

The Mount Airy News THE TRIBUNE The Yadkin Ripple Stokes News THE CARROLL NEWS

What's inside

The benefits to choosing a local wedding venue	3
First dance songs	
Did you know?	
7 ways to include family in your wedding	
Did you know?	
How to maximize outdoor wedding venues	
Unique elements to include at your wedding reception	
Create a winning wedding reception seating plan	
How to create a backup plan for an outdoor wedding	
Get the scoop on wedding rehearsals & a rehearsal dinner	12
Wedding hair for every style	
The wedding budget	

General Manager • SERENA BOWMAN

Publications Manager • HOLLY LAMM

Sales Consultants • DAWN BAGALE, KIM CAGLE, NATHANIEL BLEVINS, CAYSEE SCHMIDT, SAMANTHA TURNER, BOB WARD

Layout & Design • DARLA ALLEN

Design Director • DONNA THOMAS

Most Articles and Photos provided by Metro Creative Connection and Adobe Stock.

On The Cover • ANDREA JARRELL PHOTOGRAPHY

The Mount Airy News

Stokes News

THE TRIBUNE

The Padkin Ripple
ADAMS
THE CARROLL NEWS
MULTIMEDIA



The benefits to choosing a

local wedding venue

METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

edding planning requires coordinating a laundry list of details that ultimately come together to make for a memorable ceremony and reception. Couples tying the knot have their work cut out for them, and one of the biggest decisions they will have to make involves choosing where to hold the ceremony and reception. Religious couples often opt for ceremonies at their churches, synagogues and mosques. Secular weddings can occur just about anywhere, with couples sometimes utilizing ceremony spaces adjacent to their reception rooms.

As brides and grooms narrow down their venue options, they may want to give strong consideration to the benefits that sticking close to home can offer. Certainly there are advantages to be had hosting a wedding at venues many miles away or even in international locations, but there are unique perks to keeping festivities local. The Knot 2025 Real Weddings Study indicated six in 10 couples chose to get married in a place where they currently live; 23 percent opted for a hometown venue; and 18 percent decided on a destination wedding. Here's a look at some of the perks of staying local.

- · Convenience: One of the biggest benefits of a local venue is convenience for both the couple and their guests. Local venues tend to be easily accessible for those who live nearby, minimizing travel time and reducing any barriers brought on by a lack of familiarity with distant locales.
- · Familiarity: Couples who love their hometowns and close environs may want to get married in a familiar and comfortable atmosphere. Plus, they may already be familiar with venues in the area and what they offer.
 - Expertise: Venue staff likely live



METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Here's a look at some of the perks of staying local.

in the area or are familiar with other services close by. They can offer valuable recommendations and insights on other vendors, including what has worked before and what to avoid.

- Familiarity with clergy: Couples who get married in a local house of worship likely know the religious leaders there and any support staff. This can add a particularly personal component to the ceremony.
- Easy payments: Many venues require some sort of payment plan that consists of a deposit at the time of booking and a series of payments culminating with the last installment upon learning the final head count. Choosing a local venue makes it easy to stop at the reception site in person and provide such payments with ease, while getting confirmation and receipts in real time.

- · Reduce delivery fees: If florists and other vendors have to drop off items, they may not charge the same delivery fees if the reception site is close by.
- Ease returning home: Chances are the couple will arrive at the ceremony and reception by hired car. Once the wedding is over, they'll have to find transportation back home, especially if there is a gap in time before departing on a honeymoon. Utilizing a local venue can make it easier to get home.
- Support of local businesses: Choosing a local venue keeps dollars in couples' own communities, which is a great way to support businesses in the town and the people that work for them.

There are notable advantages to getting married close to home. When planning to tie the knot, couples can give ample consideration to local venues.

First dance **SONGS**



METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

raditions abound during weddings, from wearing something blue to a couple not seeing each other the night before the nuptials to a bride tossing the bouquet to eager singletons in the crowd.

A couple's first dance is another enduring and popular tradition. The first dance harkens back to centuries ago when royalty or prestigious families would hold balls and it was customary for the guest of honor to engage in a first dance to start the festivities with a grand opening. Today, lavish balls have all but disappeared, but with weddings are still important events, and the first dance lives on during many of these parties.

Choosing a song for a first dance is among the decisions couples make when planning their weddings. All genres and eras can be considered. Couples who prefer something a little more modern can consider the following songs for their first dance.

1. "All of Me," John Legend

Special lyrics: Give your all to me, I'll give my all to you. You're my end and my beginning. Even when I lose, I'm winning.

2. "All My Life," WILD

Special lyrics: Oh, I will keep you safe for all my life. And you will have my heart for all time.





METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Couples who prefer something a little more modern can consider the following songs for their first dance.

3. "Somebody Like You," Keith Urban

Special lyrics: Yeah, I wanna feel the sunshine shinin' down on me and you. When you put your arms around me you let me know there's nothing in this world I can't do.

4. "Perfect," Ed Sheeran

Special lyrics: But darling just kiss me slow, your heart is all I own. And in your eyes you're holding mine.

5. "Joy of My Life," Chris Stapleton

Special lyrics: Some may have their riches, some may have their worldly things. As long as I have you, I'll treasure each and every day.

6. "Marry Me," Train

Special lyrics: Marry me today and every day. Marry me if I ever get the nerve to say hello in this café.

7. "Ho Hey," The Lumineers

Special lyrics: I belong with you, you belong with me, you're my sweetheart.

8. "Rewrite the Stars," Zac Efron, Zendaya

Special lyrics: What if we rewrite the stars? Say you were made to be mine. Nothing could keep us apart. You'd be the one I was meant to find.

9. "You Look Like You Love Me," Ella Langley feat. Riley Green

Special lyrics: Excuse me, you look like you love me. You look like you want me to want you to come on home.

10. "Beautiful Things," Benson Boone

Special lyrics: And I hold you every night, and that's a feeling I wanna get used to. But there's no man as terrified, as the man who stands to lose you.

11. "Birds of a Feather," Billie Eilish

Special lyrics: I knew you in another life. You had that same look in your eyes. I love you, don't act so surprised.

12. "Until I Found You," Stephen Sanchez

Special lyrics: I would never fall in love again until I found her.



etting engaged is a momentous occasion worthy of celebration. However, soon after the question is popped, people in the couple's lives tend to start asking when the big day might be. Newly engaged couples may feel pressured to rush into setting a wedding date, but enjoying one's engagement for however long it may



METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

The Knot 2025 Real Weddings Study found that the average engagement length is 15 months.

last is an option for brides and grooms. Some couples want to run to the altar in a month, while others are happy to stay engaged indefinitely. The Knot, a trusted wedding resource, surveyed nearly 170,000 American couples in 2024 to gauge how long most were waiting to wed. The Knot 2025 Real Weddings Study found that the average engagement length is 15 months. This number has held steady since 2022. Event Source in Canada says the average engagement length for couples in Canada also is 15 months. In general, couples across North America are waiting just over a year to tie the knot after getting engaged.

Bridal Bouquets | Ceremonies | Receptions | Showers





FLOWERS & GIFTS 1220 S. Main St.



336.719.2333

Mount Airy, NC







WEDDING & **EVENT RENTALS** 1351 S Main St.

creativedesignsflowersandgifts.com









METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

A wedding should celebrate a future family unit. One way to do so is to incorporate various family members into the festivities in notable ways.

METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

he central component of a wedding is two people vowing to share their lives together. But weddings often are family affairs that feature more than the happy couple. In fact, a wedding merges two families who will then share in celebrations that come forth from the marriage union, including the arrival of children, work successes and much more. It is fitting, then, that a wedding should celebrate this future family unit. One way to do so is to incorporate various family members into the festivities in notable ways.

1. Processional

Couples can let more than just parents and the wedding party strut their stuff down the aisle. Allow other family members to shine, such as grandparents or someone who has been a very close and supportive person in the couple's life.

2. Readings/Speeches

Family members can give readings during religious ceremonies, lead prayers or make certain speeches. It's also possible to ask a family member to officiate the wedding entirely or lead certain unity rituals like candle-lighting or sand-combining ceremonies that signal the blending of lives.

3. Play music

Musical family members can play an instrument during the ceremony or reception, or even sing if they have the vocal chops. Another idea is to include songs during the wedding that are meaningful to a particular relative.

4. Family traditions

Incorporate family traditions into the reception, including cultural dances, special foods, traditional songs, or anything that is unique to the family.

5. Wear special clothing

A couple wear clothing that is meaningful to a loved one, like a grandmother's wedding gown or a tie that was passed down through the generations. If a family member is a tailor or seamstress, that person might also help tailor a wardrobe for the wedding.

6. Coordinate dances

The bride, groom, mother, and father typically enjoy the spotlight dances during a wedding reception, but couples can expand special dances to honor and include additional family members. A large group dance that invites several family members onto the dance floor is a great way to get everyone involved.

7. Photo display

A couple can set aside a table to showcase special people in their lives with a brief description of why these people are so meaningful to them. This also is a place to honor any deceased relatives who are in couples' hearts.

Including additional family members in a wedding can shine a spotlight on a few extra key players in a couple's life.



hoosing a location to get married requires careful consideration. Some couples prefer to get married in their hometowns while others want to jet off to farflung destinations. According to The Knot 2025 Real Weddings Study, 60 percent of couples choose to get married where they currently live, 23 percent opt for a hometown venue, and 18 percent select a destination wedding. The



truth is there are many domestic and international spots that are prime locations for weddings. The Knot says the French Riviera; Punta Mita, Mexico; Spain; Costa Rica; Portugal; and Greece are popular picks for destination weddings. People who want to stay closer to home often opt for the Hudson Valley and the Catskills, New York, for a farm or ranch wedding, and the Rockies in Colorado for a mountain venue. According to Google data and the travel and lifestyle firm Holidu, Chicago is the most searched urban area for wedding venues over the past year, followed by Long Island, New York and Dallas, Texas. Other popular cities for getting hitched include San Diego, Las Vegas, Atlanta, and New Orleans. Ultimately, wedding city location will depend on the couple's budget and guests' convenience.





The following are some ways to maximize the benefits of outdoor venues.

METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

hen searching for the right place to tie the knot, each couple looks for their own unique spot. According to The Knot Worldwide 2024 Global Wedding Report, couples across the globe identify cost and venue style/type as the most important variables to consider. Nearly 75 percent of couples worldwide report getting married within 30 miles of their homes. And many couples prefer an outdoor wedding.

Outdoor weddings peaked in popularity in 2020, when the global pandemic forced couples to be creative as they sought to tie the knot with friends and family in attendance. Statista reported that 68 percent of couples hosted their wedding ceremonies outside or partially outside in 2020. However, Hudson Valley Weddings paints a more conservative picture of outdoor weddings today, with 35 percent of weddings now being held outdoors.

Couples hold their ceremonies and receptions outside for a variety of reasons, including the chance to tie the knot in a naturally beautiful landscape. The following are some ways to maximize the benefits of outdoor venues.

- Embrace the opportunity to accommodate more guests. Couples with large guest lists may opt for outdoor weddings because venues with outdoor space typically can accommodate more people. Outdoor spaces can be vast and not constrained by the walls of banquet halls or restaurants allowing guests to spread out.
- Include child-friendly elements. If it would be difficult to exclude children from the festivities, an outdoor venue

can ensure kids have something to do. Kids tend to have high energy levels, and an outdoor venue gives them space to run around without crashing into something or tipping something over. Setting up a separate kids' play area also makes it easy to gather the kids in a certain spot, helping to keep children away from adults who are dancing.

- Take advantage of the aesthetic. Most outdoor spaces offer awe-inspiring features. Those who opt for spring or summer weddings can take advantage of cultivated, fragrant gardens or even fields of natural wildflowers. Fall weddings will be on fire with the natural oranges, reds and yellows of the changing landscape, which makes the perfect photo backdrop for nuptials. Try to time the occasion for around sunset to make outdoor areas even more special. A setting sun can cast a special glow on the festivities. And save money on decor by relying exclusively on natural features.
- Get creative with food. Part of the appeal of being outdoors for the wedding is the freedom to offer guests less standard fare in regard to food. A pig roast for a tropical affair or even wood-fired pizzas or barbecue align well with an outdoor wedding. Caterers often suggest passed appetizers for the cocktail hour and plated meals for dinner to cut down on insects buzzing around a buffet line.
- Design a contingency plan. Every couple wants the wedding to go off without a hitch (except for the actual getting hitched part), so it's important to have a tent, pergola or covered area to retreat to in the event of rain or strong sun.

Outdoor weddings are popular options that can add a special touch newlyweds will remember for years to come.

Unique elements to include at your

wedding reception

METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

ouples who are currently planning their wedding undoubtedly hope the day will one they remember forever. Weddings will be memorialized in people's minds and on film and video, and setting an occasion apart from other weddings and big events may come down to some creative touches that truly make it unique. Here are some interesting elements that merit consideration, many of which involve interactive entertainment.

Photo booth

There is a reason why photo booths complete with entertaining props and various backdrops are so popular. A photo booth is a great way for guests to capture the day and take home a memento. Couples can review the photo booth images and enjoy snippets of unscripted and unposed moments from the party.

Live painter

Hiring an artist to capture the festivities can be a truly unique feature. While photography packages and wedding albums come with some turn-around time, a painting will be done at the end of the reception and can give couples a glimpse of the evening right away.

Interesting sweets display

Couples can elevate their wedding receptions by offering guests something that's a cut above a piece of wedding cake. A "Viennese Hour," also known as a "Venetian Hour," is a popular wedding tradition, particularly in the tri-state area on the east coast of the United States. This hour features a lavish dessert buffet presented after the cake cutting. Couples need not have a traditional Venetian Hour, however. They can offer a table filled with various candies, cordials, doughnuts, cupcakes, or whatever special sweet they want to showcase. Serve with monogrammed napkins.





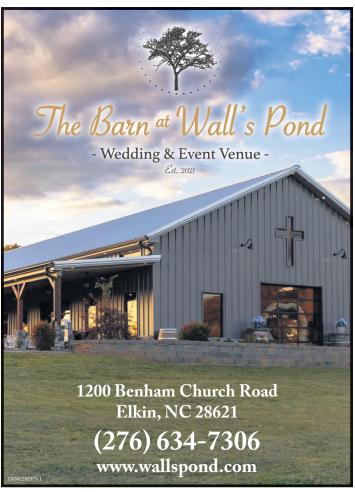
Entertaining performance

Performers can run the gamut from cultural dancers celebrating a couple's heritage to magicians to even a specialized singer. In addition to a band or DJ, this performer can engage the audience and provide them with a bona fide show.

Signature cocktails

Whether a couple chooses an entire open bar or has select alcoholic offerings for guests, a signature cocktail can make the reception even more special. Tie the drink's ingredients or theme into something that pertains to the couple's interests or history. For example, if the couple sipped Moscow Mules on their first date, serve a First Date Mule at the wedding reception.

Couples can embrace various extra special touches to make their wedding receptions more memorable.



Create a winning wedding reception

seating plan

METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

lanning a successful wedding is a multi-layered undertaking that often stretches across many months. There are dozens of decisions to make and often thousands of dollars involved in what culminates in one day of celebration. There are many components of wedding planning, and tasks may range from entirely enjoyable to tedious. Organizing a wedding reception seating chart tends to be more the latter than the former. In fact, the wedding resource Table Top Planner identifies arranging seating plans as the most stressful part of planning a wedding.

What seems like a relatively simple concept — giving guests a seat at the party — frequently turns into a stressful situation for couples when they begin to consider all of the personalities invited to the wedding. A wedding brings together close family, distant family, friends, coworkers, parents' acquaintances, and others. These are people who may not interact on a regular basis, and plenty who have never met before. Throw in the added mix of people who are divorced, estranged or may not see eye-to-eye on hot-button topics, and the challenge escalates.

Arranging guests at tables where they will spent four to five hours together takes some effort, but it is possible. Follow these guidelines to make the process a little less cumbersome.

- 1. Understand the venue layout and their seating requirements. A catering manager or venue representative can provide a blueprint of how the room can be laid out and the maximum number of tables. Round tables generally are the norm at weddings because they encourage conversation and foster a more intimate atmosphere. Round tables often seat between six to 10 people.
- 2. Avoid skipping the seating chart for larger affairs. Couples hosting a smaller wedding may be able to forgo a seating chart. But most wedding etiquette experts advise a chart for weddings with 50 or more guests. You'll want to save guests the stress of trying to find a seat on their own, which can lead to feelings of discomfort. Plus, having a seating chart and set table numbers facilitates organization.
- 3. Finalize the guest list. It may be tempting to get started on the seating chart right away, but you'll need the final guest list before beginning. Afterwards, take time to group guests based on how you know them, such as family, school friends, neighbors, and coworkers. Finding commonality can make it easier to see who might be able to sit together.
- **4.** Blur the lines of "sides." Sometimes it seems like separating your family and friends into sides is the way to go.



METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Arranging guests at tables where they will spent four to five hours together takes some effort, but it is possible.

Your future spouse's parents and friends are on one side of the room and yours are on the other. But by blending certain guests together, the seating chart may fall into place.

- **5.** Resist the urge for wedding day matchups. Skip the idea of a singles table where unattached friends are seated in hopes they might make a match.
- **6.** Ask for some help. Involve parents in the process, particularly with assistance in seating people they know personally and with whom you may be unfamiliar.
- 7. List the seating chart alphabetically. Place the seating chart at the entrance to the reception space. You can be as creative as you'd like with the design, but just be sure to list each person's name in alphabetical order so it is easy to find the table assignment.

Arranging tables and seating for a reception is challenging, but with some trial and error couples can find spots that will please most of their guests.

How to create a

backup plan for an

outdoor wedding

METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

wedding day is a magical and memorable day for a couple and their family members. Months or even years of planning may go into making a wedding day

For some, an outdoor wedding and celebration amid the beauty of nature is the ultimate setting in which to tie the knot. When Mother Nature is your decorator, the setting can be hard to match. Perhaps that's why 62 percent of couples opted for outdoor nuptials in 2023, according to The Knot 2023 Real Weddings Survey. However, there may be some extra work involved when exchanging vows outdoors, hosting a reception outside or both. That work includes having a contingency plan in place if the weather does not cooperate. Here's what couples should know about having a backup plan for their outdoor weddings.

- · Identify a second location. Couples who book outdoor receptions at catering halls can inquire how they handle inclement weather. Many will have a clause built into the agreement to move the party indoors in the event of bad weather. Others may enable the wedding to move to a different space for an added fee. Smaller, less formal weddings taking place at other locations may require a bit of ingenuity when looking for a backup space. Perhaps a friend has a large house where everyone can gather, or an employer may have a warehouse, loft or even a barn that can be transformed into unique venues at the last minute?
- · Choose outdoor spaces with covered areas. The wish might be to have blue skies overhead, but it's impossible to control the weather. So it's safe to select outdoor spaces that offer a measure of weather protection, such as a pavillion in a park or a covered deck at a beachside locale. Such sites offer a little security without detracting from the ambiance.
- · Look into a tent rental. A tent is a great investment because it keeps everyone out of the elements rain or shine. Even on a lovely summer day, the blazing sun can make being outdoors uncomfortable. A tent is the solution. Couples should coordinate with a wedding planner or the venue itself to be sure that a tent is allowed on the grounds.
- Think about event insurance. Special event insurance may protect against financial loss in the event that severe weather throws a wrench into outdoor wedding plans. Poor weather may make moving around the venue treacherous and might force a postponement. Liability and cancellation protection in an insurance policy helps couples avoid financial hardship.
- Hire a wedding planner. The Knot suggests hiring a wedding planner or coordinator who can pivot to plan B in the event of bad weather. This helps take some of the stress off of the couple so they can enjoy the day.



METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Here's what couples should know about having a backup plan for their outdoor weddings.

• Plan wardrobe and hair/makeup accordingly. Brides and bridesmaids can choose fabrics for dresses that will be comfortable and not become blown around or see-through due to rain and wind. The wedding party can ask hair stylists to create a wedding hairstyle that is somewhat weatherproof. Experienced makeup artists likely know some tricks to keep makeup looking flawless even when the weather isn't.

Outdoor weddings can be beautiful events, but it is important to have a backup plan in place in case weather doesn't cooperate.



Get the scoop on wedding rehearsals and a rehearsal dinner

METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

here is quite the process involved in bringing a show to the stage on Broadway in New York or The West End in London. Lines and songs are tweaked. actors may be swapped out, and sets may be redesigned. Often these shows are tested out in regional theaters before they are finalized for the true opening night. "Practice makes perfect" is an adage that continues to be relevant today. Those involved in theater recognize the value of rehearsals, and it also should be an important component for couples planning their weddings.

Weddings involve a lot of moving parts, and that includes people. The Knot 2025 Real Weddings Study indicates the average wedding party contains eight people. Add in four parents, individuals doing ceremony readings, people participating in unity rituals, ushers, and others of recognition, and there may be a dozen or more people responsible for knowing their places and understanding their

responsibilities. The wedding rehearsal helps to corral these individuals and tame nerves by showing everyone what is expected of them on the big day.

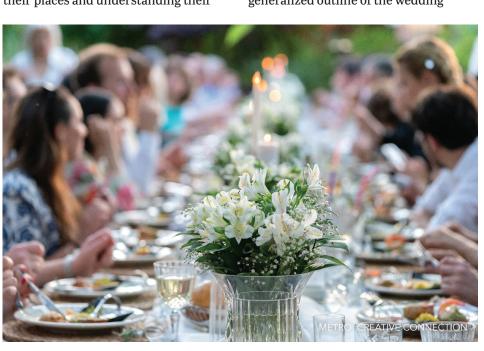
Who is in charge of the wedding rehearsal?

Various people may take the lead at the rehearsal. In some instances, it is the officiant who will guide everyone. More often it is the responsibility of the coordinator at the ceremony site or a wedding planner who handles the cues so that everyone enters and exits properly. Some couples will also ask an organized friend or family member to assume the role of rehearsal leader.

What do you rehearse?

According to Ceremony Officiants, Rev. Laura Cannon and Associates, the wedding rehearsal does not run through the entire ceremony, only the key spots. A rehearsal typically focuses on the "walking in and walking out" and ensuring participants know where to stand and what to do. A generalized outline of the wedding

ceremony timeline will be reviewed, helping participants understand when they will be called upon to fulfill their responsibilities. Running through the processional, recessional and other key moments in the ceremony two to three times is usually enough practice.





Who attends the rehearsal?

Only a select number of people need to attend the rehearsal. This includes the couple, their parents, the wedding party, anyone serving a special role in the ceremony (such as leading a prayer), and the wedding coordinator or the rehearsal leader.

How long does the rehearsal last?

Typically a rehearsal should not take longer than 30 minutes to one hour. It's generally held the evening before the actual wedding when everyone should be in town for the festivities.

What happens after the rehearsal?

It's traditional to attend a rehearsal dinner directly after the rehearsal itself. This intimate meal gives the key players in the wedding ceremony an opportunity to chat and mingle before the big day. It's also a chance for the couple to offer gifts to the wedding party, parents and others in appreciation of their participation in the wedding. Sometimes speeches are given, but the rehearsal dinner tends to be a low-key, lowpressure opportunity to spend time with special people.

What is the dress code?

The dress code for the rehearsal and the dinner is totally up to the couple. Many opt for business casual, but the restaurant chosen for the dinner may guide couples on what



everyone should wear.

Additional tips

Couples may instruct people to bring along the shoes they will be wearing at the wedding to get a feel for them walking into the ceremony site.

While it is traditionally the groom's parents' obligation to reserve and pay for the rehearsal dinner, couples who do not want to place all of that responsibility on them can discuss contributing.

A wedding rehearsal and rehearsal dinner brings together the key participants in the wedding ceremony prior to the main event.

Beyond Catering

CREATIVE CATERING SOLUTIONS & MORE

Beyond Catering SWVA is redefining the catering experience in Southwest Virginia, blending the warmth of Southern hospitality with a chef-driven approach to food. Owned by seasoned culinary professionals Justin Hitt and Meagan Carpenter, Beyond Catering SWVA brings over 20 years of industry expertise to weddings, corporate events, and social gatherings. Now in their fourth year of business, they have established themselves as a premier catering service known for their dedication to both exceptional cuisine and impeccable service.

With a signature focus on Southern comfort dishes elevated by global influences, Beyond Catering SWVA crafts menus that are both familiar and innovative. Their curated offerings balance tradition with creativity, using diverse culinary techniques to transform classic flavors into something truly memorable. This commitment to quality extends beyond the plate-hospitality is at the heart of everything they do. Their team is known for their attentiveness, professionalism, and genuine care for guests, oftenleaving clients feeling as if they are saying goodbye to old friends by the end of an event.

Beyond Catering SWVA has become a trusted name in the region, serving large corporate clients and earning a place as a preferred vendor at many top venues. Their rustic-chic presentation style, expert-led customizations, and problem-solving approach ensure that each event is seamless and tailored to clients' needs. With an unwavering focus on both food and experience, Beyond Catering SWVA continues to set the bar for full-service catering, proving that great food and great hospitality go hand in hand.

Beyond Catering SWVA is located within Crossroads Institute in Galax and can be reached by phone at 276.235.8057 or emailed at events@beyondcateringswva.com. Also visit their website at www.beyondcateringswva.com to learn more!



It can take some trial and error to find a wedding day hairstyle that is perfect, but these popular styles are good starting points.

METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

eddings are one of the most-photographed and documented days in couples' lives. From the moment the question is popped to the final goodbye before setting out for the honeymoon, all eyes (and cameras) will be carefully trained on those vowing to share their lives together.

French Touch Photography says wedding photographers take an average 50 to 100 pictures per hour. That means couples ultimately may appear in 600 photos before the night is through. Is it any wonder that brides, grooms and everyone in between want to ensure they are presenting the best versions of themselves come the big day? The hairstyle chosen for a wedding can affect how couples view these photographs in the years to come. It can take some trial and error to find a wedding day hairstyle that is perfect, but these popular styles are good starting points.

- Bouncy blowout: Many brides choose to leave their hair down for the wedding, and this style looks bouncy, smooth and approachable. The blowout can be straight, or stylists can add curled edges for a luxurious look.
- Messy bun: A messy bun is another hairstyle that appears effortless. An imperfect bun with some tendrils escaping and a decorative hair pin is both elegant and fun.
- · Boho braids: Whether a hairstyle is mostly down and free-flowing or pinned back into a loose bun, adding bohemian style braids can impart whimsy to any look. This hairstyle may be best for informal weddings and to match gowns that are flowing and ethereal.
 - Top knot: This style is a practical choice for warm

weather weddings, when heat and humidity can attack a polished style. The look is made by winding the hair into a bun at the crown of the head. It can be enhanced with a crown or headband.

- Half-up, half-down: Brides who want their locks down with voluminous waves but without hair in their faces often opt for a half-up, half-down style. This pulls the front portion of hair back and away from the face, which can be braided, twisted or even just loosely pinned, depending on preference.
- Side-swept: This look pulls tresses over to one side, where they cascade in waves over the shoulder. It is elegant and classic.
- Chignon: From the French chignon de cou, which means "nape of the neck," a chignon is a wrapped bun hairstyle pinned low on the head where it meets the neck.

While it's the bride's hairstyle that often draws the most attention, the groom also may want to experiment with hairstyles.

- Pompadour: This style is characterized by a voluminous top that is swept back from the face.
- Quiff: Like a pompadour, this hairstyle also features volume but with natural curls offering a full, defined look.
- Classic side part: This look is classic and polished. A clean parting that is either slightly off from the middle or even deeper on the side completes this look.
- Undercut: This hairstyle features hair buzzed on the sides and back with a longer top.

Everyone can be wedding-ready with classic or trendy hairstyles that complete a finished look.

The wedding budget

Invitations & Stationery Wedding Ceremony **Photography** Save the Date Cards _____ Location Fee _____ Photography _ Invitations, Reply Cards _____ Officiant Fee ___ Videography Postage_ Marriage License____ Albums_____ Programs ____ Rings ___ Miscellaneous Menu Cards Music Total _____ Place Cards Wedding Consultant _____ **Transportation** Miscellaneous _____ Thank You Cards Limousine(s)____ Total Calligraphy _____ Miscellaneous _____ Miscellaneous Total _____ Reception Total Location Fee _____ **Gifts Bridal Attire & Beauty** Food___ Wedding Party_____ Gown Drink Parents _____ Veil/Headpiece _____ Rentals____ Bride & Groom ____ Alterations ___ Wedding Cake ___ Miscellaneous Shoes Groom's Cake TotalLingerie __ Favors _____ Honeymoon Accessories____ Airline Tickets Jewelry Security ___ Accommodations____ Makeup __ Gratuities Car Rentals _____ Hair Miscellaneous ___ Food_ Nails Total Entertainment Miscellaneous _____ **Flowers** Excursions Total _____ Ceremony _____ Souvenirs ___ **Groom's Attire** Reception Passports _____ Tuxedo/Suit _____ Decorations Clothing Shoe Bridal Bouquet_____ Gratuities Cuff Links _____ Attendant Bouquets_____ Miscellaneous _____ Grooming Boutonnieres _____ Total Accessories_____ Flower Girl _____ Miscellaneous Miscellaneous Parents & Grandparents _____ Gown Preservation Total Other Expenses Miscellaneous ____ Total _____ Total

TOTAL BUDGET

Mayberry Meadows Weddings & Events

Mt. Airy, North Carolina
All-Inclusive Venue | Capacity: 200 Guests
Price Range: \$8,995 – \$12,995

Where Timeless Romance Meets Effortless Celebration

Nestled in the heart of Mt. Airy, Mayberry Meadows Weddings & Events offers couples a dreamlike escape for their "I do." With a picturesque property and a 3,200-square-foot climate-controlled pavilion, this all-inclusive venue blends southern charm with modern elegance — perfect for year-round celebrations.

Exchange vows beneath the sweeping branches of a grand oak tree, surrounded by nature's quiet beauty. Then, celebrate under the glow of chandeliers in the pavilion, where every detail — from florals to catering — has been seamlessly curated for you.

Relax and prepare for your big day in a spacious home just steps away, while your guests enjoy exclusive discounts at the nearby Hampton Inn. From start to finish, Mayberry Meadows takes care of every detail, allowing you to focus on what truly matters — the love you're celebrating.

Simplicity. Elegance. Joy.

Let Mayberry Meadows bring your forever to life.



Mt. Airy, NC www.mayberrymeadows.com 336-777-6164















Schedule your tour today and discover where forever begins.