

Summer 2016

BRIDAL *guide*



Supplement to The Mercury and Berks-Mont Newspapers, June 2016

BRIDAL GUIDE

Spring Hollow Golf Club offers beautiful venue for weddings

Spring Hollow Golf Club

Spring Hollow Golf Club is a challenging, 18-hole public golf course with a full-service restaurant and banquet facilities that opened in 1994 in beautiful Chester County. The golf course was designed by architect John Thompson, who created a layout that blends in the features of this one time dairy farm. The frequent elevation changes and multiple sets of tees afford players not only challenging shot selections, but also beautiful views of the surrounding area. Open seven days a week for golf, please call ahead for tee times. Memberships are now available for the 2016 golf season.

The Grille is the full-service restaurant at Spring



PHOTO COURTESY OF SPRING HOLLOW GOLF CLUB

The banquet facilities at Spring Hollow can be used for weddings and wedding ceremonies.

Hollow, which is also open to the public. With its comfortable and friendly set-

Spring Hollow has won the Reader's Choice for the Tri-County Area's Best Banquet Facility for the last three years and multiple awards from the Knot & Wedding Wire.

ting, it is a great place to meet friends after work for cocktails, boast about that hole-in-one you got on number 18 or have a relaxing sit-down dinner with the family. In the warmer months,

VENUE » PAGE 11



PHOTO COURTESY OF SPRING HOLLOW GOLF CLUB

In the warmer months, you can dine outside on the covered deck or on the patio while overlooking the 18th green of the golf course.



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The golf course was designed by architect John Thompson, who created a layout that blends in the features of this one time dairy farm.

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BRIDAL GUIDE

Making memories with Dice's Creative Cakes

Today's new wedding cake designs have taken a turn, they have more texture and definition! Starting about a year ago it is the up to date look. Sculpting the icing or blading techniques have come onboard creating a large variety of possible looks. The icing is manipulated by hand blading while adding more icing to create stucco, swirl, and pattern designs in the icing. The most common one is a basic stucco pattern that makes whips in the icing with a wavy look. There are also horizontal wavy designs, s-swirls, and parallel line designs. One

of the most recent popular looks is blading the icing in a swirling affect around the cake giving it a very sleek look. These designs are a perfect background to show off the floral accent designs. They are a blend of contemporary designs on a traditional tier for an extraordinary finished style. Our new lace overlay design creates a beautiful elegant finish.

Tiers of cupcakes have also come to the forefront of today's couples' centerpiece table. Multiple flavors, colored icing, textured design, polka dots, are a few that come to mind. Filled cupcakes are also an op-

tion that could be incorporated into the mix. Sometimes a small tier cake or just anniversary cake is accompanying the cupcake tower. These options make accommodating any reception possible with unlimited choices! All details and possibilities would be discussed at your consultation with sample tasting of cake. Call to make your free consultation today. Dates book quickly so it is best to do nine months to a year in advance, but will do shorter notice as long as the date is still available.

Make your wedding day special with a cake from

Dice's Creative Cakes. Create memories for years to come with a distinctive cake from our bakery. We've been told that family members talk about how beautiful and delicious their cake was for years. Choosing a cake is usually one of the couple's favorite things about planning their wedding.

One of the key elements to choosing a design is focal points. I explain and help couples understand how layering focal points is important to the look of the final result. You want focal points to be layered

DICE'S » PAGE 11



Sculpting the icing or blading techniques have come onboard creating a large variety of possible looks.

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MAID TO ORDER



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Incorporate some custom elements into the wedding ceremony to give it a unique flair.

Customize your ceremony to give it a unique touch

Steeped in tradition, weddings have featured many of the same components for centuries. Those about to tie the knot may feel somewhat limited in their ability to shape their weddings into unique celebrations of their relationships and love for one another. Although it may not seem like there are many opportunities to put your own stamp on the wedding, there are plenty of ways to do just that.

When looking to personalize your wedding ceremony, determine if there might be anything blocking you from doing so. For example, if yours will be a religious ceremony, there may be certain rites that need to be followed. Secular ceremonies may offer more opportunities to customize.

• **Vows:** Vows are one of the easiest ways to put a personal touch on your wedding. You can select the words you

want to exchange during the ceremony as well as any readings during the service. Work with your officiant to narrow down particular phrasing or sentiments that fit with your vision of the wedding and relationship.

• **Participants:** Wedding party members fulfill certain roles during the ceremony, but they are not limited to those tasks alone. Consider asking wedding party members or other friends or family members to take on specialized roles in the wedding. They may be able to do certain readings, escort guests to their seats, light candles, or sing and participate in other ways.

• **Musical interludes:** Choose music that connects with your personalities as a couple rather than selecting standard songs merely because they are the easier route. Work with the organist or other musicians and

request that they perform or play musical pieces that you enjoy.

• **Candle lighting:** Many couples like to incorporate candle-lighting components to their ceremonies. Lighting unity candles blends two families together into one in a symbolic way. Other couples choose different traditions, such as mixing two different-colored sands in a new vessel, to represent the joining of two lives together. You can consider these types of additions for your wedding ceremony or come up with your own unique tradition.

Impart a special touch to a wedding ceremony in any number of ways. Doing so will help set this special day apart in the minds of guests and make it even more memorable to look back on as a couple.

Courtesy of Metro Creative

SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN

Inspiration boards bring wedding plans to life

Making the wedding of your dreams a reality may require some creativity. It can be challenging to organize all of the creative ideas swimming around in your head, but inspiration boards may be able to help.

Inspiration boards, sometimes referred to as idea boards, are commonly used by interior designers, artists, writers, and even wedding planners. Such boards can serve a great purpose when starting a new project, especially if all of your creative ideas seem to lack cohesion. Sometimes seeing things together, rather than in bits and pieces on their own, can fuel even more creativity.

Inspiration boards can include magazine clippings, photographs, fabric swatches, quotes or literary passages, and color swatches. As the idea board grows, you may find a common denominator among your inspirational ele-

ments. This can help determine a theme for your wedding or jump-start other planning.

While poster boards may be more traditional idea boards, creative ideas also can be compiled in binders or scrapbooks, which work especially well at keeping all items organized and concise. Plus, they're portable, which means you can take a scrapbook to a meeting with a wedding vendor and show him or her your concepts for the wedding.

Later, when photographers, florists and other vendors have been booked, you can attach receipts or agreements to the inspiration board for future reference. This keeps all of your important wedding information in one place rather than requiring you to search through different folders or files for important documents. In addition, if friends or family members ask for advice on

vendors and planning their own weddings in the future, you can readily access your inspiration board.

To start building your own board or book, take clippings of photos or articles that resonate with you. As you visit bridal shops and other stores, take fabric swatches and pictures of particular looks. Attend bridal shows and take home promotional materials. Remember, inspiration may not always come from bridal-related resources. Anything you come across in your daily life — such as window-shopping at a furniture store or passing an art exhibit — may inspire some creativity.

Inspiration boards are used by top design professionals and can be a handy resource for couples planning their weddings.

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Inspiration boards can include magazine clippings, photographs, fabric swatches, quotes or literary passages, and color swatches.

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BUTTERFLIES

Tame wedding day nerves

When couples tie the knot, many changes are in store, many compromises will be made and many lasting memories will be created. But in the weeks and months before their big days, couples can easily get caught up in the whirlwind of wedding planning, never taking inventory of their feelings until their wedding days have arrived.

Come their wedding days, couples should not be surprised if some nerves set in. A survey from the anxiety self-help resource The Fear Source indicated 71 percent of brides-to-be suffered from some type of nerves during the lead-up to their weddings. Ninety-two percent of brides experienced nerves on the day of the wedding or the eve-

ning before, while 66 percent reported that it affected their daily lives prior to their weddings or hampered their performance and enjoyment during the day itself.

According to Psych Central, a modern online voice for mental health information, emotional support and advocacy, pre-wedding jitters are common and can be the subconscious telling a person that something needs to be remedied. Wedding nerves do not mean a wedding is doomed; it just means certain issues may need to be worked through. The following are some ways to tame wedding day nerves.

- Keep an open dialogue. Speak with your future spouse about the things

that may be causing your anxiety. Maybe you have doubts on financial choices or where you will be living after the wedding. Communicating openly and honestly is one of the foundations of a strong relationship.

- Slow down and breathe. Wedding planning involves making many decisions, and sometimes couples move at breakneck speeds. Make slowing down a priority. Try to enjoy a quiet dinner with just the two of you. When enjoying peaceful moments, take deep breaths, which can be calming and revitalizing. If need be, consider signing up for a yoga or tai chi class to force you to slow down.

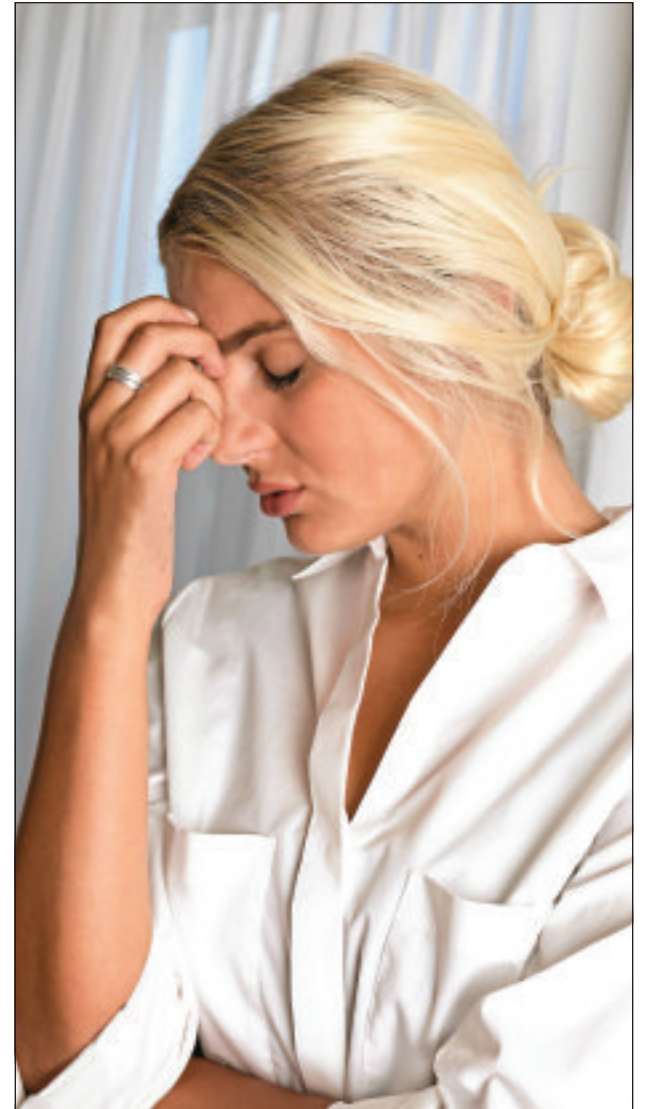
- Address performance anxiety. It's easy to build

up the big day in your mind and hope that everything goes according to plan. But it's impossible to plan for each and every outcome on your wedding day. Focus on everything that can go right, rather than worrying about what might go wrong. Also, realize that your guests are your friends and family members who will be forgiving of any hiccups along the way. You're bound to recover gracefully from any mishaps.

- Work on confidence. Wedding fears may stem from inadequate self-confidence. Give yourself a pep talk and surround yourself with positive people. Keep the worry-warts at arms-length for the time being.

- Recruit more help. Weddings are huge undertakings, so it's no surprise that couples sometimes feel overwhelmed. Ask reliable relatives or friends to double-check all of the last-minute details. This way you don't feel it is all on your shoulders.

Wedding days nerves are to be expected and often have little to do with the decision to get married. Planning such a big event can be nerve-wracking, but there are ways to combat any anxiety that builds up as the big day draws near.



METRO CREATIVE

Wedding days nerves are to be expected and often have little to do with the decision to get married.

Courtesy of Metro Creative

July Brides?

Historically, June has been the most popular month for getting married. But some numbers now indicate that July and even October have begun to edge out June as the most popular months to tie the knot. The June wedding tradition may be traced back to the ancient Romans. Romans honored Juno, the goddess of marriage and childbirth, and the month of June was named after her, so it is fitting that weddings take place in her namesake month. As centuries passed, June remained a popular month to get married. June was a prime time for people to come out after a long winter and take communal baths in the fifteenth century. In addition, June weddings meant children conceived after betrothal would be born close to or during the following spring. This helped assure youngsters' survival during the rough and often lean months of winter. Spring births would not conflict with workers' demanding schedules during the autumn harvest, either. Even when weddings began shifting from pragmatic business transactions to romantic affairs, June remained popular.

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DRY RUN

Rehearsal dinner tips

Many couples find their wedding rehearsal dinners to be relaxing respites from the whirlwind of wedding planning. Such dinners enable the happy couple to slow down and enjoy themselves in a relatively casual gathering with their closest friends and family members.

Rehearsal dinners typically take place in the night or two before the wedding. The couple, members of their wedding party, the parents of the bride and groom and others involved in the wedding typically attend this dinner. The couple generally takes the time at the dinner to thank everyone for their contributions to the wedding and to offer some small gifts of appreciation. No rules govern rehearsal dinners, so couples have the freedom to plan the dinners as they see fit.

Rehearsal dinners often come immediately after the ceremony rehearsal, when the wedding party and the officiant go over the timing and details of the wedding. Make arrangements with the ceremony site and offi-

The couple generally takes the time at the dinner to thank everyone for their contributions to the wedding and to offer some small gifts of appreciation.

cial prior to making dinner reservations.

Parents of the groom traditionally host the rehearsal dinner, so they will be integral in planning the event. That means couples should keep an open and gracious mind. Remember, the rehearsal dinner doesn't have to be a lavish affair, and it can be customized to any budget or preference.

Some couples feel that hosting rehearsal dinners in casual settings can make the dinner more comfortable for members of the wedding, who can use the dinner as an opportunity to mingle and get to know one another before the wedding. This will help to tame nerves and enable the wedding party to loosen up and enjoy themselves even more. Some people may be more inclined to socialize and have fun when they're not worried about putting on airs.

Restaurants that have special meaning to the couple often make for great places to hold rehearsal dinners. The bride and groom can suggest their ideas, but ultimately it is the person handling the bill who has the final say. Couples who want greater control over the rehearsal dinner festivities can suggest hosting it themselves.

Despite its name, the rehearsal dinner doesn't actually have to be a dinner, as couples can opt for meals at a different time of the day, like brunch or lunch. An earlier occasion gives guests plenty of time to get home and rest up for the festivities of the wed-



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No rules govern rehearsal dinners, so couples have the freedom to plan the dinners as they see fit.

ding to come.

Toasts are expected at the rehearsal dinner, but they tend to be spontaneous, off-the-cuff remarks. A couple with a good sense of humor might not mind being roasted at their rehearsal dinners. The bride and groom should expect to say a few words of thanks to all in attendance, but remarks need not be too formal.

Rehearsal dinners may even feature a little entertainment. Tech-savvy parents may put together a presentation with videos or photographs that chronicles the couple's lives separately and their life together.

Rehearsal dinners provide an opportunity for couples and their families to spend time together before the larger festivities of the wedding pull them in multiple directions. Plus, they set a fun tone for the wedding weekend to come.

Courtesy of Metro Creative

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TRADITION

Clever takes on ‘something old, new, borrowed, blue’

Wedding day tokens of good luck come in many forms, but “the something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue (a sixpence in your shoe)” adage remains one of the most popular luck-enhancing wedding traditions. According to the bridal resource

The Knot, this tradition stems from an Olde English rhyme. Something old represents continuity; something new is for optimism for the future; something borrowed stands for borrowed happiness; and something blue is for purity, love and fidelity. The sixpence in your shoe is

a wish for good fortune and prosperity, but this is not a tradition widely celebrated outside of the United Kingdom or British territories.

These traditions can add some creative flair and personality to wedding ceremonies. There’s no end to the inventive combinations of items brides can carry to increase their good fortunes.

Something old

Something old is one of the easier mementos to obtain. There is a good chance that someone in

the family is willing to pass an item down to the bride that she can include in her wedding wardrobe. It also can be something the bride may have in her own memory box. Beads taken from a grandmother’s dress or a swatch of fabric from a beloved toy doll are creative ideas that can be sewn into inconspicuous places on gowns.

Something new

Brides already purchase many new items for their wedding day looks, so “something new” should not be too hard to find. Couples may want to work together to find something new they can both carry so they have a matching set upon tying the knot. Interlocking charm bracelets or keychains may work. What about the groom carrying a small padlock and the bride the key? Quirky couples can each wear one sock from a pair. Get clever and have fun.

Something borrowed

Much like something old, something borrowed is yet another way to pay homage to a friend or family member. It’s also one way to add a sentimental twist to everyday items. Borrow a grandfather’s handkerchief to wrap around the stems of the wedding bouquet. Exchange vows with the original rings used by a distant relative at their own wedding. Flatter a close friend by wearing the same veil she did.

Something blue

There are many ways



METRO CREATIVE

Blue gloves and garter can fulfill the “something blue” in the popular good-luck wedding tradition.

to incorporate “something blue” into your wedding ceremony. Brides can paint their toenails blue or wear blue shoes under their gowns. Sew a patch from a pair of denim jeans into the bodice of the dress. Paint the bottom of your shoes bright blue so they stand out when kneeling at the altar. Blue

sapphire or topaz jewelry can add an exotic look to the wedding wardrobe.

With a little ingenuity, brides can easily incorporate “something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue” into their wedding ceremonies.

Courtesy of Metro Creative

These traditions can add some creative flair and personality to wedding ceremonies. There’s no end to the inventive combinations of items brides can carry to increase their good fortunes.

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DETAILS

Undergarments can make or break wedding looks

As guests' eyes are trained on couples come their wedding days, it is no surprise that both the bride and groom want to look flawless on their big days. Men and women will spend thousands of dollars on clothing, hairstyling, makeup, teeth whitening, fitness classes, and more to ensure they look their best. While couples may be particularly concerned with their wedding day appearance, what they wear under their clothing — particularly for women — can impact how clothes fit and look.

Choosing the right bra or supportive undergarments can play a crucial

Choosing the right bra or supportive undergarments can play a crucial role in how a gown fits and whether or not brides achieve that picture-perfect look. Wearing the wrong undergarments can negatively affect a bride's appearance and make her extremely uncomfortable.

role in how a gown fits and whether or not brides achieve that picture-perfect look. Wearing the wrong undergarments can negatively affect a bride's appearance and make her extremely uncomfortable. According to a study done by Swiss lingerie company Triumph, a large number of women are choosing their bras incorrectly. The international survey of 10,000 women found that 64 percent of them are wearing the wrong size bras. If women are wearing the wrong undergarments for everyday looks, it stands to reason that their wedding choices may not be spot on, either.

Undergarments should be purchased and brought to all fittings as soon as a gown is selected. In fact, it often is a good idea to ask the bridal store employees to suggest a bra or corset that will complement the gown and remain invisible beneath the dress. Some shops will make bras available when trying on gowns. Brides are not obligated to purchase undergarments where they purchase their gowns, but take note of the brand and style and find a similar one elsewhere that fits with your budget if you don't want to buy at the store.

Pay attention to the gown's fabric and how dense it is. Certain shapewear, including bras, that have a lot of boning in them to shape and support the body can show under bridal dresses without a lot

of layers. Always try on the bra with the gown to gauge the finished look. You may opt for simpler and plain lingerie styles so that you will be guaranteed a seamless appearance. Nude-colored bras tend to be less noticeable than white. You always can purchase something with more pizzazz to change into for the wedding night. Some dresses with plunging necklines or backless designs may necessitate other options. Sew-in bra cups are another option that can lend invisible support.

Women with more ample busts may want to select gowns that will allow for bras with supportive straps to be worn. This way there is no worry about strapless bras or other style lingerie slipping down.

In addition to bras, other types of shapewear can enhance certain areas of the body or downplay perceived flaws. Shapewear can smooth and pull in stomachs. Choose boy shorts or thong-style cuts for a seamless finish. Shapers can smooth out bulges on the back, legs and hips, too. There also are special shorts that have some padding in the rear to create a more curvy look.

Bras and other shapewear can make a world of difference in how wedding attire looks and feels. Invest in some quality pieces that will highlight wardrobes to their fullest.

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FASHION

Veils complete the bridal look

The perfect dress is on the wish list of many a bride-to-be, but no bridal ensemble is truly complete until the bride chooses her veil.

Veils have been worn by brides at their weddings for centuries. Veils can be traced back to the

Veils come in various lengths and can complement the style of a wedding gown. They also tend to add glamour to brides' looks.

Middle East, where veils helped protect against the weather while also preserving the modesty of the bride. In Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome, veils were used as protection against evil spirits.

According to popular wedding website The Knot.com, until Vatican II, all Catholic women were required to have their heads covered in church, including during their wedding ceremonies. Veils were worn for this purpose, but they also symbolized trust in the groom and his love and companionship. Some Christians also see the veil as a visual representation of submission to the Church and to God. Oth-

ers think of the veil as another beautiful accompaniment to their bridal gown, without attaching any additional meaning to the veil itself.

Veils come in various lengths and can complement the style of a wedding gown. They also tend to add glamour to brides' looks. Here are the types of veils from shortest to longest.

- Blusher: Blushers cover the face, though some extend only to mid-cheek on the bride.

- Flyaway: Flyaways cover just the back of the head. Shorter veils may work better on petite women.

- Shoulder: Shoulder

veils are about 20 inches in length and will hit at the bride's shoulders or just below.

- Waist: Waist-length veils cascade down to the middle of the bride's waist.

- Fingertip: These veils extend down 38 to 42 inches, brushing against the bride's fingertips.

- Waltz/Knee: For a dramatic look, many brides may opt for waltz-length veils, which fall to the back of the knees.

- Chapel/Floor: Veils that extend to the floor may be referred to as "chapel" or "floor-length" veils. Such veils cascade slightly behind the bride.

Veils can complete brides' wedding day looks. Shorter veils may be comfortable to wear throughout the day and evening, but brides may want to consider detachable veils if they are selecting lengthier options.

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Bridal veils come in many different lengths and can complement personalities and gown styles.



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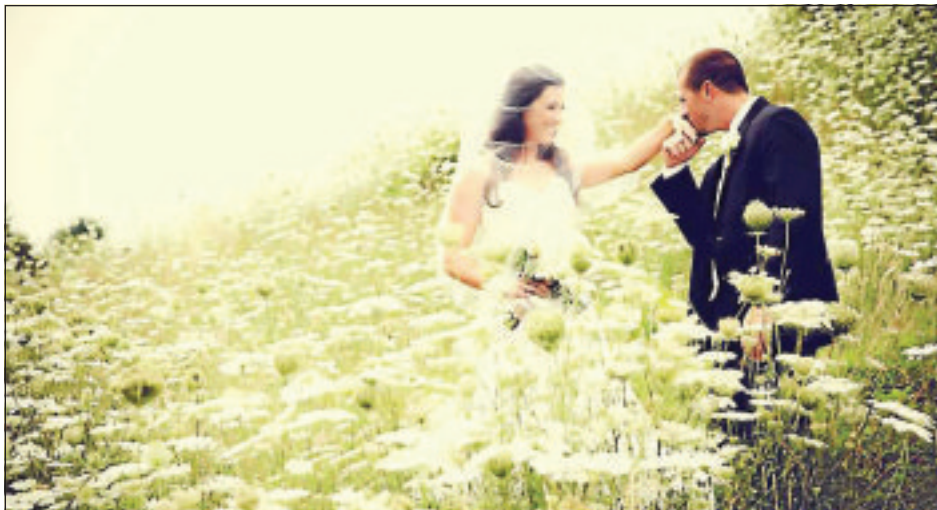


PHOTO COURTESY OF SPRING HOLLOW GOLF CLUB

Spring Hollow Golf Club is truly a hidden treasure of the Tri-County Area. It is said to have the Best Sunset views in the County!

Venue

FROM PAGE 2

you can dine outside on the covered deck or on the patio while overlooking the 18th green of the golf course. Whatever your reason, you'll be sure to leave with a smile! The Grille is open for lunch and dinner Wednesday through Sunday with many different specials. Feel free to call ahead for reservations.

The banquet facilities

at Spring Hollow can be used for weddings and wedding ceremonies, business meetings, golf outings and many other types of social functions. We offer diverse menus along with personalized menu selections to suit your needs. We look forward to having the opportunity to meet with you to tour our ballroom and assist you with any catering needs you may have. If you have questions, please contact our director of catering, Amelia Hager.

Spring Hollow has won the Reader's Choice for the Tri-County Area's Best Banquet Facility for the last three years and multiple awards from the Knot & Wedding Wire. Spring Hollow Golf Club is truly a hidden treasure of the Tri-County Area. It is said to have the Best Sunset views in the County!

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www.springhollowgolf.com.

Dice's

FROM PAGE 3

not competing with each other. For instance an all-white designed cake with colored ribbon and flowers would be complimenting to each other. You don't want focal points competing with each other.

The demand of a wide selection of styles is apparent as some couples are going back to traditional designs or mixing with updated versions. Sleek and elegant cakes that are stacked on top of each other and square offset twisted effect are very popular.

While looking through photos and the display cakes we will help you choose your own unique design. We will also work with designs you may have. Working on details from design, ribbons, appropriate color and flow-

ers to the delivery and set up; we are the professionals you can have confidence in. The skill from years of experience show in the options and designs today's styles demand.

The flavor of your cake is also very important. Regular flavors consist of yellow, chocolate, half and half, marble and white. We offer an extensive line of specialty flavors which include raspberry, strawberry, cherry, peach, apple, blueberry, swirl, chocolate chip, banana, carrot, red velvet, lemon and an assortment of fillings and mousses. Our cakes are a moist fine grain pound cake alone or with a flavor swirled throughout. Dice's offer more than 16 different flavors to choose from. Choose Dice's Cakes to make your wedding cake and not only look wonderful but taste great also!

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The demand of a wide selection of styles is apparent as some couples are going back to traditional designs or mixing with updated versions.

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