning Department. Prices are not available but I'm guessing that prices will be from the mid \$250 to 350k range.

Forma is another architectural knockout with sixteen two story lofts to be built in a great part of Phoenix at 3rd Street near Osborn. The owners hired a Chicago architect with a real flair for the dramatic. These two and three bedroom lofts will have a minimum of 2200 square feet and two parking spaces in the first level secured parking structure. In keeping with true loft styling each unit will have 19' 9" ceilings and private roof decks. Again, no prices yet but I'd guess prices are going to start in the very high \$700k range.

I will keep you posted on future events concerning these and other Phoenix loft projects. But know that this is a hot product niche and one worth keeping an eye on.

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