

# *Pansing* BRIDE

Volume 10 \* Issue 2015-16

the leading resource for wedding planning in mid-michigan

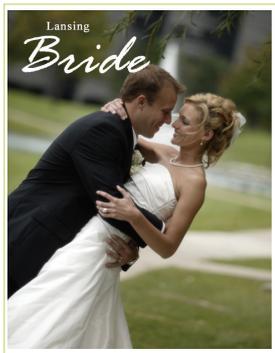


10 Year Anniversary Edition

# Lansing BRIDE

## Celebrating 10 Years!

2006 - 2016



# Lansing BRIDE

## the leading resource for wedding planning in mid-michigan

This publication is available to Michigan brides at sponsoring merchants, local booksellers and numerous newsstands. It is designed to help engaged couples and their families in planning their wedding.



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# YOU'RE GETTING Married!

Seventeen years have passed since I planned my Wedding, back in 1999. Our Ceremony was held at Mount Hope Church on Creytes Road and the Reception at the Sheraton Lansing Hotel (also known today, as the Crowne Plaza Lansing Hotel). Both my husband and I were raised here and have lived in the Greater Lansing area, our entire lives. With having such strong local roots, here in the Capitol City and owning a few different businesses, within the local Wedding & Special Events Industry... it was quite fitting when I was approached to purchase this publication.

But even after 17 years, I still remember all of the excitement and stress I felt, trying to make sure everything was "just right" for our special day! Having personally advertised in this publication, most all of the first 9 years in print, I have always valued this publication as the leading Wedding planning resource in the Mid-Michigan area! I am proud to say that we intend to take this publication into the very talented local Wedding market, to feature and promote local area Wedding service professionals and show you what makes up our Great City of industry leaders!

Lansing Bride has always organized local Wedding professionals in such a way, that makes it easy to learn about their services, pricing and area of expertise...and what sets them apart. This feature will save you hours by helping you "pre-screen" vendors before you even pick-up the phone!

We also invite you to visit our website [LansingBride.com](http://LansingBride.com), which includes additional information on all of the Wedding professionals in the magazine. Be sure to like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter & Pinterest, as we are always keeping an eye out for the latest and greatest!

Finally, as you use our magazine to plan your Wedding, we politely ask that you remember to mention Lansing Bride Magazine, when calling or emailing any of the businesses featured in the magazine or on our website.

I look forward to taking you along on this journey, as we continue to explore local Wedding & Special Event service professionals.

Best Wishes Always!

Nicoles

NICOLE L. DUNGEY | EDITOR

## thank you

to our contributing photographers

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*Studio M Portraits*  
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[www.wheatfieldinn.com](http://www.wheatfieldinn.com)  
[innkeeper@wheatfieldinn.com](mailto:innkeeper@wheatfieldinn.com)

**HIGHLIGHTS:** The Inn is located on 26 acres with a wedding pergola, woods, and a creek. There are five guest rooms, all with fireplaces and two with whirlpools. The Inn also has a game room.

**SEATING CAPACITY:** Seating for up to 150 guests. **ROOM DEPOSIT:** 1/3 of booking, depending on package selection.

**ROOM RENTAL:** Rental fee ranges from \$1,695 to \$3,995, depending on package selection. Please review packages in complete detail on our website.

**FOOD • BEVERAGE PRICING:** We welcome our guests to use their own caterer of choice for meals and beverages.

**VALET PARKING:** No **ON-SITE CEREMONIES:** Yes

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makes perfect...*



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A picture is worth a thousand words; we challenge you to take in the story that our pictures tell. Walnut Hills weddings are breathtaking from start to finish, we know you want this day to be unforgettable, rooted into you like the love you and your significant other have for each other. We do more than simply plan your wedding here at Walnut, we finish your love story, and begin your happily ever after.

Walnut Hills has a deep and venerable history that is rooted in the Greater Lansing area; we are a proud Michigan golf club and hold our standards against the state's natural beauty.

*"You have a beautiful backdrop of our amazing golf course for pictures," said Walnut Hills' Wedding Planner Judy Hankerd. "You and your bridal party are able to take our golf carts out to many scenic locations on the course."*

Take advantage of our course's environmental beauty in more than one way, all three of our banquet rooms have open window views of our well-kept course. We are praised for our on-site ceremonies, either indoors with gorgeous, overlooking views, or outdoors in the midst of natural beauty.

Each and every wedding at Walnut Hills is individually unique, our event planner Judy Hankerd takes pride in this fact. With Judy, Walnut Hills will be tailored to fulfill your wants, your expectations shall always be met and your concerns will always be attended to.

"It's the most beautiful day of their lives, I love being a part of that" said Judy, who has planned hundreds of weddings. Her years of experience and wedding expertise are valuable beyond measure.

"Our minds have been at ease throughout the entire process thanks to (Judy's) reassuring efforts," praised the newly wed couple Justin & Alicia Barterian.

Judy's passion for her work can visibly be seen, not just in the amount of hours she puts into perfecting what may seem like the smallest details (but are enormously important to you), but in the tears that moisten her eyes at each and every ceremony that she has the pleasure of being a part of.

"Looking back, Judy is, and will remain to be, so dear to us for the roles she has taken.," said the recently married couple Luke and Maryann Perry.

Contact Judy and allow her to take you on a tour of Walnut Hills without worrying about any obligations. We simply ask that you look around and take in all that we have to offer.

"When you have your wedding at here you become a part of the Walnut Hills community for a day," said Judy.

In the end, couples like to think that they made the final decision in choosing to have their wedding at Walnut, but in reality, it is Walnut that chose them.

## Walnut Hills Country Club

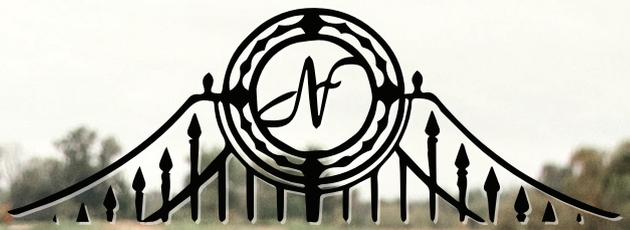
Contact: Judy Hankerd  
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[judyhankerd@walnuthillsgolf.com](mailto:judyhankerd@walnuthillsgolf.com)





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## 2016 Wedding Trends

### Décor

Metallic (gold, copper, rose gold), sparkles, monograms/personalization, dusty blue, vintage, rustic, bohemian, timeless, earthy, garden, painted bottle centerpieces, mercury glass, marble, chiavari chairs, use of fruit/veggies, free form bouquets, spiky flowers, fruiting vines, ombre shades, adding coffee beans/herbs for scent in centerpieces, use of trees and ferns in centerpieces in place of flowers.

### Lighting

Pendant lights, bare Edison bulbs, chandeliers, candelabras

### Seating

Long tables, “family dinner” style.



### The English Inn, Restaurant & Pub

**CONTACT:** Allie Howell  
517.663.2500  
677 South Michigan Road, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827  
www.englishinn.com  
allie@englishinn.com

**HIGHLIGHTS:** The English Inn is located on a 15-acre estate that was built by the first president of Oldsmobile in 1927. The original owner, Irving J. Reuter, named the estate “Medovue” which is what the current owner named our banquet facility when it was built in 2002. Medovue Hall is located next to The English Inn and is set perfectly surrounded by pastoral rolling meadows and the winding Grand River. It is a spectacular venue for any special occasion or a lovely, romantic getaway.

**SEATING CAPACITY:** Seating for up to 200 guests, with six different rooms available.

**ROOM RENTAL:** \$75 to \$500 **ROOM DEPOSIT:** \$200 to \$1,000 **SERVICE CHARGE:** 18% **VALET PARKING:** No **ON-SITE CEREMONIES:** Yes

**FOOD • BEVERAGE PRICING:** Plated dinners range from \$28 to \$35 per guest.

### Food/Drink

His and her cocktails, pairing drinks with food at cocktail hour, buttercream frosting, “naked” cakes or partially frosted with berries and fresh flowers, painted wedding cake, nontraditional flavored wedding cakes, rosé wine/champagne, dessert bar, craft beer.

### Entertainment

Having both a DJ and band at different times throughout the day, selfie station.

### Photography/Video

Wedding hashtags, mixing film and digital, highlight reels, pre-wedding moments (first look)

### Attire

Sleeves, gold/rose gold rings, two-toned rings, non-white wedding dress (champagne, ivory), lace, a-lines, keyhole backs, v-necks, tulle, illusion necklines.



# Grand Ledge Opera House

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## Grand Ledge Opera House

CONTACT: Melanie May  
517.627.1443  
121 South Bridge Street, Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
www.gloperahouse.com  
gloh@gloperahouse.com

**HIGHLIGHTS:** The Grand Hall hosts many wedding receptions. Three 12-branch chandeliers cast light on a double stairway leading to the balcony that encircles a hardwood main floor. The under-balcony area is carpeted. The Terrace Level overlooks the Grand River and gardens through six sets of French doors. The landscaped brick patio offers an ideal outdoor ceremony site.

**SEATING CAPACITY:** Seating for 140 to 240 guests with two different rooms available.

**ROOM RENTAL:** Varies according to date and room. **ROOM DEPOSIT:** 50% of room rental.

**VALET PARKING:** No **ON-SITE CEREMONIES:** Yes



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**CONTACT:** Lance Margrif  
517-327-3614  
901 Delta Commerce Drive, Lansing, MI 48917  
www.qualitysuitslansing.com  
lmargrif@haymanco.com

**HIGHLIGHTS:** All rooms are two-room suites with two TVs, a microwave and a refrigerator. Enjoy our signature complimentary hot breakfast in our newly renovated atrium cafe. We also include an evening social hour with complimentary beer, wine, cocktails, and hot hors d'oeuvres. Take advantage of our 25 and 50-passenger buses with single-trip transportation to all local banquet halls (reservations required). Complimentary reception shuttle service available to groups with 30 confirmed overnight rooms.

**PRICING:** Group rates starting at \$109, based on dates and availability. Free Bridal Suite with 20 confirmed room nights.

## Selecting Overnight Guest Accommodations

From Area Expert Mike Rice of Lansing Quality Suites Hotel

### 1 CUT OFF DATE

Choose a hotel that offers a "cut off date" for the rooms you are requesting for your guests.

### 2 UN-USED ROOMS

Avoid working with hotels that will hold you financially responsible for the un-used rooms.

### 3 ADDING MORE ROOMS

If your block of guestrooms fills up, be sure to ask if they will add more rooms to the block, and at the same price, based on availability.

### 4 GIFT BAGS

If you are going to do gift bags, do not personalize them. It makes it much harder for the front desk to distribute to your guests.

### 5 HOW TO BOOK RESERVATIONS

Clearly instruct your guests on their invitation, on how they should make their reservations, so they are sure to book directly into your block.

### 6 CHECK-IN TIME

Saturdays are the most difficult day of the week for hotels to honor early check-ins. Standard check-in time is 3pm. Double check on this so your guests do not have to get ready in the church bathroom.

### 7 AIRPORT SHUTTLE

Check to see if your Hotel offers an Airport shuttle, for your out of town guests.

### 8 TRANSPORTATION SERVICE

Further, check with your Hotel to see if they offer any type of transportation service to and from the Reception venue, if it is separate/away from the overnight rooms.

### 9 GROUP DISCOUNT

Is there a Group Discount? If so, be sure that you are meeting the minimum requirements to secure this discounted room block.

### 10 DEPOSIT

Is there a Deposit required? If so, does the deposit get applied to the Room blocks or do we get this back, upon a satisfactory check-out?





# Check out CityPULSE's ..... 5th Annual Bridal Guide

Pick it up at a Lansing Area bridal show or check out the 12-30-15 digital edition of the paper as well as local news, and arts and entertainment at

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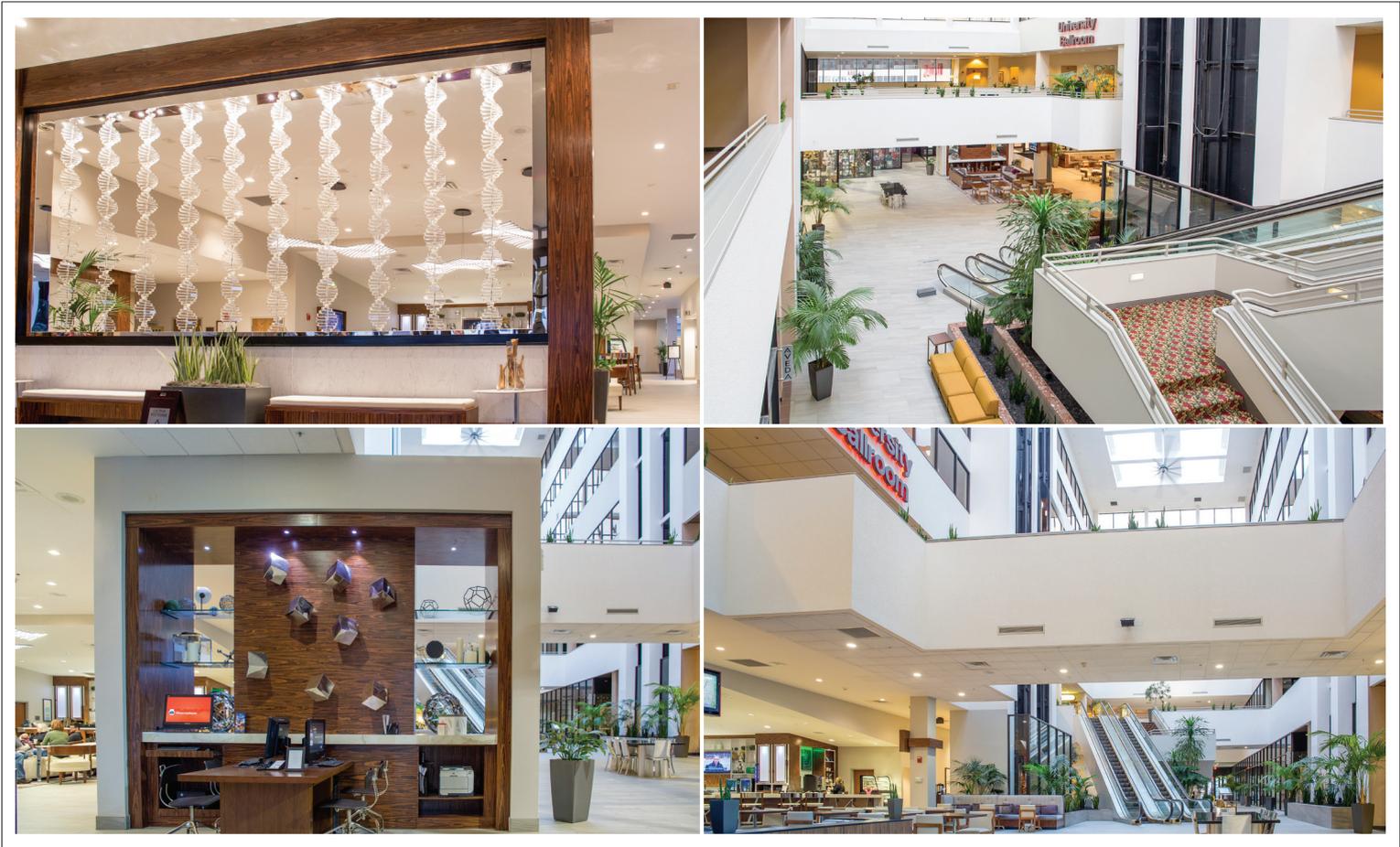
The a.m. Kitchen Skillet™ breakfast is always free and always has plenty to choose from.



Offer valid for group bookings August 1, 2015 through December 31, 2016 at Hyatt Place Lansing. Must be booked {# of days} in advance. Offer includes a variety of inclusions available based on number of rooms actualized. Minimum of 20 rooms required, based on availability. Offer not valid in conjunction with previously booked or held weddings or any other promotion or offer. Offer applies to all eligible bookings, including bookings by travel agents and other qualifying third parties at a commissionable rate. Contact hotel Sales and Events department at 517-679-7600 for your reservation. Promotional blackout periods may apply due to seasonal periods or special events, and normal arrival/departure restrictions apply. Hyatt reserves the right to alter or withdraw this program at any time without notice. Hyatt Hotels & Resorts® encompasses hotels managed, franchised or leased by subsidiaries and affiliates of Hyatt Hotels Corporation. The trademarks Hyatt®, Hyatt Hotels & Resorts®, Park Hyatt®, Adaz®, Grand Hyatt®, Hyatt Regency®, Hyatt Place®, HYATT house®, Hyatt Zilara™, Hyatt Ziva™, Hyatt Gold Passport®, and related marks are trademarks of Hyatt Corporation. ©2014 Hyatt Corporation. All rights reserved.

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## East Lansing Marriott

**CONTACT:** Diane Ferrich  
517.337.4440  
300 M.A.C. Avenue, East Lansing, MI 48823  
[www.marriott.com/lanlea](http://www.marriott.com/lanlea)  
[dferrich@marriottsales.com](mailto:dferrich@marriottsales.com)

## Spartan Signature Catering

**CONTACT:** Pamela Ehlert  
Wedding Specialist/Conference Services Manager  
Spartan Hospitality Sales and Conference Services  
Division of Residential and Hospitality Services  
219 South Harrison Road  
East Lansing, MI 48824  
(517) 884-8124  
(517) 432-1014 (fax)  
[ehlertp@msu.edu](mailto:ehlertp@msu.edu)  
[spartansignaturecatering.com](http://spartansignaturecatering.com)

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Weddings at Michigan State University are seamless, elegant and memorable at our hotel and conference center. Our onsite weddings services team will ensure every last detail of your occasion is executed to perfection.

**GENERAL PRICING:** Seating capacity: Seating for up to 800 guests.

**ROOM RENTAL:** Please call for pricing, we have multiple event spaces available. Room deposit: \$1,000

**VALET PARKING:** No **On-site Ceremonies:** Yes

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The Bra Lady  
Millie Heinz

The Bra Lady  
517.449.4771  
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Vivee's Floral Garden  
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viveesfloralgardenandcafe.com

WilliamstonWeddings.com



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photo courtesy of Whipped Bakery



*Cakes and Catering*

# Hiring A Caterer For Your Wedding!

From Area Expert Beth Morton of Morton's Fine Catering

## 1 BUDGET

Before you start shopping, discuss a budget with your fiancé and/or family. This will help you narrow down which companies will be a good fit, and may even show you that the budget is not realistic! In catering like anything else, you mostly get what you pay for. Share your budget with your prospective caterer, they will probably have tips to help you save money.

## 2 FULL SERVICE OR A LA CARTE

Ask your caterer what is included, and what may be available as an add-on in the catering price. Does china and flatware come with the package? Table linens? Wait staff? Beverages? You may find that a caterer with a low per person price gets more expensive when all of the extras are tagged on. Do they own all of the catering supplies, or sub-rent? Who's responsible for hauling, cleaning, and loading these items? A full service caterer will provide and coordinate everything you need, making your to-do list a lot shorter!

## 3 GET REFERRALS

Ask around to family, friends, co-workers, even other wedding vendors in your area who they would suggest as a caterer. Word of mouth is the best type of referral in this business, people are always happy to share their experiences, (good or bad!) from a party they recently attended.

## 4 HIRE A PROFESSIONAL CO.

You will never regret this decision! It's worth paying for the peace of mind that your wedding day will be special, fun, and prob-

lem free by knowing the details are all taken care of. You, your family and friends should be concerned with having a good time and helping you celebrate! Not about filling a buffet or washing dishes.

## 5 MENU OPTIONS

Tell your prospective caterer about your ideas for food and style of the reception. Ask them if they can accommodate special requests. Sharing your vision will help your caterer help you! From choosing appropriate menu items or creating something unique, to staying within your budget. You may also ask about who they use as food purveyors, if the vegetables will be fresh or frozen, or even worse, canned! What about sauces? Are they housemade or coming from a package?

## 6 STAFF AVAILABILITY

Ask about the staff available for your event. Experienced waitstaff, bartenders, and kitchen help can make all the difference at your reception. Guests notice the way the staff behave and interact with party-goers. Do the staff work for the caterer, or are they from a temp agency. How are they paid, and how long will they be at the reception? How many staff will work the event, and how will they be dressed? Stay away from caterers who tell you that you don't need servers/bussers, or that leave you right after dinner!

## 7 MENU TASTING

Request a menu tasting. The tasting appointment is one that wedding couples al-

ways look forward to! While the tasting may not be the first step in choosing your caterer, when the time comes it will give you a good sense of the quality and presentation of the food and help you narrow the menu choices. This is a good time to ask about what the china will look like and what linen colors are available.

## 8 LICENSED

Is your caterer licensed in your state or county? Do they carry liability insurance, and worker's comp insurance for the employees? Be wary of anyone who cooks in their home, or offers to cook on-site. Most people are not aware that a special permit from the health department is required to grill or cook at a home or park. If worker's comp insurance is not in place, you as the host could be held responsible if someone gets injured during the event.

## 9 CONFIRM YOUR DATE

What is required to confirm the date, and what will the planning timeline be like? A signed contract and deposit is typical to hold the date for you. Booking 6-12 months in advance is recommended as popular caterers will be booked months ahead of the wedding date! Ask your caterer when they need to know the final menu, guest counts, payment schedule etc.

## 10 EXPERIENCED

In the end, go with someone you feel is experienced, competent, and passionate about weddings!

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**CONTACT:** Randy Umfleet  
517.483.2653  
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## Finley's Grill & Smokehouse

7433 West Saginaw, Lansing, MI  
517-323-4309  
6300 South Cedar, Lansing, MI  
517-882-7530  
[www.FinleysAmericanGrill.com/catering-information](http://www.FinleysAmericanGrill.com/catering-information)

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Rehearsals, Receptions, Wedding Showers, Perfect Any Time, Fits the right budget, Fun & unforgettable!

# Planning Your Wedding!

From Area Expert Nicole Dungey of Weddings By Nicole, Inc.

Your Wedding Day is likely, the most important day in your new lives, together. It is a reflection of the two of you, therefore, consider your options... explore your preferences, your taste and priorities. Take a deep breath, it's a journey. Enjoy it!

## 1 KEEP ORGANIZED

Create a planning folder, where you can keep all information, concerning the Big Day...in a single place. Some of the items here will be the budget, time line, priorities, contracts & receipts, photos, dates and/or calendar to stay on track or to delegate tasks to others.

## 2 HIRE A WEDDING PLANNER

They can save you a lot of time, money and frustration...this after all, is supposed to be a happy & memorable time .

## 3 FORMALITY AND BUDGET

Establish formality and budget. Once these two items are clear, you can then, move forward in the Planning process. You will need to first decide on formality~ Casual, semi-formal or black tie? Keeping in mind, that more than 80% of local Mid-Michigan Weddings are semi-formal. Budgets need to be established early, so that you know what direction to move in, pertaining to all facets of your special day.

## 4 LOCAL BRIDAL SHOWS

This is a *GREAT* place to meet prospective vendors, who will be servicing your special day! Bridal shows will have several vendors from each area, such as Wedding planners, decorators, caterers, cake providers, apparel, transportation, musicians, entertainment, favors, floral, rentals & more! This is where you can research, ask questions... in the same location, in a single afternoon!

\*Many Bridal shows also offer free drawings, where you can register to win (for example)- a free cake upgrade, free tuxedo, free brides maid accessory, free massage, free engagement photography session and even a FREE Wedding!! (reference: [www.wonderfulweddinggiveaway.com](http://www.wonderfulweddinggiveaway.com))

## 5 WEDDING VENUES

Research local Wedding venues early, to secure your preferred space, and avoid disappointment. In Michigan, August is the busiest month of the entire year...it is this month that Brides & Groom's sometimes need to book at least a year in advance. You will be expected to place a deposit, to secure your Wedding venue, be prepared.

## 6 FOOD AND BEVERAGE

If the venue you have selected, offers outside catering service to come in...you will then want to start researching and interviewing recommended caterers in your local area. You should always choose a caterer who is close, rather than risking unnecessary travel, unexpected delays, inclement weather, etc. - the Mid-Michigan area has several talented caterers, who are sure to have exactly what you are looking for! If not, do not be shy about making special requests! Consider your culture, family recipes, favorite dish, etc. when interviewing for both food & beverage. Caterers, just as any other event professional, should be licensed and insured.

## 7 DECORATORS AND FLORISTS

Research local design shops, decorators and/or florists, to determine both your Ceremony & Reception floral & décor. Your local experts can and will be instrumental in assisting you, in putting everything together, for an aesthetically pleasing finish.

## 8 INVITATIONS

Select invitations and other social stationery needs. This is an important part of your special day...it actually sets the tone for what your guests have been invited to, what they can expect and will look forward to attending. Do not order invitations online, if you cannot see it, feel it, touch it - it will be pretty hard to determine what you will receive in the end and it may be too late to return goods, upon receipt.

## 9 HAIR AND MAKE-UP

You want to look your best for the most important day in your life, right?! If you do not already have a favorite salon, our community has several to choose from. Be sure that the salon you choose, is familiar with Wedding day hair and make-up. Do they have a dedicated team, who will travel to your local hotel or venue to assist you OR will they only agree to work in their salon? These questions will need to be asked...prior to making final decisions in making you look your *BEST!*

## 10 LOCAL BUSINESS

Keep business local...we are so fortunate, in the capitol city of Lansing and Great State of Michigan~ to have so many talented vendors to choose from! By keeping your vendors local, you will not have to worry about vendors traveling in from out of town, getting caught in traffic, facing inclement weather or several other unforeseen things that could arise and you will also help out your local community, by keeping monies right here in the greater Lansing area!

Best Wishes Always!

*Nicole*

*Floral & Decor, Wedding Planning,  
Orchestration & Coordination*



*flowers by David Mansfield of Weddings By Nicole*



*WBN*  
Weddings By Nicole



## Weddings By Nicole, Inc.

Office: (517) 886-0601  
Event Cell: (517) 242-4115  
610 Elmwood Drive Lansing, Mi. 48917  
Website: [www.weddingsbynicole.com](http://www.weddingsbynicole.com)  
Email: [Nicole@weddingsbynicole.com](mailto:Nicole@weddingsbynicole.com)



**DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES:** Mid-Michigan's First Choice to *Transform* Your Next Event!

Weddings by Nicole, Inc. is one of the very few "Full service" Event providers in the State! For the past 18+ Years, WBN Lansing has been servicing Weddings & Special Events in Mid-Michigan and beyond! We carry the largest inventory of Specialty linens, chair covers, chiavari chairs, backdrops, uplighting, Invitations, centerpieces, floral & More! Call us today to start planning your next Event!

**GENERAL PRICING:** Our event service pricing is available at your personal consultation; please call our offices.

*New Design Warehouse located at 610 Elmwood Drive Lansing, Mi. 48917*



*EW*

## Event Works, Inc.

Corporate and Social division of Weddings by Nicole, Inc.

Office: (517) 886-0601  
Event Cell: (517) 242-4115  
610 Elmwood Drive Lansing, Mi. 48917  
Website: [www.eventworks.com](http://www.eventworks.com)  
Email: [Nicole@weddingsbynicole.com](mailto:Nicole@weddingsbynicole.com)



**DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES:** We specialize in Corporate functions from 100-2,000! We also handle several High School Proms each year, in addition to retirement parties, birthday parties, Grand Opening Business celebrations, Award banquets, Bar/Bat Mitzvah's, etc. Largest inventory in Mid-Michigan for Specialty linens, chair covers, chiavari chairs (6 colors!), Fresh & Silk floral design, centerpieces, backdrops, uplighting, Event props, red carpets, invitations & more!

Call today to set up your consultation! We look forward to transforming YOUR Next Event!

**GENERAL PRICING:** Our event service pricing is available at your personal consultation; please call our offices.

*New Design Warehouse located at 610 Elmwood Drive Lansing, Mi. 48917*

## In Memorium



**Charlie Smith**

JULY 16, 1944 - AUGUST 20, 2015

Smith Floral and Greenhouses owner, Charlie Smith, passed away unexpectedly at work on August 20, 2015. Charlie was the third generation Smith to own and operate the well-known Lansing retail flower shop and greenhouses that have served the greater Lansing area enthusiastically and loyally since 1903. To say that Charlie was a GREAT representative of the floral industry in Michigan would be an understatement. He served actively in FTD, Teleflora and Michigan Floral Association endeavors. His knowledge of and enthusiasm for the floral industry was his life. But perhaps his greatest contribution to the industry was his wry and sometimes goofy sense of humor that certainly left people thinking about flowers.

His family has shared that almost every time they ate out at local restaurants in our community, Charlie would ask the server who their favorite florist was. This most often created a silence of at least several seconds...and fortunately for him... the response was usually Smith Floral or "I don't have one"...in which case he would regale them with the history and family oriented operation that he spearheaded.

But this was the "professional", and sometimes "tongue in cheek", side of this PURE Lansing man. The other Charlie, was one who was very giving of his personal time and energy. He was active in many Lansing area service clubs over the years. He contributed financially and with in-kind goods and resources to local charities and organizations to support their causes, and frequently did something personal for a neighbor, or just someone he knew needed help, because it made him happy. This was the side that few, except those on the receiving end, saw. Charlie was a man who loved people, no matter where he encountered them. He found them interesting, worth getting to know and remembered things about them and their families for years. People were definitely worth his time and energy. He gave often to our community, its members and to young people who he saw as the future of his industry and our nation. Charlie was a gentle man, a successful retailer and a man whose presence is truly missed.



### Candles Artistry

**CONTACT:** Rita Coleman  
517-574-8330  
Serving Mid-Michigan  
candles.artistry@gmail.com  
www.candlesartistry.com

**HIGHLIGHTS:** *Stylish, Simplistic, Artistic Design*

We provide custom events full of ideas and inspirations that uniquely set us apart. Whether it be grandiose or simply chic, your mind will be captivated with creative suspense wondering what you'll see next! At Candles Artistry, we take the privilege in designing spaces with the most luxurious items imaginable to meet our clients specific needs and style. The endorsement of our clientele means everything to us; when you're satisfied...so are we. Building great relationships with our clients is not only what we do, it's who we are!

*Photographers & Videographers*



# Hiring A Photographer For Your Wedding!

From Area Expert John Vial of John Douglas Photography

Planning a wedding can be a time consuming and stressful, but it doesn't have to be! Here are 10 steps that can make the process of selecting a wedding photographer less stressful.

## 1 PLAN EARLY

The best time to begin the selection of a photographer is after your wedding ceremony and reception venues have been confirmed. The months of April through October are the most popular months for weddings. Photographers will frequently book these months a year or more in advance.

## 2 BE AN INFORMED BUYER

Your wedding photographs will be the most lasting and most tangible remembrances of your wedding day. Know in advance what your wedding photography budget is, how much time you would like your photographer to spend at your wedding, and the deliverable products you want from your photographer. Having this information identified will help your photographer prepare an estimate which addresses your specific needs.

## 3 FIND PHOTOS YOU LOVE

It is important that your photographer is aware of the type of photos which appeal to you. Find photos that you love, and pin them on your Pinterest board. Do Google searches and save the links for photos that you love.

## 4 PHOTOGRAPHER'S STYLE

Find photographers who can consistently provide you with the type of photos that you

really love. After Step 3, and after to visiting wedding photography websites, you should have an idea if a photographers "style" is what you are looking for. Without looking at price, rate the photographers in order. A list of 10 to 20 photographers will be sufficient.

## 5 REQUEST DETAILED QUOTE

Communicate effectively in your sending your requests for quotation. Your photographer will appreciate knowing exactly what you want so that an accurate price quotation can be provided to you. The following information should be included in any request for quotation that you send:

- The wedding date and the wedding and reception venues (obviously)
- Number of people in the wedding party and expected guests at the reception.
- The amount of photographic coverage you are seeking. Photographic coverage includes the amount of time, and the number of photographers you would like covering your event.
- Your tentative budget.
- The specific products you want. It is standard practice for photographers to provide digital copies and copyright release of your photos. Give careful consideration to the purchase of prints, a print book, or wedding album.
- Phone number and e-mail address.

Providing the information above will assist your wedding photographer in preparing an accurate bid. Also, let your photographer know that you received their bid, and when you intend to make a decision. It's also appreciated when you inform all of photogra-

phers submitting bids if they were not the selected photographer. This should prevent follow up e-mails.

## 6 DETERMINE TOP CHOICES

Select your top choices, based on budget and availability. You may need to make some compromises if your top choice for a photographer is outside of your budget. Even if your first choice is outside of your budget, it may be worthwhile to re-contact your top choices. Many photographers will do their best to work within your budget.

## 7 MEET WITH PHOTOGRAPHER

Arrange a face to face meeting with your top choices. Most photographers will be happy to meet with you in person to learn more about you and your wedding, answer any questions you might have about wedding photography in general, and to share additional samples of their work with you. After the face to face meeting, you will have a better idea of whether you "click" together.

## 8 DISCUSS THE DETAILS

Know the who, what, when, where, and how.

## 9 REVIEW THE CONTRACT

The wedding contract/agreement should be very specific on the schedule, the responsibilities of the photographer, the products delivered, the rights of the client and the rights of the photographer.

## 10 BOOK YOUR PHOTOGRAPHER

After the signing the contract/agreement, and providing a retainer, your date is confirmed.



John Douglas Photography is providing a 2016/2017 complimentary wedding photography package, along with the opportunity to be featured on the cover of a bridal magazine cover.

For more details on this unique offer, please visit our website  
[www.johndouglasphoto.com](http://www.johndouglasphoto.com)

517.243.5900

The logo for John Douglas Photography features the name "john douglas" in a light blue, cursive script font, with "Photography" in a smaller, black, sans-serif font underneath. To the left of the text is a square icon with rounded corners, containing a stylized white swirl or 'C' shape.

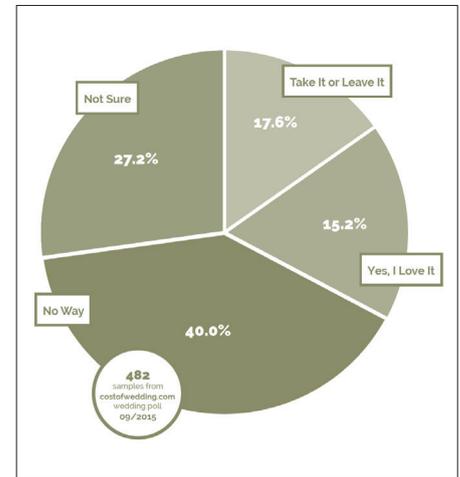
## Drones Photography

### DRONE CAPTURED VIDEO OR PICTURES

What's that buzzing sound? It's the drone suspended over the heads of the wedding guests, capturing a high vantage point of the wedding ceremony. I was especially interested in seeing the results for this question, given how popular drone photography is for those sweeping vista shots that turn a wedding video into a wedding movie. I've also seen some drones distract from ceremonies, and some drones grounded due to test run glitches and windy days. It's a fascinating development in wedding videography, one that couples are very interested in.

Ah, but 40% of our survey-takers say No Way to the drone, with their biggest reason being that the mini copters distract from the ceremony (and may make some guests anxious.) The ceremony, after all, is the reason for the big day, and the words and rituals within it are of supreme importance. Nothing should take away from that. If a crying baby must be removed from the scene (at least, one would hope!) then how can it be okay for a noisy copter to drown out every word of the ceremony? 15% don't need the Hollywood vista shots in their wedding video, and an interesting result here is that annoyance of something hovering overhead is a greater factor than the cost. What do you think?

source - [costofwedding.com](http://costofwedding.com) wedding poll09/2015



## BRIDGE STREET *Wedding Chapel*

### Bridge Street Wedding Chapel

Contact: Chris or Mary Holmes  
517-627-4761  
517-282-4042  
200 N. Bridge Street, Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
[www.BridgeStreetWeddingChapel.com](http://www.BridgeStreetWeddingChapel.com)  
[WeddChapel@aol.com](mailto:WeddChapel@aol.com)

#### HIGHLIGHTS: "Classic, Elegant and Charming"

The Bridge Street Wedding Chapel features a 3-room bridal suite, groom's lounge and all the amenities you would expect in a new facility combined with the charm of a turn-of-the-century church with stunning stained glass windows, original woodwork and organ pipes. We host weddings ranging from just a few guests up to 200 and we are handicapped accessible. A venue you must see to fully appreciate and family owned so you can expect exceptional customer service and support to help make your wedding day stress-free and enjoyable. Contact us for a personal tour and to see how we can make your wedding day truly special.

## Your Wedding Day!

Want the BEST day in your life to be featured in a Wedding magazine? Capitol City REAL Weddings, Lansing Michigan.

To submit a real wedding, email us at [info@LansingBride.com](mailto:info@LansingBride.com) or write to us at:

### REAL WEDDINGS

Lansing Bride Magazine  
610 Elmwood Road  
Lansing, Mi. 48917

Please include the following information with your submission:

*Your Names, contact information and Wedding Date, Your Ceremony and reception location.*

20-25 images in a Dropbox or zipped file that include detailed shots of your ceremony, reception, cake, centerpieces, invitations, place cards, flowers,



bridal party, gown, and accessories — no attachments, please! \*Tip: Send "detail" shots...send "WOW!" shots...unique venues, cakes, gowns, breathtaking views, etc.

Personal story about how you and your spouse met, how your wedding was a reflection of you as a couple, how you planned your wedding and how you found your gown, etc. ~ Don't forget you are telling your story, and the best way to do this, is in the photographs that coincide with your details!

Photographer's contact information: Business name, website and contact info.

Any and all submitted materials will not be returned. We will contact you if we are interested in possibly featuring your wedding. Please note that we require exclusivity and are unable to feature weddings that have already been published in other magazines, websites, or blogs.

*Thank you and Congratulations!*



## Holmes Photography Studio, LLC

**CONTACT:** Chris Holmes  
517-627-4761  
517-282-4042  
200 N. Bridge Street, Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
[www.HolmesPhotography.biz](http://www.HolmesPhotography.biz)  
[www.PortraitPhotographerGrandLedge.com](http://www.PortraitPhotographerGrandLedge.com)  
[ChrisHolmesPhoto@gmail.com](mailto:ChrisHolmesPhoto@gmail.com)

**HIGHLIGHTS:** "Our goal is to create artistic wedding photography that is as unique as the two of you."

We combine the best of wedding photojournalism, capturing candid moments as they occur, with a classic-contemporary-artistic style. Today's couples are more aware than ever before of what they want in their photography coverage. That's why we take the time to listen to you and discuss what you want and then adapt our style to fit your needs.

**PACKAGES:** We have packages ranging from 1 to 8 hours that will fit anyone's budget. Our most popular package features a full engagement session, 2 photographers for 8 hours of coverage on your wedding day, your retouched images in high resolution with shared copyright release as well as a free portrait session each year and more. Contact us directly for package details and pricing.

## Studio M Portraits

**CONTACTS:** Marvin Hall or Mary Gajda  
517.709.3757  
2006 Cedar Street Suite 2  
Holt, Mi 48842  
info@studiomportraits.com  
www.studiomportraits.com

**HIGHLIGHTS:** At Studio M, we know how special your wedding day is. You've found the perfect dress, a gorgeous venue, beautiful decor and flowers. When the day finally arrives, it all goes so fast! We're here for you to capture every detail of your special day. From getting ready, to your walk down the aisle, and your first dance as husband and wife. Let our two photographers help tell your love story in pictures.



**DAN JOHNSON**  
P H O T O G R A P H Y

Web: [www.djcustomphoto.com](http://www.djcustomphoto.com)  
E-mail: [info@djcustomphoto.com](mailto:info@djcustomphoto.com)  
Ph: 616.261.2949



Photobooth

Photography

Videography



Simple,  
Clean,  
Fun &  
Real



## Dan Johnson Photography

**CONTACT:** Dan Johnson  
616-261-2949, [info@djcustomphoto.com](mailto:info@djcustomphoto.com)  
[www.djcustomphoto.com](http://www.djcustomphoto.com)

## Modern Photographics

616-897-5606, [info@modernphotographics.com](mailto:info@modernphotographics.com)  
[www.modernphotographics.com](http://www.modernphotographics.com)

**HIGHLIGHTS:** We are proud to offer Stunning photography that you will treasure and enjoy for a lifetime, videography that you will laugh and cry with for years to come as you relive the best moments of your wedding day, and photo booths that will fill your reception with fun and laughter and give you and your guests a fun photo reminder of your wedding day. We have been proudly serving brides since 1993. We would love to be part of your wedding day.

**PRICING:** Please visit our website for current pricing. Sessions are by Appointment only. Please call for an appointment or conveniently schedule on our websites.

**OFFER:** Mention this ad to receive \$50 off.



MICHIGAN  
CREATIVE  
*Weddings*



VIDEO | MEMORIES  
[michigancreativeweddings.com](http://michigancreativeweddings.com)

### Michigan Creative Weddings

**CONTACT:** Brian Town or Melissa Meschke  
517.489.4970  
934 Clark Street Lansing, Michigan 48906  
Brian@MichiganCreative.com  
[michigancreativeweddings.com](http://michigancreativeweddings.com)

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Overall, wedding videography is about making the couple happy and showing them what they want to see but, more importantly, it's about giving them a video with some of the moments they may have missed throughout the day; something they can watch again and again to keep remembering what made their wedding day so special. Getting married soon? Check out Michigan Creative! Weddings at [www.michigancreativeweddings.com](http://www.michigancreativeweddings.com) - we would love to be a part of your big day!

**PRICING:** Price varies based on selection of services.



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**Local In-Stock  
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Okemos, MI 48864 • (517) 349-6555

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Lansing, MI 48917 • (517) 321-2354

619 N. Marketplace Blvd  
Lansing, MI 48917 • (517) 627-1949

WWW.BARYAMES.COM  
Find us Online at [Baryames.com](http://Baryames.com)  
Like us On 

## Plan Your Wedding and Save

- 1 REDUCE YOUR GUEST LIST**  
Having less people, means less tables/chairs/linens/food/beverage/etc.)
- 2 OFF SEASON WEDDING**  
Plan an off-season Wedding, November thru March in Michigan.
- 3 TIMELINE**  
Establish a Timeline to stay on task. (Time is a huge money waster)
- 4 PLAN AHEAD**  
Don't get overwhelmed, procrastination leads to failure.
- 5 GO GREEN!**  
Select an alternative to formal invitation announcements.
- 6 IN-SEASON FLORAL**  
Select floral in-season  
Avoid 2 weeks before Valentine's Day and Sweetest Day! (Floral prices are 3 x's as much, around these two dates!)
- 7 SKIP SATURDAY**  
Skip the Saturday Wedding. By choosing a Friday or Sunday, you will reduce the overall budget, by about 25% in most cases!
- 8 SELECTIVE COCKTAILS**  
Offer beer, wine and signature cocktail, instead of a full bar.
- 9 PHOTOGRAHER**  
Select a professional photographer, who will offer full copywrite release. This way you can print your own favorite shots, in the years to come!
- 10 WEDDING PLANNER**  
Hire a Wedding planner. Their expertise, can save you time, energy, frustration and a lot of \$\$!

For more information, please visit [www.lansingbride.com](http://www.lansingbride.com)

## H & H Jewelry Design

**CONTACT:** Carrie Smith  
517.627.9900  
8741 Saginaw Hwy. Suite J  
Lansing, MI 48917  
info@hhjewelrydesign.com

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Our store has an amazing collection of engagement and wedding rings to choose from! But, if you don't find just the right one to say "I want to spend forever with you" don't worry, we can create a one of a kind engagement ring just for her. Don't just ask her to marry you, show her that you want to be married forever.

**How to Buy the Perfect Ring:** Ladies can come in and play "dress up" on their own and add jewelry to their wish list. That way it's easy to know exactly what she wants, but still make it a surprise. We are also experts at helping men pick out rings. Stop in and we'll find the perfect fit for you and your special day.



## Traci Lynn Fashion Jewelry

**CONTACT:** Fonda Brewer-Williams  
517.410.2998  
932 Elmwood Road, Lansing, MI 48917  
www.tracilynnjewelry.net/fonda

**HIGHLIGHTS:** The Traci Lynn Collection combines the quality, the style and the electricity that has a memorable experience. Every piece has a significant story. The unique jewelry names add refinement and delicacy of workmanship to each piece making them unforgettable. Our distinctive jewelry is made of the finest quality materials such as cubic zirconia, rhodium plating, and Austrian crystals. The Traci Lynn Fashion Jewelry Collection is delivered through consultants to customers via home or office shows, personal shopping and catalog or online orders. Traci Lynn Fashion Jewelry is for you! People represent our brand because they love our style™!!!



## Weave & Lash Bar

**CONTACT:** Fonda Brewer-Williams, owner  
517.410.2998  
932 Elmwood Road, Lansing, MI 48917  
www.weaveandlashbar.com  
fonda@weaveandlashbar.com

**HIGHLIGHTS:** This new "beauty bar" opens in the Fall of 2015, in Delta Township's Elmwood Plaza. We specialize in hair extensions, sew-in, glue, latch hooking, clip in's and other state of the art installation methods. We will also provide temporary eyelashes, both lash strips and individuals, and have make-up artists on hand to complete your beauty bar experience. And ladies, we also provide hair loss replacement solution services.

**GENERAL PRICING:** Weave installation beginning at \$50!



## SIX TO TWELVE MONTHS IN ADVANCE

- set your date
- set your budget
- compile your guest list, gather addresses
- select your attendants
- reserve your ceremony & reception sites
- order your dress, veil, shoes & accessories
- book your officiant
- book your caterer
- book florist
- go cake tasting - and order your cake!
- book photographer & videographer
- book entertainment for ceremony & reception
- send your save-the-dates

## FOUR TO SIX MONTHS IN ADVANCE

- reserve rental equipment
- arrange transportation for wedding day
- order invitations & thank you notes
- register for gifts
- purchase wedding rings
- purchase or reserve groom's attire
- select attendants' attire
- select favors, if necessary
- reserve room for wedding night
- reserve hotel rooms for out-of-town guests
- select gifts for wedding party
- sign up for dance lessons
- write thank you notes as gifts arrive
- plan & book honeymoon; obtain passports for all international travel
- book hair, makeup and all other beauty appointments

## TWO TO FOUR MONTHS IN ADVANCE

- write your wedding vows, if you choose
- discuss details of service with officiant
- discuss details of the menu with caterer
- work with ice sculptor on design and place order for ice sculpture
- select readings for ceremony
- schedule rehearsal time
- book rehearsal dinner location
- collect images of favorite hair & makeup looks for your stylists
- schedule consultation to begin teeth whitening or cosmetic enhancements

## ONE TO TWO MONTHS IN ADVANCE

- mail your invitations
- contact local newspapers about wedding announcements
- prepare name change documents, if necessary
- have programs printed
- buy guest book
- obtain marriage license
- notify post office of change of address, if necessary
- do your trial run for both hair & makeup

## TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE

- notify caterer of guest count
- begin seating plan
- write place cards
- have final dress fitting with accessories
- address announcements
- write toasts for rehearsal dinner and reception
- designate someone to look after your home during your honeymoon
- break in your wedding shoes outdoors
- get your hair cut & colored, get facial & body treatments
- remind fiancé to get hair cut!

## ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE

- finalize seating arrangements
- pick up dress!
- confirm details & guest count with caterer
- confirm honeymoon arrangements
- pack for wedding night
- pack for honeymoon
- schedule all hair removal services & massage for 3 days before wedding

## DAY BEFORE

- give announcements to attendant for mailing after the wedding
- confirm transportation arrangements for ceremony & reception
- get manicure & pedicure
- exfoliate your skin for smooth makeup application; wash hair for next day

## YOUR WEDDING DAY

- eat a decent breakfast!
- get hair styled & makeup applied; wear a button-down shirt!
- take it all in & enjoy yourselves!

**CEREMONY & RECEPTION**

ceremony location fee.....	\$ _____
officiant's fee.....	\$ _____
marriage license.....	\$ _____
reception site fee.....	\$ _____
cake.....	\$ _____
food.....	\$ _____
beverages.....	\$ _____
transportation.....	\$ _____
tips.....	\$ _____
<b>SUBTOTAL</b> .....	\$ _____

**FLOWERS & DECORATIONS**

ceremony flowers.....	\$ _____
bride's bouquet.....	\$ _____
bridesmaids' bouquets.....	\$ _____
flower girl accessories.....	\$ _____
corsages.....	\$ _____
boutonnieres.....	\$ _____
centerpieces & decorations.....	\$ _____
chair covers.....	\$ _____
<b>SUBTOTAL</b> .....	\$ _____

**ATTIRE & JEWELRY**

wedding gown.....	\$ _____
headpiece/veil.....	\$ _____
bride's shoes.....	\$ _____
lingerie.....	\$ _____
jewelry/accessories.....	\$ _____
groom's suit/tux.....	\$ _____
groom's shoes.....	\$ _____
groom's accessories.....	\$ _____
wedding rings.....	\$ _____
<b>SUBTOTAL</b> .....	\$ _____

**MUSIC**

ceremony music.....	\$ _____
reception music.....	\$ _____
<b>SUBTOTAL</b> .....	\$ _____

**PHOTOGRAPHY + VIDEO**

photographer's fee.....	\$ _____
engagement session.....	\$ _____
wedding albums.....	\$ _____
additional prints/canvases.....	\$ _____
videography.....	\$ _____
photo booth.....	\$ _____
<b>SUBTOTAL</b> .....	\$ _____

**STATIONERY**

save-the-dates.....	\$ _____
invitations & envelopes.....	\$ _____
programs.....	\$ _____
seating & place cards.....	\$ _____
thank you notes.....	\$ _____
postage.....	\$ _____
announcements.....	\$ _____
<b>SUBTOTAL</b> .....	\$ _____

**SALON/SPA**

trial run hair styling.....	\$ _____
day-of-wedding hair styling.....	\$ _____
hair removal.....	\$ _____
tanning or spray tan.....	\$ _____
make-up application.....	\$ _____
manicure/pedicure.....	\$ _____
<b>SUBTOTAL</b> .....	\$ _____

**GIFTS, FAVORS, ODDS & ENDS**

wedding party gifts.....	\$ _____
parents' gifts.....	\$ _____
favours.....	\$ _____
ring pillow.....	\$ _____
guest book.....	\$ _____
engraving.....	\$ _____
<b>SUBTOTAL</b> .....	\$ _____

<b>GRAND TOTAL</b> .....	\$ _____
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# Bridal World

Sunday • January 8<sup>th</sup> 2017 • Lansing Center

## The Premier Bridal Event of the Year!

Doors open from 11am to 4pm. Fashion show starts at 2pm.

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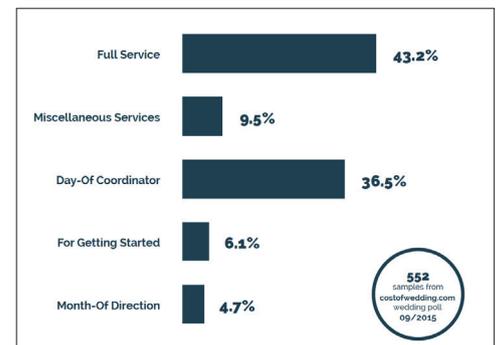
**GENERAL PRICING:** Starting at \$795, \$70 for additional hours. **HOURS INCLUDED:** Five **DEPOSIT:** \$100

## Wedding Planners

Wedding planners, I can hear you cheering from here. 43% of our survey respondents say they prefer Full Service from a wedding coordinator, over day-of and way over month-of planning services. Couples have heard enough horror stories now, and seen enough of their friends' weddings planned to perfection, to finally get it. Wedding planners are important. Very important. So they want the many advantages of working with one, fully and completely, from start to finish. Budgets are now stronger, and couples are more willing to invest in the services of a great wedding coordinator,

which is excellent news for wedding pros... and for the couple they'll serve.

What I see in that low, low figure for Month-Of wedding planning packages is that couples now understand the value of having a coordinator in on the planning at the start, for the big searches and hiring decisions. They see more value of the planner's expertise for the foundation of their wedding plans than for the flurry of to-do's at the end of the process. And if they hire Full Service, that flurry is taken care of anyway. I'm happiest to see this result, since we've all done our jobs well in combatting those message board 'experts' advising their peers to go it alone, or just hire a planner for short-



term as a budget-saving strategy. So it's a breath of relief that wedding planners' value is more fully understood and embraced. What do you think?

source - costofwedding.com wedding poll 09/2015

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**the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual**  
**Bridal Party**  
*Wedding Show*



**Sunday January 15<sup>th</sup> 2017**

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**11am - 4pm**



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