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j-23-19

5 ways to ease stress on your wedding day

Photographers provide before and after ceremony tips

BY LAYNE SALIBA
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A lot of planning — and cash — goes into making your wedding day perfect.

If you're like most couples, your photographer takes up a good chunk of your budget. If you want to get the most out of that money, here are a few tips from local photographers on how to make most of your time with them on your big day.

Tiffany Holmes, Tiffany Holmes
Photography: Delegate, delegate, delegate

"Put the responsibility on someone else. I had one bride who didn't even have her cell phone the day she got married and her maid of honor took care of everything, and she was able to just enjoy it. So that definitely would be something I would say is important: Always make sure you have someone who's willing to step up and take that responsibility so that you don't have to and you can enjoy your day."

Holmes is based in Gainesville and has been in the wedding photography business for almost two years.

Carrie Brookshire, Carrie Jean
Photography: Over-communication is OK

"Keeping the photographer in the loop on the timeline of the day. I actually have my clients fill out a timeline of what their day is supposed to look like so I know exactly where they're going to be at what time and where I should be so I don't miss anything... keeping photographers in the loop on when things are going to happen throughout the day is key."

Brookshire is based in Gainesville and has been in the wedding photography business for about 10 years.

Haley Henderson, Haley Henderson
Photography: Focus on yourself

"I feel like what couples have been doing, especially recently, is focusing on their guests more than themselves. I feel like they put the emphasis so much on what everybody else thinks and making sure everybody else is happy, and especially when you go to plan your pictures. A lot of people are doing first looks and things like that, and they're telling me it's because they don't want their guests to wait, they want to make sure everybody's happy the entire time. I feel like it shouldn't be as important to make sure your guests are happy, because they're there to see you happy."

Henderson is based in Cleveland and has been in the wedding photography business for about three years.

Lisa Wilson, Lisa Michele Photography:
Lists make everyone's life easier

"Have a checklist so that you don't miss something you want and wish later you would have gotten. Always bring that to their attention, like if someone is coming from out of state, have that list ready so they don't get overlooked on the day because it's chaos."

Wilson is based in Winder and has been in the wedding photography business for about three years.

Regina Patterson, Regina Patterson
Photography: Photographers know best

"Listen to their plan for your day... Normally, like to have everyone ready to be photographed three hours before, because guests, despite anything you do, will start arriving an hour before the wedding. So that really only gives you two hours, because you need to have everyone out of sight before your guests arrive. And a lot of people, it's hard for them to understand why you need that much time, but you do. You need every minute of it. So I would suggest really listening to what your photographer says. Because they're the professional, they've done it countless times... we've gone through every scenario, so we've kind of worked out the bugs, and it's just better to listen sometimes."

Patterson is based in Gainesville and has been in the wedding photography business for almost nine years.



Courtesy of CARRIE BROOKSHIRE

Carrie Brookshire of Carrie Jean Photography takes photos of a bride and groom at Bull Mountain Lodge in Dahlonoga on their wedding day. Brookshire said one of the best tips she can give to people booking a photographer for their wedding is to over communicate their expectations.



Tribune News Services

Bridal Expo back for its 27th year

BY LAYNE SALIBA
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Gainesville Parks and Recreation is at it again for its 27th year as it brings the annual Bridal Expo to the Gainesville Civic Center, offering brides and grooms a one-stop shop to prepare for their big day.

For engaged, soon-to-be engaged or even just dreaming couples, the Bridal Expo will have caterers, photographers, bakers, DJs, venue representatives, florists and more at the event from 12:30-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 27. Tickets are \$7 at the door.

"It has continued to grow each year," said Brenda Martin, organizer of the event with parks and recreation. "We have a lot of vendors that are here year after year, and then each year I always get new vendors, different people, who hear about the show and want to be in it."

Martin said there won't be a fashion show this year, but there will be a "pop-up-type show" in a separate room for vendors who offer wedding dresses, tuxedos, mother-of-the-bride dresses and flower girl dresses. Brides and grooms will be able to look around and set up appointments to see more options if they find something they like.

"It was hard to get a bridal shop to participate and be responsible for the (fashion) show this year," Martin said. "We tried several of them, but getting a model, bringing all the dresses down and getting them done, it takes a good bit of work."

Gainesville Civic Center Bridal Expo

When: 12:30-4 p.m. Jan. 27

Where: Gainesville Civic Center, 830 Green St. NE, Gainesville

How much: \$7 at the door

Contact: 770-531-2680

Vendors

- Belk
- Greg Hall Weddings & Events
- Carrie Jean Photography
- Gainesville Civic Center
- Hana Couture
- 2 Dog Cafe
- Enotah Valley
- Cindy's Tasty Cakes
- Regina Patterson Photography
- Mary Kay Cosmetics
- Vacations by Sally
- Bella Musica Strings
- Longstreet Café
- Cabaki's Catering
- Party Shop Emporium
- DJ Alexander Entertainment
- Tiffany Holmes Photography
- Flash Mobile DJ Service
- R Ranch
- Barry's Menswear & Tuxedo
- Haley Henderson Photography
- M & M Downhome Catering
- La Petite Fleur
- Atlanta Botanical Garden
- Encore Elite Events
- Lanier Tent Rental
- Holiday Inn Express/Suites
- Smile Doctors Braces
- American Salon and Spa Aveda
- Zell's Cottage Bakery
- Aqua Rays LLC
- Great Getaways Travel
- April Rooks Entertainment
- RU4 Homes
- Tiger Lily Invitations
- Lisa Michele Photography

Martin said more than 100 brides — each with at least a couple supporters in tow — came to the Bridal Expo last year, so she's hoping for the same turnout this year.

The original purpose of the Bridal Expo when it started 27 years ago was to support local vendors. Martin said she wanted to show brides they "didn't have to travel to Atlanta to get their needs met."

"A lot of people have come and like it because they get to talk to the vendor one on one," Martin said.

She has been able to keep it that way, for the most part, throughout

the years. All the photographers are local and most of the other vendors are in the Northeast Georgia area.

For her, the Bridal Expo is about helping those local vendors get their names out while making the entire process easier for couples.

And at the end of the day, after 27 years of organizing the event, she said that's still her favorite part.

"I just enjoy meeting the brides," Martin said. "When a bride comes out and she says, 'I got this done,' and, 'I really like this,' just people making that connection they needed to make is great."

Beach Bash leaving Gainesville square

Annual event relocates to Lake Lanier Olympic Park

BY KELSEY RICHARDSON
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Like the Gainesville Spring Chicken Festival, the city's Beach Bash will move to a new location this year.

Nikki Perry, City of Gainesville's communications and tourism director, said instead of its usual location in downtown, the event will be held at Lake Lanier Olympic Park.

She said the Gainesville Convention and Visitors Bureau made the decision because of the approaching Parkside on the Square condominium development.

"Our city events are outgrowing the space we have available downtown and

the loss of parking lot presented a challenge," Perry said. "Luckily we have a whole city full of wonderful park spaces. We're looking at this as an opportunity to take advantage of other city assets."

The Beach Bash will take place on Saturday, July 13.

To make up for downtown Gainesville's loss of the Spring Chicken Festival and the Beach Bash, the city will hold two additional First Friday events this year on July 5 and Sep. 6,

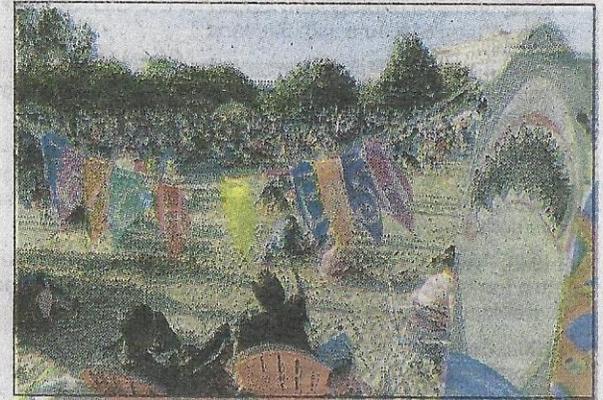
Perry said the Jingle Mingle, Mutts on Main, Mule Camp Market Festival and Farmer's Market will still remain in downtown Gainesville.

To figure out which events were most

beneficial to downtown businesses, Main Street Gainesville conducted an online survey among the business owners.

"Mule Camp Market Festival, Jingle Mingle and First Fridays were consistently rated as most beneficial to the businesses," Perry said. "Consequently, we are moving Jingle Mingle from a Thursday to a Saturday, to attract a larger crowd."

She said thanks to a new partnership with the University of Georgia's Small Business Development Center, Main Street Gainesville will offer classes for small businesses to assist in maximizing foot traffic during downtown events.



| Times file photo

A crowd gathers at the 'beach' in downtown Gainesville made from 100 tons of sand during the third annual Beach Bash in Gainesville, on Friday, July 7, 2017.

1-26-19

