

Weddings

Planning *your party*

Local couples share
their wedding advice



Build a *guest list*

How to ensure the
right people are there
on your special day

Decide *your budget*

Advice to avoid
breaking the bank

Master *the moments*

Time management
tips for your
wedding
day

Inside



Planning The Wedding Of Your Dreams 4
 Meet Our Local Couples 4-8
 Advice to help master your wedding guest list . . . 9
 Timeline tips for planning your perfect day . . . 10
 Take the hectic out of your wedding day. 11
 How to build a wedding budget. 12
 A guide to picking the perfect dress 13
 The tradition behind bridal veils 13
 Wedding day floral arrangements 14
 Responsibilities of the wedding party 15



Cover Couple: Torie and Joe Marshall of Newbury, VT. (Contributed Photo)

PUBLISHER
Todd M. Smith

COVER DESIGN
 Andrew McGregor

EDITOR
 Andrew McGregor

EDITORIAL DESIGN
 Andrew McGregor

BUSINESS OFFICE
 Susan Donna

ADVERTISING SALES
 Julie Poutre,
 Mike Gonyaw,
 Lillian Burrington-
 Jenks

**ADVERTISING
 DESIGN
 & PRODUCTION**
 Jeana Desilets

CONTACT US

Advertising: adv@caledonian-record.com
 News: news@caledonian-record.com
 Phone: 802-748-8121
 Web: caledonianrecord.com

A PUBLICATION OF THE CALEDONIAN-RECORD PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC.
 190 Federal Street, P.O. Box 8, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
 © Caledonian-Record Publishing Company, Inc January 2024.

Advertisers Index

Scenic Tents	3	Peacham Lavender Farm.	12
Caledonia County Fairgrounds	4	White Mountain Chalet & Caterers	12
Kingdom Farm Lodge & Wedding Venue	5	Majestic Trophy.	13
Tempson Barn at Town Farm.	6	An Affair To Remember/Everything But The Cook. . .	14
St. Johnsbury Distillery	7	Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild.	14
The Framing Format.	8	All About Flowers.	14
Moose River Lake & Lodge.	9	Sanderson's Wooden Bowls.	14
All Around Rental	9	Orleans Country Club	15
St. Johnsbury Elks Lodge	10	The Sewing Basket	15
Town & Country Inn & Resort	11	Artistic Gardens Flower Shop.	15
Three Ponds Catering.	11	Burke Mountain Hotel & Conference Center	16

Cyan
Magenta
Yellow
Black

Sailcloth Tent ~ High Peak Tent ~ Traditional Style Tent ~ Frame Tent ~ Farm Tables ~ Round Tables ~ Banquet Tables

Scenic Tents

Lyndonville, Vermont



www.scenictents.com

Joe: 802-535-2599

Kaytlin: 802-272-9563

scenic.tents.vt@gmail.com

Wood Chairs ~ Resin Chairs ~ Plastic Chairs ~ Bar Tables ~ Dancefloors ~ Lighting ~ Linens ~ Tent Heaters

Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

Planning The Wedding Of Your Dreams

Newlyweds Share Stories Of Their Special Celebrations - Near And Far

BY AMY ASH NIXON
Staff Writer

Planning a wedding - whether in a family member's backyard, or a destination wedding far from home - can be a daunting, yet joyful experience. Several couples from the area, as well as one woman who grew up in Vermont but now lives out west, shared their wedding planning stories with The Caledonian-Record, to help give other couples some insight into what their wedding journeys were like. Congratulations to all the newlyweds out there!

**Lindsay and Johnathan Geary
Groton, Vermont**

Both Lindsay (Walbridge) and Johnathan Geary had just about given up on meeting someone special online through Facebook dating when she noticed him and gave him a thumbs-up sign in May of 2021.

She said, "We both were getting ready to delete our profiles when he noticed I 'liked' his profile. He sent me a message. We started talking and went on our first date at the 99 Restaurant in Littleton, NH."

Their whirlwind romance blossomed immediately, and in January

of 2022, "He proposed to me at the Texas Roadhouse in Williston, VT by putting the ring on the straw of my margarita. The man knows the way to my heart!" shared Lindsay, now Mrs. Geary.

The couple were married Aug. 6, 2022.

Of their wedding planning, Lindsay said they wanted to keep things authentic and not break the bank.

When it came to wedding planning we both agreed we wanted it to be reflective of us and our relationship

Lindsay and Johnathan Geary of Groton, Vt. (Contributed Photo)



Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

Caledonia County Fairgrounds **Floral Hall**

An amazing place for your wedding!

Very Affordable • Ample, Well Kept Grounds • Rustic Casual

\$1,200

4,800 sq. ft. building
Includes tables and chairs to accommodate 200 guests and 2 private bathrooms.

*Camping sites with hookups available for extra charge.

Other Buildings Available Starting at \$400

NOW BOOKING 2024 DATES
Weddings / Events / Reunions

Contact Jeff Goodwin - 802-535-9897
(leave message ... will get right back to you)
Email: jgood460@gmail.com
or call Fairgrounds 802-427-4404

Lyndonville, VT



and we wanted to keep it affordable and we didn't want to spend so much money that it became a financial stressor," she shared. "We also wanted to keep things local."

"Our venue was Alumni Hall/Court Street Arts in North Haverhill, NH it was just the right size and it had everything we needed (kitchen, bathrooms on site, easy parking, tables & chairs, sound system) and it was very reasonably priced," she said.

For the catering, "Our food (mac 'n cheese bar for main meal and charcuterie style for cocktail hour) and beer we sourced from Monroe Country Store and my fabulous friends helped to prepare and transport it all," Lindsay said. "Our photographer Amanda Jarvis/Time to Remember Photography is a friend/former co-worker of Johnathan's and she was an absolute dream to work with!"

"Another friend of Johnathan's, Shaye Hunsicker of Lady Shaye's Catering of Monroe, NH (she also has a food truck), did our cake and cupcakes which were absolutely delicious! We also used Medina's DJing services out of St. Johnsbury to do sound/music for the ceremony and music for the reception. We danced all night long and he was a very fun and interactive DJ!" Lindsay said.

They kept the decor mainly DIY, she

said, "We did decor and such for reception on our own but did use All About Flowers in St. Johnsbury for my bouquet and the boutonnieres! My advice for couples planning their wedding is to make it your own. It's about celebrating you and your partner and sharing with your guests your story!"

**Felicia and Asher Chapman
Gilman, Vermont**

For the Chapmans, a backyard family wedding at Asher's parents' home in Concord, was the venue the young couple chose for their celebration. The couple, both 24, were wed on Aug. 12 of last year.

The couple met in high school at Lyndon Institute, shared Felicia. That was 2016, and they dated for a few years, parting when life took them in different directions, she shared. But after spending three years apart, "we found our way back to each other."

"He proposed on Oct. 9, 2022," Felicia said. "I had planned a couples' photography session because I wanted some nice photos of us, and it took me by surprise when I turned around and he was down on one knee!"

Felicia said that a few months after the unexpected romantic proposal Asher



Asher and Felicia Chapman of Gilman, Vt., and their bridal party at their wedding in August 2023. (Contributed Photo)

planned, they began to think about different ideas for how to plan their special day. "We knew that we wanted something simple that was not a million dollars!"

Felicia said, "After talking with our family, we decided to have our wedding at Asher's parents' house in Concord, VT. They have a beautiful property with a pond."

"Our plan was to keep the guest count to about 100 and have a beautiful outdoor wedding," she shared.

At first, she said, "It was hard to know where to start when it comes to wedding planning."

"A wedding planner book is a huge help,

Couples continues on 6

KINGDOM FARM
Lodge & Wedding Venue

The ideal venue for the quintessential Vermont wedding. Acres of lush mowed fields, cozy lodging for your wedding party, family & friends and a spectacular view of Burke Mountain.

We offer intimate indoor and larger outdoor ceremony and reception options, vintage furnishings, unique decor, and authentic Vermont scenery. A variety of packages are offered to fit your style, needs and budget.

Now Booking 2024 Dates
www.kingdomfarmlodge.com • 802.535.8157



Cyan
Magenta
Yellow
Black



Torie and Joe Marshall of Newbury, Vt. (Contributed Photo)

Couples

Continued from Page 5

it gives you a timeline and all the ideas you will need to remember,” Felicia recommends. “After doing hours of research of must-haves for a back yard wedding, it was time to start making decisions for florals, food, tent, photographer.”

She said, “If there is one piece of advice I would give, I would recommend that is to start booking things early; people book out months in advance. All of the people we hired were wonderful to work with and super helpful.”

The couple used a number of local vendors to help make their wedding dreams come true: for hair, they used Sweet Expectations Salon in Barnet; the tent rental was through GRM Tent Rentals in Hardwick; their cake and DJ were through Mix It Up DJ and Cake Service based in St. Johnsbury; their celebration was catered by Shrubby’s SmokeShack in Bethlehem, NH; and their photography was done by K & E Photography in St. Johnsbury.

Torie and Joe Marshall Newbury, Vermont

Torie and Joe Marshall met when she was still in high school, too. She said he reached out to her “and insisted we go on a date!”

“Thank goodness he did!”

Married on Sept. 4, 2021, the couple married eight years after they had begun dating, saying their vows at the Wells River Congregational Church, where both their parents were married, hers from Groton, his from North Haverhill, N.H.

The couple had their reception at the North Haverhill Fairgrounds, Torie shared.

She said their reasons were practical, as well as deeply-rooted in the traditions of the area.

“It was local, cheap, big, and allowed guests to BYOB so we didn’t have to worry about that aspect,” she said. “It is a common place for people around here to have weddings and allows for a lot of freedom with decorating.”

Their caterer were family on her husband’s side, the owners of the former and very popular Riley’s Fish Shack in St. Johnsbury.

Their DJ at the reception was Kevin DeFosse, who played all the requests the couple asked for.

“The things that were most important to us were that our family and friends could attend, there would be good food and dancing all night,” Torie said.

A very special feature of their celebration was thanks to Torie’s uncle Randy Johnson of E. Ryegate, Vt., who made their wedding favors through with CNC woodworking.

“He made a small wooden American flag for each guest,” she said.

The couple’s photographer was Jordan Buck, a Northeast Kingdom-based photographer, and Antique Rose did their flowers, though that floral enterprise has since closed its doors. Torie said she’s been to a few weddings since theirs which Red Tea Kettle Floral Designs of Wells River did the flowers for, and which were lovely.

Torie’s advice for couples planning their weddings now:

“You don’t have to spend a lot of money for things/setting to look pretty here in Vermont,” she offered. “We live in a beautiful area!”

Torie’s tip: “Figure out what is most important to you for your wedding and spend your money on that.”

The Tempson Barn at Town Farm – Lyndonville, Vermont



Host life’s most important moments at The Tempson Barn in Vermont. Whether you are planning a birthday celebration, family reunion, wedding or holiday party, The Tempson Barn is the perfect location for your friends, family and colleagues to gather.

www.tempsonbarn.com

**Matt and Grace Brown
Graniteville, Vermont**

Matt and Grace Brown met their sophomore year of college, when they were studying at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 2014.

After the couple graduated, they decided they wanted to move to Vermont together to launch their careers, and they've lived here ever since, making their lives in northern Vermont.

"We got engaged on Christmas Day 2020," Grace shared, and they took their time planning their Vermont wedding.

Grace said, "We wanted our wedding to be on the smaller side, and our goal was to have a simple, low-key weekend celebrating our marriage with our closest family and friends."

To that end, they chose a venue that could hold their wedding party and guests, when they married on June 24, 2023, at Stickney Farms in East Granville, VT.

She said, "The site fee also includes three farmhouses on the property, with many rooms for your wedding guests to stay on-site for the weekend. Our delicious reception dinner was catered by Southern Smoke BBQ based in Winooski, and our three-tiered wedding cake was from The Goose Chase Cake Design in Waitsfield. The flowers used for the bouquets, boutonnieres, and table decorations were arranged by Matt's sister, Cassina, using DIY buckets from Kismet Farm in Rochester."

The guests at Matt and Grace's wedding reception took photos of the celebration using both disposable and Polaroid cameras set out for them to participate in capturing special moments throughout the evening. Matt had two roles at the wedding, as groom and as a musician, playing with a few of his friends to offer some live entertainment over the course of the weekend.

"Each of our guests went home with a half-pint of maple syrup from Oliver's Sugarhouse in Groton," said Grace, adding that Vermont touch to their sendoff as a to-go gratitude from the newly married couple. The only downer of the event was that it rained the day of their wedding, said Grace, "Even though it rained all day, I wouldn't change a thing!"

Asked her advice to couples now planning their special days, Grace offered this, "My advice would be to plan the wedding that you want to have, and not to put too much pressure on yourself. Things will go wrong, and that's okay!"

"Come up with a realistic budget, do your research, and be flexible," she said. "You can have a beautiful wedding without spending a small fortune."

Grace offered, "The most important thing to remember is that the day is about you and your partner, and celebrating your new life together."

Matt and Grace Brown of Graniteville, Vt. (Contributed Photo)



Cyan Magenta Yellow Black



**Bridal Showers,
Rehearsal Dinners, Catering,
& Other Special Occasions**



Wedding Services

- Off-site catering & bartending available for weddings
- Full craft cocktail bar and food catering options
- Custom packages to fit your needs



Contact us at:
info@stjdistillery.com
for booking inquiries

(802) 424-1146 • stjdistillery.com 74 Eastern Avenue • St. Johnsbury, VT

Teri Lazzara and Nicholas Hamann, Seattle, Wash.
(She's from Groton, Vermont)

Teri Lazzara, who grew up in Groton, Vermont, and her husband, Nicholas Hamann, live in Seattle together, but chose a destination wedding in a beautiful town in Idaho, so their families from opposite coasts could enjoy their wedding in a breathtakingly beautiful location.

The couple were married in Sun Valley, ID, six months ago.

"Nick and I met at the gym in Seattle over 5 years ago. He snuck up behind me and scared me and then asked me on a date. The proposal wasn't much different," shared Teri. "He snuck up behind me again and scared me, but this time with a ring. He had me plan him this big birthday party on Lake Washington."

She said, "Little did I know, I was planning my own engagement party, ha! He said, I am such a planner that I would have caught on if he planned something so the only way to surprise me was to have me busy planning something else. It worked."

Of their wedding, Teri shared, "Our families live on opposite coasts, so we decided to have a destination wedding on

top of a mountain in Sun Valley, ID. It's one of our favorite places in the USA to be."

"Since it was a destination, we hired a wedding planner to help with everything. Funny enough the planner we hired who lived in Idaho now, ended up being from Lyndon, VT and we had mutual friend in common! Wedding planning was time consuming and expensive (but we found ways to cut the costs), but the day ended up being perfect with 75 guests total, a beautiful day on the mountain, and a night full of dancing," Teri said.

Her wedding planner was Jordan Larmay, who owns Unveiled Design and Events.

"She was from the Lyndon, VT area, and went to high school at St. J. Academy," Teri said. "She also got married at Jay Peak. She moved to Idaho with her husband and now has two kids and became a wedding planner. I had no idea she was from Vermont until she called me for our consultation and an 802 number popped up. I asked her about the number and we spent the first 20 minutes of the call talking about Vermont and our mutual friends!"

"We then discussed the different wedding packages and what I was looking for.



Teri Lazzara and Nicholas Hamann at their destination wedding in Idaho. (Contributed Photo)

The Framing Format



- Conservation Framing For Your Wedding Photos
- Shadow Boxes for Wedding Keepsakes
- Signature Mats & Frames
- Gift Certificates

485 Lafayette Street, St. Johnsbury, VT • 802-748-3964
www.framingformat.com

I knew I wanted to hire her as soon as we had the Vermont connection," she said. "I couldn't ignore that fact that a now Washington State Bride was calling an Idaho wedding planner and they both were originally from Vermont ... talk about fate!"

Teri's advice for couples now planning their weddings, "ELOPE! Haha! I loved our wedding, but wedding planning is a lot of work and can be expensive. Eloping with a few family members and close friends and then throwing a big party later could save a lot of that burden."

"Hire a wedding planner or at least day of coordinator. It made the day go so smooth and I didn't have to worry about out anything besides getting ready and having fun with my family and friends," she said.

She also suggested, "Think about the time of the year/weather! I panicked about the rain right up until the ceremony (luckily it ended up being a perfect day) a silly thing to worry about since you cannot control it, but depending on your location it can really affect the ceremony so know that before you pick a time of year."

And this important reminder, "EAT. We barely got to eat. If it wasn't for the plan-

ner bringing us a plate of appetizers before our grand entrance, I wouldn't have eaten. The day is too exciting and busy so eating gets put off."

"Just enjoy every second of it with your partner ... and dance!"

Asked what her wedding day might have looked like if it were back home in Vermont, Teri said, "If I were to get married back home I would have to plan for a HUGE celebration because all family and friends (the entire town) would come."

"I would want it in the fall when all of the leaves are beautiful bright colors," she said. "I would probably have family and friends help with the food. I would love just heavy appetizers all night and grazing tables. That way people can eat and dance as they please. Plus I know people at home (specially my dad) would cook way better food than we could get anywhere else."

She said, "There are so many people I know from high school for the photography. I think planning a wedding back home would have actually been really simple because everyone would have been willing to help out or know someone who could. It's all part of that small town charm."

Tips to help master your wedding guest list

Weddings are such momentous occasions that it's no wonder couples want to share their big days with as many people as possible. Though a wedding where all friends, family members and acquaintances are in attendance may be a dream scenario, reality often calls for a more carefully curated guest list.

Data from The Wedding Report indicates that the average cost of a wedding is slightly more than \$20,000, though that figure could be substantially higher, or even lower, depending on where couples tie the knot. Both The Wedding Report and The Knot report that a wedding venue and catering make up a significant percentage of the overall cost of a wedding, with some figures indicating that these expenses account for around 65 percent of the final price tag. The number of guests couples will host on their wedding day will affect which venue they book and how much food and beverages they'll need to satisfy guests. Couples who hope to stay within budget can consider these tips as they try to build a guest list that won't break the bank.

- **Accept input.** Parents may no longer foot the entire bill for their children's weddings, but couples who are accepting some financial help from parents must also accept Mom's and Dad's input regarding the guest

list. Even if parents' desired guests do not ultimately make the cut, it's best to respect their wishes and consider who they want to invite. Couples who are financing their own weddings without outside help need not feel beholden to invite anyone who does not meet their invitation criteria.

- **Make a preliminary list without regard to budget.** Couples can have fun making preliminary guest lists without considering their budgets. A preliminary list can serve as a solid starting point, and couples may even realize that their list is within budget. Once the preliminary lists have been created, couples can categorize guests (i.e., distant cousins, coworkers, etc.) and then work together to determine if any categories can be eliminated from the invitation list. For example, couples who may be going over budget with their guest lists can each agree to remove distant cousins from their prospective invitees.

- **Seek advice.** Many couples face difficult decisions regarding their wedding day guest lists, so it can be helpful to speak to a recently married friend or relative to see how they handled paring down their guest lists. Some might have done it by category, while others might have limited guest lists to local friends and family. When taking this approach, couples can speak to friends about how they approached handling peo-



ple who were surprised that they were not on the final list of invitees.

- **Throw a less formal party down the road.** A less expensive backyard barbecue within weeks of tying the knot can serve as a less costly alternative to a large wedding reception. Couples who take this approach can keep their wedding day guest lists to a

minimum, but invite everyone they hope to see to a post-wedding day backyard barbecue or pot luck picnic so they can celebrate with everyone they love. Curating a wedding day guest list is no small task. However, couples can try various approaches to keep a guest list more manageable and less expensive.

CABIN SWEET CABIN

RUSTIC ELEGANCE




MOOSE RIVER

Lake & Lodge Store

mooseriwerlakeandlodgestore.com

OPEN DAILY Fred & Robin Little, Owners

- ✦ Gift Registry
- ✦ Pendleton Blankets
- ✦ April Cornell Linens For Your Table
- ✦ Pillows ✦ Rugs
- ✦ Wooden Ware ✦ Pottery
- ✦ Select The Perfect Wine or Champagne For Your Wedding (Volume Discounts)
- ✦ Wedding Fashions

370 RAILROAD ST., ST. JOHNSBURY, VT
802-748-2423

Like us on






A Great Reception Begins With The Perfect Tent!

We will work with you to choose exactly the right supplies for your wedding.

Tents • Tables • Chairs • Dance Floors • Grills • Party Supplies

ASK ABOUT OUR COMPLETE TENT PACKAGES!



OPEN: Monday-Friday 8-4 Saturday 8-Noon • Closed Sunday

info@allaroundrental.com

802-748-7841

www.allaroundrental.com

Route 5 North, St. Johnsbury, VT

Timeline tips for planning your perfect day

The notion that “timing is everything” is applicable in many situations, perhaps none more so than on a couple’s wedding day. Many couples spend months, if not years, planning their weddings in the hopes that all that hard work will ultimately result in a day they will cherish forever. The sheer volume of things to do on a wedding day can make couples feel overwhelmed. Those feelings can be overcome by emphasizing timing on the day of the wedding. Wedding day timelines will differ depending on variables that are unique to each couple’s wedding, but the following are some factors to consider as couples organize the big day.

• **Venue(s):** The schedule couples adhere to on their wedding day will be greatly affected by their choice of venue. Does the venue have somewhere on premises for the couple and their party to get ready? Are the ceremony and reception being held at the same venue? Before creating a timeline, consider the location of the ceremony and reception venue(s) and the accommodations each provides. Getting to and from multiple facilities won’t be an issue if couples choose a multipurpose venue where they can get ready, tie the knot and dance

the night away all in one place. Couples who will be moving from venue to venue throughout the day must build the time it takes them and their party to get about into their timelines.

• **Wedding party:** The size of the wedding party also bears consideration when planning a wedding day timeline. Large parties will require more time to get ready, and that should be factored into couples’ timelines. Large parties also may be harder to corral and transport from place to place, so couples should build some extra time into their timelines to account for that. Small wedding parties can be easier to manage, so couples with small parties may be able to begin their timelines a little later in the day than those with large wedding parties.

• **Weather:** Weather is the most unpredictable variable couples need to plan for on their wedding days. As the wedding day approaches, couples can monitor the day’s forecast and then make any necessary changes to account for inclement weather. Getting around in a rainstorm will likely take longer than moving about on a sunny day, so some minor tweaks to the timeline may be necessary if storms or



another type of inclement weather is in the forecast. Couples can access wedding day timeline templates on various websites. But it’s important that couples remember that their weddings are unique, so online

guidelines might not be realistic. A careful consideration of a handful of variables specific to couples’ weddings can help them craft timelines that make their big day go smoothly.

Cyan
Magenta
Yellow
Black

Intimate Setting

- Customized Menu
- Competitive Rates
- Private Room
- Great Location



Perfect for:
 Wedding Receptions
 Bridal Showers
 Jack & Jill Parties
 Rehearsal Dinners
 & planning ahead for... Baby Showers




Please call for Menu & Booking Information



St. Johnsbury Elks Lodge
 118 Western Ave. • St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
 802.748.3785

Did you know?

Getting engaged is an exciting moment in the lives of a couple. One might think that excitement would lead to couples hurrying their way down the aisle to tie the knot, but studies have shown that couples spend a significant amount of time between getting engaged and saying, “I do.” According to The Knot 2021 Real Weddings Study, the average engagement length among couples in the United States is 16 months.

Though those figures are likely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which undoubtedly contributed to longer engagements as couples waited to get married until large gatherings were deemed safe, it’s worth noting that lengthy engagements are not specifically a COVID-related phenomenon. In fact, The Knot reports that the average length of engagement in 2019 was 14 months. Taking more time to get to know one another also seems to be a popular approach among modern couples, as The Knot Jewelry and Engagement Study found that three-quarters of all couples who wed in 2021 had dated for two or more years prior to getting engaged.

Take the hectic out of your wedding day

Weddings are among the most complex events many people will ever plan. Couples often try to go the extra mile in an effort to make the day memorable for themselves and their guests. That pressure can make a wedding day feel a little frenzied. Thankfully, there are various ways to ensure the vibe of the big day is happy and not hectic.

Hire a wedding planner/coordinator Leaving the nitty gritty to a professional wedding planner takes a lot of pressure off of couples. The renowned wedding resource The Knot says wedding planners are clued into everything there is to know about a wedding and they can be tapped to take care of just about anything on couples' to-do list.

Consider a package deal All-inclusive resorts are popular vacation spots because variables like entertainment, lodging, food, drinks, and more is all taken care of, leaving vacationers with little to do other than show up and relax. Couples can apply that same approach on their

wedding day. Host the ceremony and reception at the same site, which takes the potentially problematic issue of getting guests to and fro out of the equation. Some venues may even provide in-house vendors like photographers and florists. Such vendors' familiarity with the venue reduces the risk of surprises that can derail wedding day schedules.

Pick your priorities Avoid getting bogged down on a million details by making a list of your priorities when planning. Couples can revisit this list a couple of days before their wedding so they remember what's most important to them on the big day. This refresher can ensure couples don't get too concerned if minor issues arise during their big day, helping them remain calm and keeping a focus on all the fun to be had during the day. It's easy for couples to feel a little overwhelmed on their wedding day. Some simple strategies can take the hectic out of couples' wedding day and ensure they keep their focus on one another and their loved ones.



Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

A Scenic Setting to Celebrate Your Love

IN NEW HAMPSHIRE'S WHITE MOUNTAINS

The Town & Country Inn and Resort is the perfect destination for your wedding. We offer personalized, value-priced packages and lodging. We can accommodate gatherings of 50 to 400, and provide a variety of menu choices – prepared by our award-winning chef.

Shelburne, NH
603-466-3315

TownandCountryInn.com

SPECIAL EVENTS CATERING

Now booking for summer/fall 2024!

Grazing Tables
A necessity for any cocktail hour or lite-fare event!

Buffet Meals
Choose from our set meals, or custom design your own.

Bar Service
Beer, wine, and signature cocktails served by our wonderful team of licensed bartenders.

Dining Room Rentals
Let us host your private party of 20-40 people!

11 Route 2E Danville, VT threepondsvt@gmail.com threepondsvt.com
802-227-3300 Social: @threepondsvt

How to build a wedding budget without breaking the bank

Wedding planning is a unique experience unlike any endeavor most couples will ever encounter. Much effort goes into planning a wedding, and that includes building a budget that ensures the big day will be fun without breaking the bank.

Most couples planning a wedding have never tied the knot before, so it can be difficult to determine a reasonable amount to spend. It's easy to go overboard when planning a wedding, and couples may find their list of wants and, consequently, their expenses, growing as they get into the weeds of wedding planning. Though it might require some difficult decisions, couples can keep these tips in mind so they can build a wedding budget that won't land them in debt after saying, "I do."

• Determine funding. The days when a bride's parents would finance the wedding entirely on their own are largely a thing of the past. According to a recent WeddingWire Newlywed Report, parents now

pay for 52 percent of wedding expenses. As couples begin establishing a wedding budget, it's imperative that they first determine who, if anyone, will be helping them finance the big day. Fifty-two percent of wedding expenses is a significant amount of money, but in that scenario, couples will still need to come up with roughly half of the money needed to fund their weddings. Couples without substantial savings may be forced to cut back in order to avoid beginning their life as a married couple in debt.

• Make a list of potential expenses. Location will be a significant factor when determining potential expenses. For example, a 2022 ValuePenguin analysis of data from The Wedding Report found that the average wedding in Massachusetts cost roughly \$30,500 in 2020, while couples tying the knot in Arkansas spent around \$12,500 on their weddings. With such wild fluctuations, it's important that couples get an accurate estimate of how much it may cost them to get married in a



given city. Couples who met in a city and still live in a city but grew up in a suburb might save a considerable sum by getting married in their hometowns. Compare and contrast prices in locales you're considering, and then build your budget accordingly. This can help you avoid sticker shock and going over budget. Notable expenses to budget include the venue, attire (i.e., wedding dress and tuxedo rental),

hairstyle and makeup, entertainment, photography, and transportation, among others.

• Make a list of what's most important. Most couples will have to compromise in order to avoid taking on debt to finance their weddings. An earnest discussion about what's most important to each person can ensure you both get what

you want. Each person can make a list of their priorities, ranking them from most important to least important. Once lists are shared, couples can see where their priorities converge and where they diverge. Any items that rank low on each person's list of priorities can be afforded less funding, while those that are high on each list can take up more of the budget, if necessary.

• Commit to a limit before spending a dime. Committing to a limit before spending a dime can help couples keep wedding costs more manageable. Once that number is defined, couples can then work within its parameters, which can make potentially difficult decisions a little easier by narrowing options at a time when options can seem endless. A well-planned budget can be just what couples need to begin married life on strong financial footing.

Cyan Magenta Yellow Black



WE ARE EXCITED TO OFFER

Wedding Flowers!

CONSIDER US FOR ALL YOUR FLORAL NEEDS!



DIY BULK WEDDING FLOWERS

- Perfect for DIY couples.
- Stunning fresh from-the-garden style!
- Dozens of beautiful varieties!
- Vase rental is available.



RENT THE FLOWER TRUCK!

- Imagine our 1962 VW flower truck at your wedding, bridal or engagement party, full of beautiful blooms!
- Guests can build a bouquet, or we can build one for them.
- A fun and memorable party favor!



FRESH LAVENDER

- Wow your guests with farm fresh lavender!
- Gorgeous in bouquets, boutonnieres, corsages.
- Lavender buds available for your wedding toss!

peachamlavender@gmail.com

www.peachamlavender.com





161 East Milan Rd., Berlin, NH 03570
Custom Food for any Occasion



Use our beautiful banquet facility with seating for 350 or catering at any location of your choice.

Booking now for 2024-2025

Very reasonable meal prices proudly listed on our website...

www.chaletcaterers.com

- Owner Chef Cordon Bleu graduate
- Owner/Chef for 37 years
- Over 4000 Special Events Successfully Catered
- Custom food for any occasion from 50 to 5000 guests.
- View our menus and prices at: www.chaletcaterers.com
- Experienced, uniformed, attentive waitstaff with all events.
- Fully air conditioned
- Huge Dance Floor
- Final menu and guest count not needed until the week of the event.
- Call today for a free consultation with owner Chef and wedding coordinator
- Facility includes all china, stemware, silverware, chair covers, linens, bartenders (with liquor liability insurance), inside and outside ceremony area along our brook. (We usually can get you in a day or two early to decorate any way YOU like! We set up and clean up!)

We cater all events including weddings, holiday parties, after funeral meals, anniversary celebrations, birthday parties at any location you select.

China and Silverware rental available.

Contact our event planner Ruthanne at chaletruthie@gmail.com or call 603-752-5517 anytime and the owner will answer the phone.

How to pick the perfect wedding dress

Planning a wedding requires making many different decisions. The choice of wedding attire is among the most crucial decisions that couples must make. Whether the wedding is traditional or customized to suit couples' personalities, brides and grooms want to look their best when they say, "I do."

Many brides-to-be spend a significant amount of time looking for their ideal wedding dresses. What defines the right gown depends on personal preference and is unique to the person doing the search. For example, a dress that sets a fairy tale scene for one bride may not necessarily align with the tastes of another. According to Bridal Atelier, the average bride-to-be tries on try three to seven dresses before finding the right one. The following tips can help those shopping for dresses find a look that makes their big day even more special.

1. Don't get hung up on perfection Many brides get caught up as they search for the one dress they consider perfect. No dress is likely to check every box. Getting hung up on a desire to find a dress that has it all may make it hard to see the beauty in other dresses. Remember, with the talents of an experienced tailor or seamstress, most dresses can be tweaked to suit your vision of the ideal gown.

2. Consider the season Getting married during the hazy and humid days of summer is an entirely different experience than tying the knot during the heart of winter. The fabric of the wedding dress should complement the season, whether it's lightweight and breezy for a warm day, or more substantial and cozy when darting to the ceremony in snowfall.

3. Flatter your figure Chances are brides-to-be know which cuts and styles are most flattering. Mimic those style choices in the wedding dress. If you want to take focus off of full hips, choose a basque or asymmetrical waistline. Gowns with substantial straps or higher necklines may be better if you have a larger chest. Sheath and mermaid style gowns are options if you are confident with your figure and want to show off your curves.

4. Try a bit of this and that Don't go into a wedding dress appointment with firm parameters. Although you may have a ball gown style in mind, after trying on other options something with a less voluminous silhouette may actually catch your eye. Many brides also automatically defer to strapless gowns, when various straps and sleeves can be very appealing.



5. Arrive with a firm budget Weddings can be costly. It's important to set a budget for the wedding dress just as you will with other expenses. There are plenty of dress designers across a wide spectrum of price points. A willingness to consider and ultimately purchase a less costly

dress can help you stay on budget. Browsing through magazines and looking online can provide wedding dress inspiration as well. Also, when in doubt, defer to the experts at bridal shops who have experience choosing dresses that brides are inclined to love.

The tradition behind bridal veils

Though couples can plan wedding ceremonies and receptions how they see fit, many weddings are steeped in tradition, some of which may be more subtle than others. One longstanding wedding tradition revolves around a bride's attire.

Historians differ regarding the origins of the bridal veil, but some trace this tradition all the way back to Ancient Greece. Others suggest bridal veils were first popularized within the Roman Empire by people who believed that the veil protected the bride from evil spirits as she walked down the aisle.

Traditions surrounding bridal veils even differ within various faiths, so the veil may signify one thing at a Jewish wedding and something entirely different at a Christian ceremony. Veils also have long been seen by some as symbolic of purity.

Despite their long-held position in wedding lore and tradition, veils are no longer seen as a must-have. Nor are brides who choose to wear a veil beholden to having it cover their face as they walk down the aisle. In fact, many modern brides now flip their veils over their head as they walk down the aisle en route to saying, "I do." Regardless of how brides who opt for veils choose to wear them, there's no denying the enduring popularity of this tradition.



Beautiful and Elegant Personalized Bridal Party Gifts, Glassware, Stemware, Wedding Favors, etc.



UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP

Majestic Trophy

169 Main Street, Suite 2
Newport, VT 05855

802-766-3074 • majesticawards1@gmail.com

A guide to wedding day floral arrangements

Various elements come together to complete a wedding day visual. Floral arrangements are one such component that can create a special and awe-inspiring ambiance.

Flowers appeal to at least three of the senses. Their delicate aroma can help a venue smell fresh and inviting. And it's hard to deny the visual appeal of a stunning floral arrangement. There are colors, sizes, textures, and much more that can cater to any theme. In addition, flowers can add a tactile element, even if guests do not go around touching the blooms.

Flowers convey so much during weddings that it's important to make finding a florist a priority, according to the wedding resource *The Knot*. The following is a guide to understanding floral arrangements that may be included in a wedding.

Bouquets, corsages and boutonnieres The wedding party, bride, groom, and parents of the couple are set apart from others at the wedding ceremony by the special flowers on their attire and in their hands, among other indicators. Boutonnieres are a single bud pinned to the left side of a gentleman's jacket. Corsages can be attached to a dress, but are now often worn on the wrist. Bouquets are held in



hand. They can be a few flowers gathered together, or more extensive displays. Bouquets may feature bare stems, or stems may be bound and hidden beneath ribbon and fabric. Some couples also have a small tossing bouquet to use later in the day. Flower petals for a flower girl to drop down the aisle also may be part of the floral plan.

Ceremony flowers Guests often are first introduced to floral arrangements at the wedding ceremony. Potted or vase-encased flowers may bookend the couple at the altar. Seats or pews may be adorned with flower sprays to draw attention to the aisle, known as aisle markers. These are subtle choices that enhance the ceremony space.

Reception components Flowers may truly shine during the reception. They're one of the most important components when decorating the space. Flowers serve as centerpieces, so the guest list and the number of tables will dictate how many centerpieces are required. These centerpieces can be elaborate or simply a few loose flowers in vases. Florists can customize the look depending on couples' budgets. Some additional reception flowers can include installations on arches or on anything hanging like a floral backdrop for photo opportunities.

Tips and tricks Couples should create a list of everywhere they would like to use flowers and present it, along with magazine clippings or planning boards, to show florists what they have in mind when shopping services, according to *Hummingbird Wedding Advice*. A 2021 survey from *The Knot* reported that the average cost for wedding flowers was \$2,300. It's important to set a strict budget so florists can present ideas that are in line with what couples can spend. Many expensive looks can be replicated with in-season flowers or less costly alternatives. Flowers are an important part of the wedding day and should be incorporated into couples' budgets.

Novel gifts for bridesmaids

Brides- and grooms-to-be select people who are near and dear to their hearts to be special parts of their momentous days. So the chance to participate in a friend's or family member's wedding is a great honor.

A wedding party plays a key role in both the ceremony and reception. Participants do everything from helping couples make decisions to addressing invitations to providing emotional support. As so much is asked of the wedding party - particularly the maid/matron of honor and bridesmaids - it's customary to bestow gifts on those people who devoted so much time and effort to the wedding. These potential bridesmaid gifts can serve as a thoughtful and unique way to thank bridesmaids for all that they've done.

• **Photo books:** Gift the bridesmaids with photo books of carefully curated photographs taken throughout the wedding planning experience. Pepper the books with other photos, such as im-

ages of you with the bridesmaids at fun moments throughout your lives together.

• **Portrait wine or champagne glasses:** Beverage glasses customized with the bridesmaids' likenesses painted or printed onto them make for great gifts. Bridesmaids will enjoy sipping their favorite drinks in special glasses for years to come.

• **Personalized phone cases:** Who doesn't rely on their mobile phones these days? Treat your bridesmaids to something special with colorful phone cases with their names embossed or printed on the outsides.

• **Wellness or spa gift card:** After all of the running around for the wedding, bridesmaids may need a little extra pampering. Gift cards to a local spa can fit the bill.

• **Birthstone jewelry:** Necklaces, rings or earrings become that much more special when they're

customized to the recipients.

Purchase jewelry with your bridesmaids' birthstones so they'll be as unique as each woman.

• **Friendship bracelets:** Gift each bridesmaid with beaded friendship bracelets that features all of the ladies' initials. Be sure to keep one for yourself, and you all can enjoy nights on the town showcasing your special bracelets.

• **Monogrammed robes or purses:** A customized pocketbook, robe or another item bridesmaids will use every day can make for an extra-special item that will serve as a daily reminder of how much you appreciate them. Bridesmaid gifts are a great way for brides to thank their bridesmaids for all that they've done to make a couple's wedding day special.



AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER
A PARTY STORE & GIFTS
Visit Our Tuxedo and Bridal Accessory Room

EVERYTHING
But the Cook
A Complete Professional & Personal Kitchen Store

Everything You Need
For Your Special Day!

Tuxedo Rentals • Wedding Accessories
Gifts • Bridal Registry
On Site Wedding & Party Planner

Woodsville Station Building,
28 Central Street, Woodsville, NH.
603-747-3200

NORTHEAST
KINGDOM
ARTISANS
GUILD
DESIGNATED VERMONT STATE CRAFT CENTER

Visit us: Tuesday-Saturday 10:30-5:30
430 Railroad Street, St. Johnsbury, Vermont
802-748-0158 • www.nekartisansguild.com

all about
flowers
elegantly vermont

request an appointment ...

196 EASTERN AVENUE
ST. JOHNSBURY, VERMONT
802-748-5656
ALLABOUTFLOWERSVT.COM

Sanderson's
WOODEN BOWLS
EAST BURKE, VT
Hand Turned Wooden Bowls and Pens

Sanderson's Woodturning
Sam & Weeza Sanderson
2902 VT Rte. 114
East Burke, VT 05832
802-626-9622 • www.vtbowls.com
COME VISIT OUR SHOWROOM!

Responsibilities of the wedding party members

Participating in a wedding party is an honor. Couples invite many people to their weddings, and the select few asked to be in the party are typically those individuals with whom the couples shares a strong and special bond. The role of the wedding party is not merely symbolic.

Though it's up to the happy couple to determine how involved they want their wedding party to be, individuals asked to be in the party should know that their acceptance of these roles carries with it a certain level of responsibility.

Maid of Honor The maid of honor may bear the most responsibility of any wedding party member. Maids of honor typically help with the planning of the wedding, offering advice and opinions on everything from the bride's gown to the bridesmaid dresses and anything else a couple might need help with. If the bride asks, the maid of honor may be asked to organize dress fittings and attend them as well.

A maid of honor typically plays an active, and often the lead, role in planning the bachelorette party. Come the day of the wedding, the maid of honor helps the bride prepare and may organize the bridesmaids to ensure everyone stays on schedule. A maid of honor typically toasts the happy couple during the reception as well.

Best Man Like the maid of honor, the best man has some extra responsibilities before the wedding and during the festivities. A best man may organize tux fittings, plan the bachelor party, help make arrangements if the groom requests help, and be asked to hold the rings on the day of the ceremony. A best man toast is common during the reception, and some grooms ask their best men to distribute tips to vendors at the end of the night.

Bridesmaids Bridesmaids often help the maid of honor plan the bachelorette party, and they also help to organize the bridal shower if the bride chooses to have one. Bridesmaids can offer input on wedding planning, particularly if they're already married, though that is not necessarily required. Bridesmaids also can help relieve stress on the bride by being as agreeable as possible when scheduling dress fittings.

Groomsmen Groomsmen help to plan the bachelor party and may be asked to provide some support prior to the ceremony. For example, on the day of the wedding, groomsmen may be asked to show guests, particularly elderly friends and family of the couple, to their seats. Like their bridesmaid counterparts, groomsmen



can be especially helpful by doing what's asked of them without resistance. Arriving on time to tuxedo fittings and offering insight when they think it might help are some simple ways groomsmen can pitch in.

Flower Girl/Ring Bearer Often reserved for children, the roles of flower girls and ring bearers only require some simple participation during the ceremony. Flower girls drop petals as they precede down the aisle ahead of the wedding party, while the ringer bearer carries the ring down the aisle. If these roles will be filled by especially young children, couples may choose to have them walk down the aisle together.

Parents of the couple Parents of the bride and groom typically play supportive roles but may be asked to give speeches during the rehearsal dinner or the reception. The father of the bride typically walks her down the aisle, while the mother will likely spend the day of the ceremony at the bride's side as they get ready. Parents of the groom do not have any traditional responsibilities, though the groom and his mother customarily share a mother/son dance during the reception. Couples need not feel compelled to assign bridal party members these duties if they don't feel comfortable doing so. However, sharing some of the responsibilities of wedding planning can help couples enjoy the process more and keep party members engaged.

Did you know?

Brides- and Grooms-to-be rely on trusted friends and family to be part of their wedding parties. It is an honor to be asked to participate in the ceremony and share in the magic of the day.



Many couples wrestle with the question of how many people to include in the wedding party.

The trusted wedding resource The Knot says old school wedding etiquette experts advise there should be one groomsman and one corresponding bridesmaid for every 50 guests, but this isn't mandatory. Brides magazine reports that American weddings tend to feature five bridesmaids and five groomsmen.

According to YoungHipandMarried.com, at weddings in Canada, the wedding party can expect to spend roughly \$366 to be in the wedding celebration. A 2018 Bankrate study indicates members of an American bridal party can expect to pay an average of \$728 to attend a wedding and other related events. However, in recent years this price may have increased due to inflation and the rising cost of travel.

Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

Orleans Country Club



We're the perfect spot for your wedding shower, rehearsal dinner and wedding party golf outings.

802-754-2333

(Offseason: 802-754-2370)

orleanscountryclub@gmail.com

316 Country Club Lane, Orleans, VT 05860



The Sewing Basket

"A Professional Sewing Service"

325 N. Main St., Barre – 802-476-8389

Alterations and Tailoring

Bridal and Special Events

Tuxedo Rentals

Dry Cleaning

www.sewingbasketvt.com

**YOUR WEDDING ~ YOUR VISION
YOUR STYLE**



Premium fresh flowers and upscale design artistry make your wedding day unforgettable.

Artistic Gardens

Flower Shop

1320 Rabbit Plain
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
802-748-5646
flowershop@artisticgardens.com
www.artisticgardensvt.com

**Mention this ad and get a
FREE TOSS BOUQUET
with your flowers!**



Call us today to schedule your complimentary wedding consultation.



Explore what's possible.

Cyan Magenta Yellow Black



BURKE MOUNTAIN
HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER

To get started, contact:
weddings@skiBurke.com
or **skiBurke.com/weddings**