



Giving your wedding that Viking touch

By KATIE KEYSER Living and Leisure Editor

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Kate Elliott Hubbard started planning her wedding the day after her now husband, Chris Hubbard,

It was almost a year out.

"She wasted no time," said Chris, 29, of Cortlandville, a U.S. Postal Service clerk in the Locke office.

"I knew where I wanted to get married," said Kate, 25, an employee in Walmart's shipping department. She wanted to be married at Little York Lake in Preble and she knew she wanted a September wedding.

The couple set about staging a wedding that reflected their personalities, writing their own vows, having their family play key roles, and wearing unique formal wear - the groom and his groomsmen wore kilts hand-made in Scotland.



Provided by Chris and Kate Elliott Hubbard

The bride, groom and wedding party at the Hubbard wedding.

Kate Hubbard said their goal in the planning process was to hear what each other wanted.

"We didn't want a lot of stress

for our wedding. Going into it, we listened to each other," she said.

Chris, who explored his Irish family heritage, found out he's a descendant of a Viking. He wanted to marry in a kilt.

"That's what he wanted and I was OK with it," Kate said.

She kept the stress of the wedding day in check.

"It doesn't matter what happens during the day," she said. "It doesn't matter how the day goes. You are leaving married."

Their plans didn't go awry.

"I think people focus too much on details," she said. "We thought of not having a wedding at all. We thought of doing a ceremony at the courthouse."

But they wanted to mark their day with family.

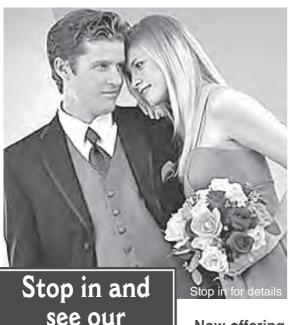
"The purpose of the wedding: You are making promises and oaths to each other," said Chris Hubbard.

They created a unique ceremo-

Kate wanted to get married on Sept. 21, the fall equinox. But the pavilion was booked that day. She

See TOUCH, page 4

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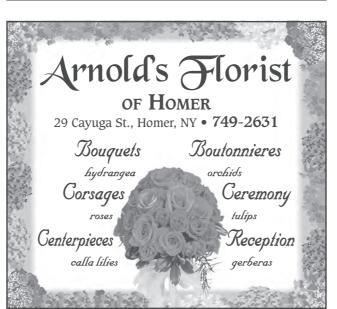
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Easy but awesome photo booths

Are you planning to set up a photo booth at your wedding? If you do, your guests will love hamming it up in front of the camera, and you'll wind up with a slew of fun, candid mementos. Here are some backdrop ideas you'll love.

- ♦ Sequins. For an old Hollywood feel, choose white, silver or gold. Or put a modern spin on it and choose reversible sequins.
- ♦ Flowers. A wall of flowers is the perfect romantic backdrop. Match the blooms to your wedding colors or opt for white or red roses. Alternatively, create an ombre effect from light to dark using a variety of flowers in an array of hues.
- ♦ Balloons. The trick to nailing a balloon backdrop is to use balloons in various sizes and shapes. Choose pastel tones for a soft look or go for bright colors for a more whimsical touch.
- ♦ Wood. A wall of wood planks decorated with ivy and twinkle lights will make your guests feel like they're hanging out on your back porch. This backdrop is well-suited to a rustic or country themed wedding.



Your wedding checklist

12 months before

- ◆ Decide on the type of wedding you'd like (civil or religious, big or small)
- ♦ Choose a date
- ♦ Determine the number of guests
- ♦ Establish a budget
- ♦ Pick venues for the ceremony and reception (it's best to reserve early)

11 months before

- ♦ Make your guest list
- ♦ Choose a caterer (meet with a few first)
- ♦ Select your wedding party
- ♦ Hire a wedding planner

10 months before

♦ Start shopping for a wedding dress

♦ Decide on a theme for your wedding

♦ Choose an officiant if you haven't already done so

9 months before

- ♦ Book a photographer
- ♦ Reserve a block of hotel rooms for your out-of-town guests
- ♦ Purchase a wedding gown
- ♦ Shop for the groom's attire and purchase it

8 months before

- ♦ Meet with your officiant to plan your ceremony
- ♦ Book your entertainment (DJ, band, MC, etc.)
- ♦ Shop for and purchase your bridesmaids' dresses
 - ♦ Design and order the

wedding invitations and save-the-date cards

7 months before

- ♦ Create a gift registry
- Hire a florist
- ♦ Plan your honeymoon

6 months before

- ♦ Send out the save-thedate cards
- ♦ Book your hair and makeup appointments for the day of (also schedule trial runs for both)
- ♦ Book a hotel room for the wedding night if necessary

5 months before

- ♦ Create a schedule for the big day
- ♦ Decide on dates for bachelor and bachelorette parties

◆ Shop for and purchase shoes, jewelry and accessories

4 months before

- ♦ Reserve wedding day transportation for the wedding party
- ♦ Select alcohol and other drinks for the reception
- ◆ Taste and choose your wedding cake
- Buy wedding bands
- ♦ Shop for and order the groomsmen's attire

3 months before

- Purchase wedding favors for your guests
 - ♦ If you'd like your loved

ones to say or read something during the ceremony, let them know

- Write down your vows
- ♦ Decide on activities for the reception (photo booth, dancing, games, etc.)

2 months before

- Send out your wedding invitations
- ♦ Do trial runs for both hair and makeup
- ♦ Give your music selections to the DJ or MC

1 month before

- ♦ Finalize the schedule for the big day
 - ♦ Choose a seating plan

for the reception

Break in your shoes

1 week before

- Visit the desired beauty professionals (hair colorist, esthetician, etc.)
- Practice reading your ows
- Write out checks to pay your vendors

1 day before

- ♦ Get your nails done
- Give the checks to someone you trust to pay the vendors

Day of

Enjoy!



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TOUCH

continued from page 2

pushed the date back and they married Sept. 20, 2019 with an outdoor ceremony at Dwyer Memorial Park and an indoor reception at the pavilion.

Chris' dad, Tim, became ordained by the Universalist Life Church to perform the ceremony.

Chris' grandmother Pat Hubbard and her sister made the food, cold salads, meat, cheese, and fruit platters and meat balls, and they made the food the night be-

A family member with a DJ business provided the music. The couple helped clean up afterward.

They had a wedding party of nine each and all the men wore kilts, including the groom.

They had 75 people in at- Chris Hubbard. tendance after inviting 150.

"He has a big family. I have a small family. Most of our



Provided by Chris and Kate Elliott Hubbard

wedding was his family," said

"I am the oldest of seven," said Chris Hubbard.

"I have my mom, sister, grandmother and dad and a couple of aunts, uncles and cousins," said Kate.

It was a Cortland wedding through and through.

Kate chose a Jacklyn white

wedding gown from Nancy's Bridal on Main Street. Cortland. She had a tartan sash to match the kilt her partner wore and reflected his ancestry in County Limerick in Ireland.

Shaw and Boehler on Clinton Avenue provided the flower bouquets and boutonnieres and they did an excellent job with few instructions, Kate said.

Jesse Towers of Cortland did the photography. The couple didn't want reception photos - only really good ceremony photos.

"We only needed 30 minutes," said Chris Hubbard.

He had to do some fast talking because the photographer was reluctant for the pressure of wedding photography, Chris said.

"He did an amazing job," he said. He took 600 photos.

Dessert, a small marble cake with buttercream frosting for the couple and cupcakes for the attendees, came from East Side Bakery on Elm Street.

"Sunflowers were our theme," Kate said.

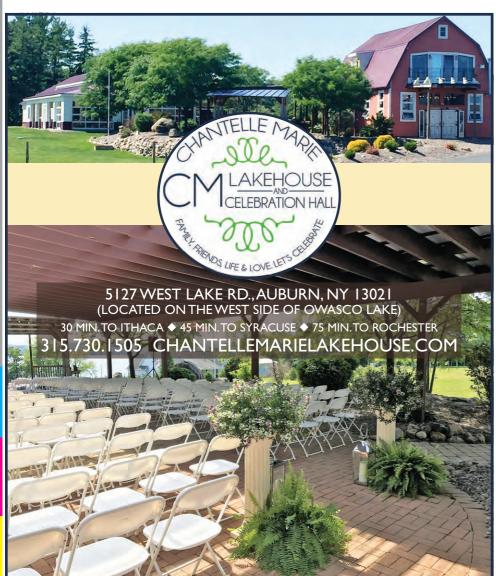
"I don't think ever in my life I a have seen 200 cupcakes before," said Chris Hubbard. "Until that day."

"We cut (the cake) with a sword," said Kate.

Chris and his father, Tim, have a hobby business, Hubbard & Co. Smithing.

When you have Viking lineage, swords are key.

"Life is too short not to do interesting things," said Chris Hubbard.





How to dress your bridesmaids

Rules are made to be broken

Whether you have three bridesmaids or 13, you'll need to decide what you want them to wear. Here are some options.

Same color, same dress

For a classic and cohesive look, ask your bridesmaids to wear matching dresses that correspond to your wedding decor. This option is best when the girls in the group have similar body shapes and skin tones.

Different color, same dress

For a multicolored esthetic, choose a style of dress and let your bridesmaids pick the hue they wear. If you prefer a more subtle approach, ask them to wear different shades of the same color.

Same color, different dress

This is a great way to show off your bridesmaids' personalities while still maintaining a cohesive look. You can even opt for convertible dresses. These can be worn as many as 20 different ways, so your girls will have no problem finding a look that suits them.

Ultimately, you don't have to follow any rules when choosing your bridesmaids' dresses. The most important thing is that the women who matter most to you will be there with you on your big day.

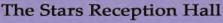












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Tips for choosing the perfect wedding lingerie

Most people won't see it, but wearing the right lingerie is imperative to looking your best on your wedding day. Here are some tips to help you find the perfect undergarments.

♦ Consider the gown.

Make sure the undergarments you wear are discreet enough that they won't be seen. Similarly, if the dress is made of a sheer or silky material, you may want to choose a slip or body suit to be sure everything is smooth and invisible.

♦ Think about color. White lingerie may be traditional but could be noticeable under a white dress. Instead, wear lingerie that matches your skin tone.

♦ Make sure it fits perfectly. There's nothing worse than undergarments that don't fit well. Finding the exact right size will ensure that you're comfortable throughout the day.

♦ Change for the eve-

ning. If your gown calls for something more demure, why not change into a spicier getup for your wedding night? A lacy baby-doll or a risqué black teddy are sure to drive your new spouse wild

No matter what style of lingerie you decide to wear on your wedding day, be sure to bring it with you to your dress fitting. This will allow you to make certain it works well with your gown.

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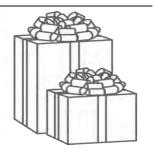
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10 things you can rent for your wedding

1. Tables and chairs

Even if your venue offers them, you may prefer to choose different ones that better suit your theme.

2. Table linens and napkins

These come in a number of colors and styles and can be selected to complement your wedding esthetic.

3. Lighting

Add lights to create the precise ambiance you're looking for.

4. Centerpieces

You'll need to purchase the flowers, but many florists offer vases as rental items

5. Tents

If you're hosting an outdoor wedding, it's important to have a plan in place in case it rains.

6. Lounge furniture

An area with comfortable chairs and couches is a great place to rest between

7. Dancefloor

A space to cut the rug is a must at most weddings. If your venue doesn't have one, rent it.

8. China, flatware and stemware

Your caterer or venue may have some that you can use,

but you may wish to upgrade to nicer looking pieces.

9. Photo backdrop

Whether you're planning a photobooth or not, a beautiful backdrop is sure to be a hit with selfie-loving

10. Entertainment

If you want to make sure your guests have fun, rent some large scale games or even a bouncy castle to keep them talking.

To simplify your life, find a company that offers full rental services and can include everything you need in one package.

How to feature bright colors in your wedding

An increasing number of brides and grooms are incorporating bright colors into their wedding outfits and decor. Here's how to do the same.

Choose the right color

While red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet look great on a rainbow, it may be overwhelming to use them all at your wedding. Instead, choose only one or two of your favorite colors.

Use color judiciously

Incorporating colors into your wedding doesn't mean everything should be bright and bold. Instead, favor neutrals and use your chosen hue as an accent here and there. bride's bouquet, bridesmaids' dresses, centerpieces and the groom and groomsmen's ties are perfect places to inject a vibrant shade.







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