

BRIDGEWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Spring 2019

Published once each beautiful Bridgewater season!

2019 BHS Annual Focus

Anniversary of Flood of '49

- **4/15 – Banquet Ticket Deadline**
- **4/25- 6PM Banquet**
- **6/14 – 11AM, 1:30PM Personal Flood Stories**
- **6/15 – 11AM, 1:30PM Personal Flood Stories**
- **Fall 2019 – exact TBA Collaboration BHS with Friends of Shenandoah Mountain Community Presentation**
- **Ongoing – Flood display at the Museum**

Banquet Tickets

Deadline April 15

\$30 per person

Museum is open Fri, Sat

10AM – 3PM and by appt. or

Mail payment: Terry Slaubaugh
216 Holly Hill Dr.,
Bridgewater, VA 22812

AUBREY URBANOWICZ TO HEADLINE ANNUAL BANQUET

WHSV Chief Meteorologist Aubrey Urbanowicz will be featured as our guest speaker on Thursday, April 25 at 6PM. Please arrange now for your tickets to join us. Our gracious local celebrity will speak about the weather system that attributed to the '49 flood and compare it to the weather during the flood of '85. We will return to the Elks Club Lodge, 482 S. Main St. Harrisonburg, VA for the location again this year.

Originating from Wallingford, CT Aubrey first attended East Tennessee State University and then Mississippi State where she would earn a B.S. degree in Geosciences with a concentration in Broadcast Meteorology. She interned at WJHL in Johnson City, TN and then found her way to the valley to begin working with WHSV in 2010. Since then Aubrey has been awarded multiple times including AP Best Weathercast of the Year 2015, AP Outstanding Effort by an Individual Weathercaster 2014, and she comes with the National Weather Association Seal of Approval. These biography details and more are available at the website of WHSV, where Aubrey is the current Chief Meteorologist.

Aubrey will further our annual focus on this year as the 70th anniversary of the flood of '49. She plans to share a bit about local weather and specifically how it contributed to the floods of both '49 and '85 here in the valley.

“People isolated near their damaged residences, washed out roads, destroyed bridges, flood-ravaged fields, ruined crops, and the scattered bodies of dead livestock...” DNR June 20, 1949.

2018 Walking Tour Brochures Available

Completed in 2018, and shared in gift bags for the 50th reunion celebration of the Bridgewater College Class of '68, the brochure is a self guided tour with a map and brief history of selected town buildings and homes. For their support in this project, we thank the Town of Bridgewater Staff including Gwen Gottfried as well as the staff at Campbell Print Center.

Remembering the Flood of '49 on the 70th Anniversary

In the early morning of June 18, 1949, the worst flood in the history of Bridgewater struck the town. There was extensive damage to the town and the surrounding area and three town residents drowned.

On display at the museum are flood reports from several newspapers and three first person accounts of experiences during and immediately after the flood.

2019 Membership Contributions are Due. Please forward soon so we can put the funds to use.

Current Exhibit!

Flood History

www.bridgewaterhistoricalmuseum.org

bwasm109@gmail.com

540-237-4017

We now have a new scanning station to collect images of artifacts folks do not want to part with. You don't have to give us the item, just let us scan it and keep an image of it.

Share with BHS, but keep your originals!!

Maps, Articles, Pictures, Journals, Manuscripts, Drawings, etc...

On June 14 and 15 we will host several residents who are willing to share their stories at the museum. The scanning station will be available for anything you would like to bring and share with us.

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P.O. Box 102

Bridgewater, VA 22812

[Recipient Name]

[Street Address]

[City, ST ZIP Code]