

THE TIMES

NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF BRIDGELAND

February 2018

An Independent Publication Serving the Bridgeland® Community

Volume 12, Issue 2



THE FARMERS MARKET AT BRIDGELAND

Happy New Year 2018! The Farmers Market at Bridgeland is the 2nd Sunday of Every Month, 12:30 - 3:30pm year around - rain or shine. The first market of the New Year is January 14, 2018.

Shop the market for fresh winter veggies, eggs, cheese, pork/beef/bison/shrimp, honey & jelly, breads & sweet treats, Indian/Italian food, BBQ sauce & salsa, roasted coffee and tea, kettle corn, orchids, soaps & lotions, pet food, and much more.

The market is all-volunteer run by Bridgeland residents and located adjacent to the Lakeland Activity Center.

Swing by with your family and friends!

Find updates and further market highlights at
www.farmersmarketatbridgeland.org
www.facebook.com/TheFarmersMarketAtBridgeland

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

BRIDGELAND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS (HOA)

16902 Bridgeland Landing
Cypress, TX 77433
281-304-1318

General Manager - Mgmt & Operations

Melissa Hargrove melissa.hargrove@STServices.com

Activities Director - Events & Classes

Rachel Johnson rachel.johnson@STServices.com

Administrative Assistant - Compliance & Architectural

Valerie Bir valerie.bir@STServices.com

Administrative Assistant - Rentals & Website

Iliana Zuniga iliana.zuniga@STServices.com

Administrative Assistant - Devices

Amy Hester amy.hester@STServices.com

Landscape Coordinator - Landscaping & Lakes

Andrew Edgerley andrew.edgerley@STServices.com

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY 911
Fire 911
Ambulance 911
Harris County Sheriff 713-221-3300
Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Dept. 281-550-6663

AREA HOSPITALS

Cy-Fair Medical Center 281-897-3300
North Cypress Medical Center 832-912-3500
Willowbrook Methodist 281-477-1000

SCHOOLS

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Smith Middle School 281-213-1010
Cy Woods High School 281-213-1727
Cy Fair High School 281-897-4600

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Gas - Centerpoint Energy 800-579-4500
Electricity - Reliant Energy 800-735-42568
Cable/Internet/Phone - Comcast 713-341-1000

PUBLIC SERVICES

Cypress Post Office 281-373-9125
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Harris County Tax 713-224-1919

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

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THE TIMES

A newsletter for Bridgeland residents.

The Times is a monthly newsletter mailed to all Bridgeland residents. Each newsletter is filled with valuable information about the community, local area activities, school information and more.

If you are involved with a school group, play group, scouts, sports activity, social group, etc. and would like to submit an article for the newsletter you can do so online at www.PEELinc.com or you can email it bridgeland@peelinc.com. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, special celebrations, birthday announcements and military service are also welcome. *Our goal is to keep you informed!*

Advertising Information

Please support the businesses that advertise in The Times. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all the Bridgeland residents to receive the monthly newsletter at no charge. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our sales office at 888-687-6444 or advertising@PEELinc.com. The advertising deadline is the 10th of each month for the following month's newsletter.



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BRIDGELAND GARDEN CLUB LEARNS TO GROW

Did you miss the Bridgeland Garden Club program on growing African Violets in January?

Then you missed an informative presentation, two free African Violets plants and learning how to grow African Violets from their leaves. So mark your calendar now and attend our February meeting.

BRIDGELAND GARDEN CLUB

Join the Bridgeland Garden Club on Wednesday, February 14 at the Activity Center at 9:30 am to learn all about growing the scented tropical gem, -Plumeria.

Loretta Osteen, plumeria expert & recognized speaker will lead a presentation on the easy care and growing of plumerias outdoors in Cypress. Free plumeria stems for rooting will be provided. Visitors welcome!

Questions? Contact kayburkhalter@sbcglobal.net



Photo: Master Expert, Donna McGraw shows Bridgelanders how easy it to grow

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NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

GET INVOLVED IN BRIDGELAND COMMUNITY GROUPS

Submitted by Kay Burkhalter



How to? First, sign up for Bridgelandlife.com and see what groups interest you. There are over thirty groups!

Second, sign up for as many clubs as you want- there is no membership fee to join & you get electronic notice of meeting events.

Third, Expand your World-Try Something Different

- Outdoor Adventure- Try the Kayak & Canoe Group
- Sports-Join the Disc Golf Group or the Cricket Club
- Gardening Club—Learn what to plant in Cypress, bluebonnet tours, monthly programs
- ToastMasters—Make Friends, Develop Self Confidence & Speaking Skills
- Informed Citizens Group—Stay informed on local & state events, meet the candidates!
- Bridgeland Arts Group—Learn string design, tile making and other crafts



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SPECIAL NEEDS EXPO RIGHT IN OUR OWN BACKYARD!

By Jackie Devine

The Community of Faith 2nd Annual Special Needs Expo will take place February 23, 2018 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Everyone knows that parenting is a difficult job, even in the best of times and under the most favorable circumstances. But, moms and dads with children of special needs face an entirely different set of challenges that often redefine the meanings of parenthood, stress, anxiety, and isolation. In fact, it has been said that their life is very similar to the pressures felt by soldiers in combat.

Knowing that, and responding to a desire to address the situation in 2016, Cassie Kraus, the current Special Needs Director at Community of Faith, sought out Mark Shook, Senior Pastor, and Bradley Thomas, Connections Pastor of Community of Faith, and posed her idea. Cassie wanted to provide some much-needed assistance to families yearning to attend worship services or other church functions but were unable to do so because their children required special considerations.

Cassie received overwhelming support to create a program that not only addressed the needs of parishioners, but has grown to offer collaborative, family-centered assistance to caregivers in other parts of Texas and as far as Louisiana.

Sharing her personal understanding of the issues, Cassie said, "As the parent of a child with autism and a former special education professional in Cy-Fair, I was well-versed in the challenges parents face trying to make their way through the special needs maze.

"We were delighted when we found Community of Faith. Their warm welcome and willingness to work with us to address some of our unique challenges offered us an environment of understanding and respect—one in which we thrived." Continuing, she said, "The special needs community, as a whole, is very small, and when you

find a church that is willing to work with you and that looks at each child as their own, that's huge. As the parent of a child with different abilities, it was comforting to find people willing to walk that journey with you who are striving to find the best outcome for your child and to see him or her as a unique individual."

Bradley chimed in, "Our special needs ministry has been operating full tilt for about a year and a half now. Cassie brought expertise, heart, and connections to the team, which has added the necessary foundation to create a welcoming, dynamic, family-centered environment.

"We sponsored our first 'Special Needs Expo' last year and over 200 families participated. With Cassie's unbelievable network of organizations willing to step in and provide the needed framework of access, information, and resources, 50 vendors worked diligently to help families get connected and feel supported.

"This year, we're hoping the Expo is attended by anyone that has a need or a desire to help." He emphasized, "They don't need to go to our church. Our goal is that our Special Needs Ministry continues to build a reputation as a key contact when families need help with parenting, family interaction, physical or emotional well-being, or disability-related support.

"As advocates for children and adults with special needs, whether it's autism, Downs Syndrome, MS, behavioral challenges or anything in between, we want Community of Faith to be their 'go to' for support and acceptance—the organization that brokers partnerships and relationships for families.

"Community of Faith is unique in that we have made a substantial investment in personnel, equipment, rooms, volunteers and other resources to meet the growing need.

"We recognize that the parenting of a special needs child is 24/7."
(Continued on Page 6)

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(Continued from Page 5)

There is no downtime. Not only do we provide opportunities to get them connected to resources, but we also offer opportunities to walk in friendship with them.

“For example, once a quarter, Cassie facilitates a ‘Special Needs Family Night Out.’ She and her team come up with a unique event where they create a safe and stimulating atmosphere with fun activities, like story time, games, bounce houses, and relationship-building activities for the children and their siblings.

“Parents can confidently leave and enjoy a few hours of freedom to do whatever they want. If they’re going to go home and take a nap, that’s great! If they’re going to go shopping, out to eat, or to a movie they are free to choose.

The Community of Faith 2nd Annual Special Needs Expo will take place February 23, 2018, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

“The way it works is families will check in at the lobby and filter through the multipurpose room where they will have the opportunity to visit with an assortment of vendors, such as therapies, estate planning, school districts, transition services, and adaptive sports (such as cheerleading and gymnastics).

“Attendees will find a variety of resources for families just starting out as well as families entering those adult years. The culmination

will be speeches from field experts.”

In closing, I asked Bradley, “Plain and simple, what is the ultimate purpose of the Expo?”

Without missing a beat, he said, “Our goal is for hundreds of families living in and around Cypress—members of Community of Faith or not—to know they have a friend. We want every family living with a special needs child to know that they are not alone, and they have someone who will walk with them every step of the way in raising their children all the way up to adulthood.”



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10TH ANNIVERSARY SALUTE TO OUR HEROES GALA



On February 3, 2018, the Cy-Fair Educational Foundation (CFEF) will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Salute to Our Heroes Gala at the Omni Hotel Houston Westside. North Cypress Medical Center Hospital is the Missing Man Underwriter for this gala honoring the brave men and women who have served to

protect our freedom and liberty. The evening includes a Missing Man Table and Honors Ceremony to honor our missing loved ones [or missing comrades in arms, for veterans].

Station & Ayers Insurance Services & Consulting is the Edward Station Memorial Photography Sponsor. Memorial Hermann Cypress is a Brigadier General Sponsor. VIP Reception Sponsors include ACU of Texas and Houston Methodist, and Hightower Electric Company is the Floral Sponsor.

Salvatore “Sal” Giunta, former U.S. Army Staff Sergeant, is the

evenings guest speaker. Giunta was presented with our nation’s highest military decoration—the Medal of Honor—for his heroic actions during combat in the Korengal Valley of Afghanistan on October 25, 2007. His courage and leadership while under extreme enemy fire were integral to his team’s survival and led to his selection as the first living recipient of the Medal of Honor since the Vietnam War and the eighth service member to receive the nation’s highest military decoration for valor in Iraq and Afghanistan.

CFEF was established in 1970 as a non-profit to raise money to fund a scholarship for high school graduates in the area. Over the past 47 years, the Foundation has grown tremendously through the efforts of the Board of Trustees and the generosity of the Cy-Fair Community. The Foundation has awarded over \$7.5 million in scholarships to 1600 graduating seniors. CFEF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, all contributions are tax deductible, as allowed by the law.

Sponsorships and tickets are available for Salute to Our Heroes. Tickets Must Be Purchased in Advance: \$125 individual; \$75 veterans

For more information please contact marie@thecfef.org or visit our website at www.theCFEF.org.

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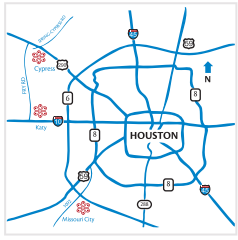


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MEET OUR STUDENTS

Hosting an international exchange student is a great way of opening the world to your children and teaching them about new cultures.

STS Foundation is currently looking for families for the 2018/2019 school year. What does it take to be a host family? STS accepts all types of families, be it single parents, young marrieds, empty nesters or same sex couples – we are looking for families that are willing to Share their America with a high school student for the year. All you need to provide is three meals a day and a room for them to sleep in. The student can share a room with a same sex sibling that is within five years of their age. Each student comes with their own spending money and health insurance. Most of all, they come with an excitement to learn all they can about our American way of life.

Here are just some of the many students that are available for placement:

Abby from Denmark – loves being active in sports, nature and at the beach. She is a competitive swimmer and enjoys horseback riding.

Dominik from Switzerland – an open minded, uncomplicated boy, with a real interest in American sports

Maria from Norway – she describes herself as an outgoing, adventurous, mature, compassionate person.

Saana from Finland – she is both sympathetic and empathetic. She enjoys music and sports, and according to her bio – she has a great laugh!

If you are ready for this amazing experience, please give me a call, I'd love to talk with you more about it. I am one of the Houston area STS Local Coordinators, I've worked with foreign exchange students for seven years and have also hosted 13 students on my own. I can tell you anything you need to know about hosting. Please contact Vicki Odom at 832-455-7881 or via email at vicki.stsfoundation@gmail.com.

STS Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization who mission is to facilitate educational opportunities where all participants can break down cultural barriers, and gain respect and understanding of each other's way of life.

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English Gateway is a program designed to teach conversational English. The vision and desire of English Gateway is to assist international families in learning and improving English skills to help them live and be successful here in the United States. We offer 6 different levels and have open registration throughout the CFISD school year. Childcare is available for free for pre-school children as long as they are registered beforehand.

- **Where does English Gateway meet?** We meet at Bayou City Fellowship, 12715 Telge Rd., Cypress, TX 77429.
- **When does English Gateway meet?** We offer two options: Thursday mornings, 9:30-11:30 am; Thursday evenings, 6:30-8:30 pm.
- **What is the school calendar?** English Gateway classes coincide with CFISD school calendar
- **When can I register and start class?** There is open registration so you can come any Thursday, take a placement test, and go immediately to class.
- **How much does it cost?** There is a one-time fee of \$20 for the books; classes are free.

For more information, please contact the English Gateway Program Coordinator: esl@bayoucityfellowship.com

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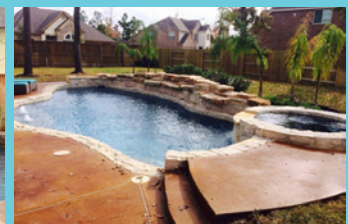
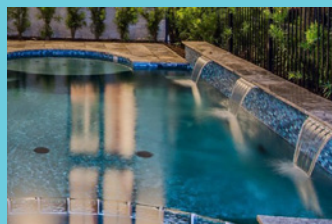
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\$500,000 and above	3	1	1	2	1	2	2	3	3	6
\$451,000--\$499,999	1	0	2	1	2	0	1	1	0	1
\$351,000--\$450,999	7	2	9	8	4	18	13	6	4	12
\$276,000--\$350,999	7	8	6	6	8	12	18	7	6	1
\$231,000--\$275,999	2	6	4	7	12	5	3	3	5	5
\$201,000--\$230,999	2	0	0	0	3	1	1	1	0	0
\$200,999 and below	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	22	17	22	24	30	38	38	21	18	25
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