



SUMITRA PATEL

FEATURED RETAILER

Blue Bell Minimart

By Trey Ledbetter, Midlands MSR

The two words “longevity” and “Mama” conjure many images in the mind’s eye. Yet, the culmination of both can be found wrapped in the persona of Sumitra Patel of **Blue Bell Minimart** in **North Augusta**.

A humble lady with a BS in Microbiology, she began her search for the American Dream working in a sewing factory. But, she’s spent the last 19 years answering to “Mama” when called by the beer man, the children who come through the door and even the 70-year-old man buying his weekly lottery purchase at Blue Bell Minimart.

When asked why customers call her “Mama,” she says it’s because she treats them like her own family. When assisting lottery customers, she’s been known to help them fill out their play slips and pick out a winning instant ticket or two. As one of the Education Lottery’s longest active retailers, she considers herself a part of the Lottery’s family and is proud to be behind SCEL’s support of education.

So, the next time you breeze through North Augusta, stop in the Blue Bell Minimart; ask Mama for the latest on the family news and maybe scratch off a ticket or two.



Buford Express Mart, Lancaster – Stephanie
 GT Express Mart, Greenville – Payal, Rasik, Gita, Patel, and Grishma
 Country Food Mart 2, Pickens – Akash