

Congratulations to Lakeland's Valerie Bir for New Comer Community Manager of the Year Award!



The Community Management Association of the Houston Region held its annual gala and award ceremony on January 11, 2019 at the Omni Hotel. Nominees from Bridgeland were:

- Valerie Bir, CMCA Lakeland's Community Manager, for Newcomer Manager of the Year,
- Melissa Hargove, CMCA, AMS, PCAM Community Manager of Bridgeland & Parkland for Community Manager of the Year,
- Kay Burkhalter for Community Volunteer of the Year,
- Bridgeland for Spirit Award,

• Bridgeland Community of the Year Category 111/IV

Many congratulations to those who were nominated and to Valerie Bir, who won Newcomer Manager of the Year. We are thrilled for Valerie. Valerie has come up thru the ranks at Lakeland Village and has earned her CMCA professional certificate as well as her college degree.

Valerie is a delight to work with, always cheerful and very knowledgeable about our DRC rules.

So if you have not had a chance to meet here, stop by the HOA office and say congratulations Valerie!

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

BRIDGELAND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS (HOA)

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

Community Manager

Melissa Hargrovemelissa.hargrove@inframark.com

Lakeland Community Manager

Valier Bir valerie.bir@inframark.com

Activities Director

Rachel Johnson rachel.johnson@inframark.com

Administrative Assistant - Activities Director

Iliana Zuniga iliana.zuniga@inframark.com

Administrative Assistant - Compliance & Architectural

Suzanne Hilton suzanne.hilton@inframark.com

Parkland Assistant Community Manager

Tiffany Polichnia

Receptionist & Front Desk

Fritzy Lopez fritzy.lopez@inframark.com

Landscape Manager

Kevin Brown kevin.brown@inframark.com

Maintenance Manager

Robert J. Allard

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Cy Woods High School..... 281-213-1727
Cy Fair High School..... 281-897-4600
Cy Ranch High School..... 281-373-2300
Bridgeland High School 832-349-7600

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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!*



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Bridgeland Garden Club

Wednesday, February 6, 9:30 a.m. @ the Activity Center

Program: Perennials • Speaker: Carol Brouwer, Ph.D.

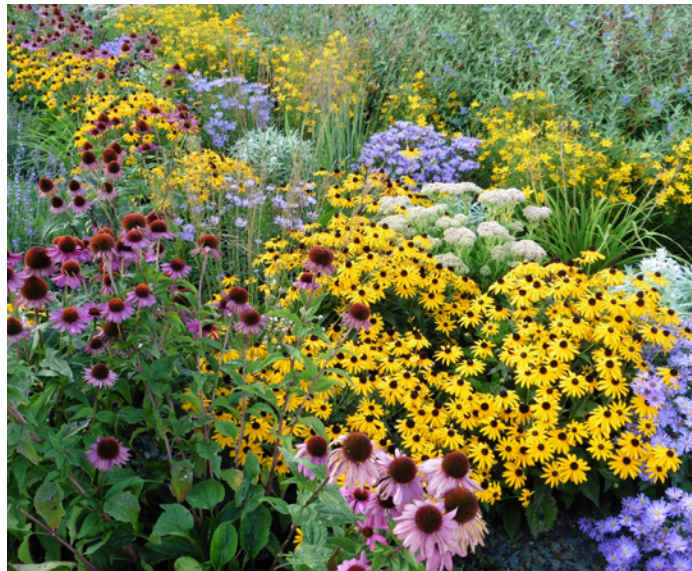
Plant a Perennial once and be rewarded with blooms that return year after year! Find out what a great investment perennials are. As perennials mature and become established in your garden, they'll also need less watering and care than annual flowers. Dr. Brouwer will speak about choosing the best plants for our area and what makes Texas Superstars so special.

Dr. Brouwer served the Texas AgriLife Ext. Service from December of 1999 to April of 2011 as the County Extension Agent for Horticulture in Harris County. During her tenure, she directed the Master Gardener program.

If attending please RSVP to kayburkhalter@sbcglobal.net

\$10.00 program fee for non-members.

Lunch: Up Thai Cafe on Fry Rd



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Bridgeland HS Thespians

In November, Bridgeland High School qualified eight entries to Texas Thespians in Grapevine for Nationals in Lincoln, Nebraska, this June:

Costume Design

- o Brianna Gutierrez
- o Makayla Nyc

Monologue Acting

- o Acadia Bradley

Solo Musical

- o Macennah Crawford
- o Janson Hanes
- o Alexandra Walls

Group Acting

- o Calla Bentsen
- o Benji Gusler
- o Luke Hill
- o Alexis Hunt
- o Matt Leazer
- o Reed MacLeod
- o Braden Murray
- o Jett Thompsom
- o Sam West

Group Musical

- o Jocsan Betancourt
- o Abigail Cate
- o Maya Credeur
- o Peyton Divirgilio
- o Krystal Elliston
- o Paige Garner
- o Grace Heenan
- o Elisa Mato
- o Taylor McGuirt
- o Jack Parker
- o Maddie Robinson
- o Daniel Whaley



• Our UIL One Act Play, Kentucky Cycle: Fire in the Hole, will be taking the Berry Center stage on Thursday, March 7th, 2019, at 4pm. Per UIL One Act Play Rules, once the performance begins and doors are closed, not late-seating will be admitted. Ticket costs for all four performances happening on that day, which will begin each hour on the hour, cost \$10. Bridgeland is first at 4pm, Langham Creek is 2nd at 5pm, Cypress Park is 3rd at 6pm, and Cypress Woods closes the evening at 7pm.

• Children's Show, Roald Dahl's JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH, adapted by Richard R. George, on March 29th at 7pm and March 30th at 2pm and 7pm. As more information becomes available, it can be found at www.bridgelandhs theatre.org.

Bridgeland High School Comedy Sports

by Janet Guthrie

Bridgeland High School will hold a Comedy Sportz event from 6:00pm to 8:00pm on February 7, 2019. The Boys vs. the Girls at these team matches and it will be a night of laughs for all.

This evening will be a special event to honor our Veterans. Veterans will be admitted for free, but plan on bringing your ID and present it at the ticket table.

Tickets will be sold at the door. Adults and high school students will be charged \$5 for the event. Seniors and others will pay \$3. There will also be an opportunity to purchase season tickets at a discounted price for upcoming matches on April 18 and May 23.

Bridgeland is located at 10707 Mason Road in Cypress, Texas.



Elisha Roberts Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution wants you!

Greetings from the ladies and young women of the Elisha Roberts Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution! Our motto is God, Home, and Country.

We are inviting any female, age 18 and over who can provide direct lineal descent from someone who either fought in or provided aid during the American Revolution.

We are a family-oriented, national organization that promotes patriotism, education, and historic preservation.

If this sounds like you, please join us at our next meeting on third Thursday of each month at the Cypress Historical Society Building behind Jurgens Hall (26026 Hempstead Road Cypress, Texas 77429). Our monthly meetings begin at 7 p.m.

For more information, contact Elisha Roberts Chapter Regent Mary Lynn Goins at mlgoins1@att.net.

We look forward to meeting you!



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Have you ever thought about running away and joining the circus? The truth is, becoming a circus acrobat is not as easy as you think. But if you could accomplish it, your life would be changed by epic proportions.

"As a street kid growing up in a St. Louis inner-city Black neighborhood, never venturing from the two-block area where I lived, the only thing I knew about life was what I saw around

me" commented Sidney Bateman, Hoop Diving and Chinese Poles acrobat.

"Left motherless at three; I was raised by my grandmother and never knew my dad. I had seven siblings and with little supervision, it was more or less every man for himself. I don't know that I ever felt a real sense of family. To make matters worse, I was a hyper kid, craved attention, and frequently sought approval and acceptance from the gang. Looking back on it, you might say I grew up in a combat zone. The sound of gunshots, sirens blaring, and having friends and family members shot or killed were all regular occurrences."

Toys, bikes, and athletic equipment were a scarce commodity for Sidney. For recreation, the kids in the Walnut Park community where he lived, would gather on vacant barren lots and have flip-offs competing against one another by flipping, spinning, and doing acrobatics.

"I joined Circus Harmony when I was eleven, even though I had one foot in the door of joining the gang. I honestly can't tell you when I joined the gang," he confessed. "My brothers and uncles were gang members. I thought that was in my future as well. But miraculously, Circus kept nudging me. For a time, I was pulled in both directions, Circus and the gang. I was always trying to balance out the two."

For those that have never heard of St. Louis-based Circus Harmony, it is a social circus-based program that uses circus arts to motivate social

change. They do it by building character in individuals and building bridges between communities. Titles and labels are nonexistent. The only thing that matters is what they (the individual) bring to the ring.

From the beginning, learning to trust and be part of a team were hard lessons for Sidney to grasp. Working with others was a struggle. Having someone telling him what to do and dealing with accountability felt like insurmountable challenges. He suffered from bouts where he just gave up and dropped out.

"But, somehow, even though young and naïve, I began to develop a degree of trust and make sense of acrobatics. The sport became my magnet drawing me back into the program. Somehow, I recognized that my talent could take me somewhere. Circus classes became my escape from the harsh reality I was dealing with at home and in the neighborhood. Unknowingly, using circus arts with a definite intention, I began my journey.

"In my junior year of high school, I got into a huge gang fight at school and was expelled. Then my friend got shot and killed. That was my turning point. I knew I didn't want to be another statistic." Musing on the problems he faced, he said, "There had to be a different path for me."

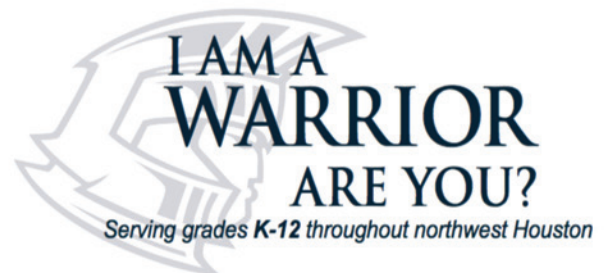
Shortly after committing to training more seriously, Sidney joined the Elite Troupe of Circus Harmony; a pre-professional program that was focusing on mastering specific circus disciplines. And, at the end of high school, Sidney decided to make a career out of the circus. Believing in his talent, the manager of Circus Harmony helped him to get to Montreal, Canada to audition for the National Circus School. To his surprise, Sidney got accepted in the College Program with a specialization in Hoop Diving.

École Nationale de Cirque (ENC) gave him a purpose and hope of international in scope. The ENC is a higher-education institution dedicated to the education and training of professional circus artists, as well as to research and innovation in circus arts and academic curriculum.

Sidney proudly emphasized, "Not only could I relate, but I was also willing to give it my all. I trained my butt off. I became a much better

(Continued on Page 8)

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(Continued from Page 6)

human being. After acceptance, I entered into a week-long acrobatic audition process that I've been told was harder to accomplish than getting into Harvard or Yale. On April 1, 2011, I got the news: "I HAD MADE IT." And that felt like I had arrived home because I knew that was the beginning of something amazing."

Studying at ENC for three years, Sidney was introduced to the world of contemporary circus. He even conquered the French language and became fluent in it. He successfully graduated in 2014 alongside his St. Louis friend Melvin Diggs (also a Circus Harmony alumnus) as a Hoop Diving duo.

For two and a half years, the pair took part in the creation and international tour of Cuisines & Confessions, a production of the Montreal-based circus company 7 Fingers. Other career highlights include a summer with the Chicago Midnight Circus, a fashion show for Hermès in Hong Kong, and a collection launch for Bench in Manila.

In 2017, Cirque du Soleil got in touch with Sidney and Melvin and invited them to join the cast of LUZIA on tour. Cirque du Soleil, headquartered in Montreal, Quebec, Canada is a Canadian entertainment company and the largest theatrical producer in the world.

Reflecting, Sidney smiled, saying, "Now I am finally part of a family where I've found a place of love, accountability, and commitment."

Sidney is thrilled to have jumped into this adventure and to have been given the opportunity to share his passion with thousands of people every night through his two favorite circus disciplines: Hoop Diving & Chinese Poles.

Not only does he feel that his ultimate childhood dream has come true, but he has also found his life's purpose: to share his story with youth around the world and to help the "kids" who need help by inspiring them to work hard toward achieving their goals.

When you have the opportunity to see Cirque du Soleil's LUZIA at the Sam Houston Race Park, be sure to pay special attention when Sidney performs his Hoop Diving and Chinese Poles acrobatics.

LUZIA opened in Houston on January 10th, 2019 for a limited engagement through February 24th, 2019.



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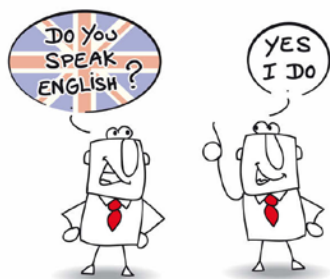
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CFISD school year. Childcare is available for free for pre-school children as long as they are registered beforehand.

- 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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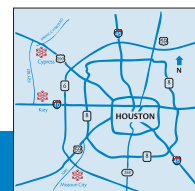
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