

Driving Through Decades: Jewel Carney Senior's Journey as a Proud Driving School Owner

Breakthru Media Staff

For four decades, Jewel Carney Sr. has been at the helm of one of the most respected driving schools in New Orleans.

Located at 2518 Tulane Avenue, the New Orleans Safe Driving School has not only taught thousands of individuals of all ages the skills of safe driving but has also become a cornerstone of reliable service and expertise in the field.



PHOTO BY AB SYKES PHOTOGRAPHY

Back in 1984, Carney, a retired Greyhound bus driver with over 25 years of driving experience, started his school with the goal of using his acquired knowledge to offer New Orleans the best possible driver training. His vision was to impart not just essential driving skills, but also a sense of responsibility and safety on the road.

Recounting his motivation for establishing the school, Carney said, “As a retired bus driver, I felt responsible for giving my expertise, skill and mindset to the younger generation on the importance of operating a vehicle in a safe and responsible manner. I wanted to create a school where learning to drive was more than just passing a test. It was about becoming a confident and responsible driver.”

In the early years of the business, establishing credibility was key. Gradually, over time, the business grew and expanded its reach beyond standard passenger cars to larger commercial vehicles like buses and trucks and other wheeled vehicles like motorcycles and three-wheelers.

Four individual classes are offered by the New Orleans Safe Driving School, based on age and levels of training. A 14-hour course is offered to drivers aged 18 and up, a 38-hour course for drivers between 15 and 17 who are getting their learner’s

permits, 8 Hours of Behind the Wheel Training for the general public, and a two-hour refresher course.

They also offer training for forklift drivers and those who require Commercial Driver’s Licenses. In addition they hold DWI classes and host notary services to assist clients in obtaining their licenses.

When asked what he loves most about running the business, Carney said “I love to make sure things are running smoothly and the public is satisfied with the training they have received. I love the fact that I can help supply jobs for individuals in need of work or a career. I also enjoy working with my two sons and being able to keep an eye on them.”

Carney is joined in the school by his sons, Jewel Carney Jr. and Jermaine. “Together we focus on giving a hundred percent customer satisfaction,” he said. “We take pride in what we do and we stand solidly on that slogan.”

Carney’s students have praised his patience, thoroughness, and personalized approach to the skills of handling the operation of a motorized vehicle. “It isn’t just about teaching the basics of driving,” he explained. “It’s also about instilling confidence and

ensuring that each student feels comfortable behind the wheel.”

As for his approach to the business, Carney added, “One of the most important aspects about our business is conducting it in a professional manner and being respectful of the staff’s ideas to help incorporate a positive working environment.”

Over the years, the driving landscape has evolved significantly – from advancements in vehicle technology to changes in driving regulations. Vehicle dashboards today have many more sophisticated features than they had when the school was founded, especially those innovations involved with mapping and tracking capabilities. New Orleans Safe Driving School takes pride in staying abreast of these technological advances by continuously updating its curriculum and embracing new teaching methodologies.

“Adapting to changes in the industry has been crucial,” Carney emphasized. “Our goal is to equip our students with the skills they need to navigate safely in today’s world.”

Fondly recalling one of his favorite memories of the business, Carney cited the purchase of his first building, along with renovating it and holding the first



(l. to r.) Jewel Carney Jr., Jewel Carney Sr. and Jermaine Carney

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JEWEL CARNEY SR.

class. And, sharing one of the secrets to his success, he commented, “It’s important to have an open mind to innovation and treat the staff with respect, keeping paperwork in order and allowing the public to voice opinions about their experience with us.”

And so, as Jewel Carney Senior celebrates 40 years in business, he reflects on his proudest moments. These include the testimonials from grateful parents, the success stories of nervous beginners turned confident drivers, and the relationships he has built within the community over the decades.

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~ Jewel Carney Sr.

14 Hour Course



CDL Testing



Forklift Training



Through 40 years of unwavering commitment to quality and safety, Carney has not only taught generations of drivers but he has also shaped the road safety culture of New Orleans. As he looks forward to the future, one thing is certain: the New Orleans Safe Driving School will continue to be a beacon of excellence in driver education for many years to come.

“Seeing my former students driving safely and responsibly is my greatest reward,” he proudly states.

To apply for training at the New Orleans Safe Driving School, applicants must come to the office at to make payment or make an over-the-phone payment via credit or debit card. All major credit cards are accepted. The office is located at 2518 Tulane Avenue.

For questions or to arrange payments call (504) 821-5334. For detailed information about the school, visit their website at <https://www.driving-schools.com/school/new-orleans-safe-driving-school/location/956>.

