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Wedding planning for a memorable event

Oshkosh Herald

Your wedding is a day you have been dreaming about since the first time a fairytale was read to you.

But when the planning of that fairytale finally arrives, it can be overwhelming. If a wedding planner is not in your budget, many online tools and resources are available to help navigate the planning and help keep your special day organized and stress free.

Websites like theknot.com or thejoy.com offer tools in planning as well as directing you to other resources to manage RSVPs or even where and how to complete a wedding registry. Most will require a contact email and we recommend creating a separate wedding email address that is used only for your planning and researching purposes. This will keep all your wedding information together and avoid your

normal inbox from being spammed with unwanted and uninvited items.

Start with this timeline to begin planning your big day:

12-months – Budget

Setting your wedding budget and sticking to it are important. Break your budget down into the big key items that you know have to be covered: venue, dress, dinner, flowers, invitations.

The two betrothed should agree on the budget and have an honest conversation on setting expectations.

11-months – Vendors

Wedding expos can be an opportunity to visit many vendors in one space and get an idea on what products and services are available for your event based on your budget.

The wedding reception usu-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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MENU

STARTERS
 Cheese Curds Seasoned Wedges Onion Rings
 Mini Tacos Mozzarella Sticks Chicken Strips
 French Fries Breaded Mushrooms Potato Teasers

BURGERS
 ¼ or ½ lb Burger ¼ or ½ lb Cheeseburger
 ¼ or ½ lb Bacon Cheeseburger
 ½ lb Cowboy Burger (Cheddar, Bacon, BBQ Sauce, Onion Rings)
 ½ lb Cabana Boy's Ghost Rider (Pepperjack, Bacon, Jalapenos, Mild Spicy Sauce, Ghost Rider Cheese Curds, Spicy Pickles)

SANDWICHES
 CBR (Chicken, Bacon, Cheddar, Lettuce, Tomato, Ranch or Mayo on a Kaiser Bun)
 Fish (Haddock, American Cheese, Lettuce, Tartar)
 Ribeye (6 oz, Grilled Onions)

WRAPS
 Chicken Bacon Ranch (Breaded Chicken, Bacon, Colby Jack, Lettuce, Tomato, Ranch, optional Buffalo Sauce)
 BLT (Bacon, Lettuce, Tomato, Mayo)

PIZZA
 Sausage Pepperoni Sausage & Mushroom
 Sausage & Pepperoni Garlic Sausage Deluxe

FISH
 Pike/Perch Bluegill Haddock

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ally is the largest portion of a budget. Local reception venues range from a few hundred dollars to thousands.

From a small guest list to hundreds. From casual food trucks to sit-down dinners. Flowers from the farmers market to bouquets which are intricate works of arts. Photographers and packages.

9-months – Say Yes to the Dress

Finding the perfect dress is one thing, dealing with delivery and alterations are others.

Make sure you give yourself plenty of time when ordering

your dress so that some supply-chain snafu time is built in to allow time to schedule alterations after taking delivery and saving yourself unnecessary anxiety.

6 – 8 months – Save the Date

Traditionally invitations are mailed 6-8 weeks prior to the event. Save the Dates have become popular, and it is recommended that they are sent out 6 months in advance or 8 months in advance for destination weddings.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



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5-months – Honeymoon

Plan out your honeymoon and what additional expenses may be incurred.

Do you need a passport, or does it need to be renewed? Plan, prepare and book your trip.

Is the honeymoon part of your wedding budget? If so, be sure to account for all expenses related to it – travel tickets, wardrobe, transportation, and your spending money.

And remember sunscreen!

You don't want your honeymoon ruined by a sunburn.

4-months – Hair & Makeup; Choose Your Cake

Now is the time to start experimenting with your hair and makeup for your wedding day. We may imagine how we will look with a certain updo in our mind but that isn't how it turns out.

Be sure to give how you want your hair and makeup a test run to avoid any mishaps or disappointment.

Cake, cupcakes, cookies, or

candies. Flavors, designs, layers, colors. So many decisions. Schedule a few tastings with local bakeries or cake decorators for a cake consultation so that this accessory also fits your budget, style, and personality.

3-months – Write Your Vows

If you are planning on writing your own vows, start making notes in advance so you have time to massage the words with reflection without feeling rushed or anxious.

If put off too long, it can seem like a deadline instead of the joy and commitment it is.

2-months – Send Invites

Traditional invites are mailed 6-8 weeks prior to the event. Indicate if RSVPs are necessary and give a deadline.

1-month – Seating Chart

Your RSVP deadline should have passed and now is the time to arrange your seating chart if necessary.

1-week – Final Fitting

It's time for your final fitting.

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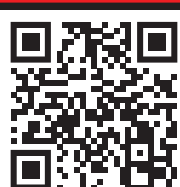


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What should be included on the invitation?

One thing to remember about your invitation is that all the information doesn't need to be included on one sheet of paper. Many will include a separate with reception information as well as a separate RSVP card and return envelope with postage.

But for the basics here is a list of what to include:

The Wedding Couple

This should go without saying, but sometimes the most obvious items are the ones forgotten.

Name of the Hosts

The hosts used to be the first one listed, usually the parent's of the couple, but it has now become only the parents' if they are financially contributing to the wedding.

Date & Time of the Ceremony

Be sure to indicate am or pm and if it's a formal invitation write out the time – four o'clock in the afternoon.

Ceremony, Reception Locations

If in the same place, just indicate on the invitation. Please be sure to list the city of the locations

as many will depend on navigation. If you are inviting people to the reception only be sure that the reception information is included on the invite received by these guests. It's an unfortunate gaffe if the information is only included on the ceremony invite.

Attire Details

If you have an expectation of dress be sure to indicate it.

Wedding Website Address

This is a great resource for guests to learn more about the venue, area, and answer any

questions they have without needing to contact the hosts.


RSVP Card


Extra information on the venue. If the venue is hard to find or has parking restrictions, etc. be sure to share the needed info with your guests.

Hotel Information

Many couples will reserve a block of rooms for the guests. Be sure to either have it included or indicate the information is available at the wedding website.


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Protect the 'Wow' wedding moments

Oshkosh Herald

You are excited and may be tempted to share all the details out with family and friends on social platforms, but keep in mind that many of the special moments of your wedding day are the first looks and the joy seen on your guests, and partners, faces.

Here's a small list of items to save for the big reveal:

Dress & Attire

The wedding attire is usually a jaw-dropping moment. Try to avoid sharing photos of your dress

or attire with others or posting on social platforms.

The special moment when your eyes meet are memories for a lifetime.

Hair & Makeup

Like the dress, you planned out your hair and makeup. It isn't your every day look and should be saved for the full impact.

Plus, people may mean well, but always don't communicate constructively and you don't want to start second guessing your choices.

Color Scheme

Whether it's your wedding party or your decorations, let that "aww" moment happen as your guests arrive for the reception.

This one may be harder to keep quiet if the colors are incorporated into your invitations and flowers, but have a little fun with it.

First Dance

It's your moment. Savor it and keep your guests wondering on the song and music chosen to introduce the guests of honor at the reception.

Guest List

You started out with a budget and your guest list was made with thought and care.

It's not a who's who, or Tier A or Tier B, so by keeping the guest list private you will avoid feedback of the whys or why nots.

And of course, the Surprises!

Whether it's a photo booth, engaging games or a choreographed dance by members of the wedding party – keep it a surprise to have the magic memories and moments.

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