

Weddings

*Cyrus & Kylie
Devine*



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NEWLYWEDS CYRUS AND Kylie Devine take in the surrounding winter wonderland after saying 'I do' last month. The couple grew up in the Vergennes area and still reside here. They were married at The Barns at Edgemont Inn in Moriah, N.Y.

Photo by Dana Maharaj of Ethereal-Photography

The Devine wedding: An Addison County love story

By MARIN HOWELL

ADDISON COUNTY — It's easy for newlyweds Kylie and Cyrus Devine to

recall the night that brought them together. That chance encounter might have taken place nearly two decades ago, but

it's an introduction that changed their lives forever.

"Me and Kylie met at the (Vergennes) American Legion Post 14 at Tuesday night bingo with our grandmas when we were four or five," Cyrus recalled.

Kylie Comeau and Cyrus Devine spent most of the years since then together. Now 22 years old, they both grew up in the Vergennes area and began dating the summer before starting seventh grade at Vergennes Union Middle School.

After graduating high school, they decided to continue building their lives together in Addison County, where Cyrus proposed marriage at the end of 2022.

"I was not expecting it at all," Kylie said of the proposal. "I was graduating nursing school in May, and I thought for sure Cyrus was going to wait until I graduated ... On Christmas he told me that he had one more gift for me, and it was a ring."

The couple began planning their big day the following summer. They originally set their sights on a July 2024 wedding, but this past January decided to get married in the spring instead.

They landed on March 23, a wedding date with significance to the pair.

"My grandparents were also married on the 23rd, just in July," Kylie explained. "So, 23 is special."

THE PLANNING PROCESS

In addition to the date, the pair found several other ways to make their big day more meaningful with personal touches.

"Cyrus's aunt Heather has pretty much redone my entire dress," Kylie told the *Independent* ahead of the wedding. "That's been really special, to be able to basically create a dress thanks to his aunt's abilities."

Kylie's reception outfit also had a sentimental touch.

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KYLIE AND CYRUS Devine celebrate their engagement this past summer. The couple has spent most of their life together in Addison County and were married just across Lake Champlain on March 23.

Photos by Dana Maharaj of Ethereal-Photography

Devines

(Continued from Page 2)

“I’ll be wearing my mom’s dress as a party dress later in the evening,” she said.

Other signature parts of the wedding day included a multipurpose guest book.

“Our guest book is actually cornhole boards that are signed for us,” Kylie said. “I think it’s going to be so cool to have those for the rest of our lives.”

The couple said there were a few wedding day non-negotiables that helped guide the planning process, such as their photographer.

The pair chose Dana Maharaj of Ethereal-Photography to capture their wedding.

“The photographer was already decided before we even knew we were getting married,” Cyrus said.

Other details fell into place over time.

The couple chose The Barns at Edgemont Inn in Moriah, N.Y., as their venue. They said the location was both affordable and accommodating.

“We heard amazing things about it, and they’ve been incredible in working with us on such short notice and helping with everything,” Kylie said.

Though the wedding took place on the other side of Lake Champlain, the couple still leaned on several Addison County vendors.

Pratt’s Store in Bridport catered the reception; Vergennes DJ Amanda Rock provided music; and the bridal party had their hair and makeup done by the team at Shear Cuts in Vergennes, which is run by

Cyrus’s mother, Hillary.

The couple also worked with Pantone travel agent Martha DeGraaf of Dream Vacations to plan their honeymoon trip to Jamaica.

“She’s amazing. She basically did it all for us,” Kylie said.

The pair said working with local vendors was one of the highlights of planning their wedding.

“The wedding vendors of Addison County were so accommodating,” Cyrus
(See Couple, Page 4)

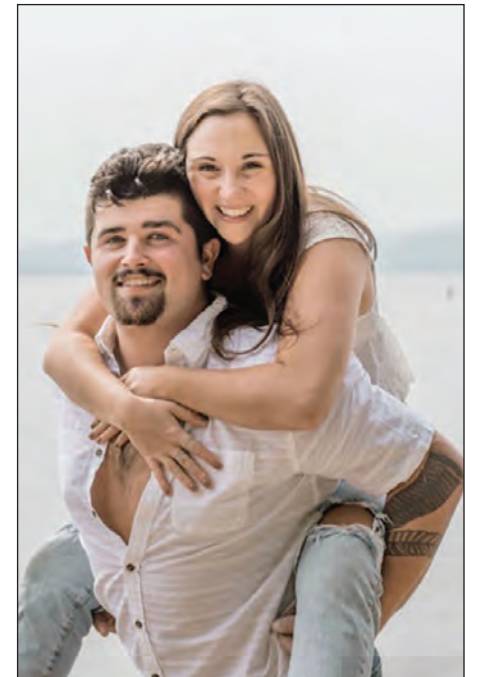


photo by Andrea Warren



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Couple

(Continued from Page 3)

said. The couple acknowledged some parts of the planning process were more challenging, such as settling on a bridal party and guest list and finalizing last-minute details.

“It’s hard to keep your eye on the prize the last week (leading up to the wedding) because there’s so much to do,” Cyrus said. “It’s easy to let the stress get in the way of what will be the best day of your life, but it’s the most stressful week of your life leading up to it.”

TIPS FOR COUPLES

To avoid some stress, the couple recommends that prospective brides and grooms spread out the planning process.

“You don’t want to end up making all of your phone calls or all of your decisions in one day,” Kylie said. “I’d say one week, call and find a caterer, and the next week find and call your photographer. Break it down that way so you don’t feel bombarded by phone calls and questions.”

Planning a wedding can take a village, and the pair credits their friends and

family in helping them prepare for the big day.

They recommended couples lean on loved ones for help during the wedding day as well.

“Know the people you can trust to help with your day and ask them ahead of time if they would be OK being available on the day for ‘emergency situations,’” the pair said. “We had a few people who did this for us and were so incredible at wrapping up the final details that we couldn’t get to, or forgot about.”

Reflecting on their wedding day, the couple shared a few other pieces of advice.

“Make time for eating and for seeing your family,” they said. “We struggled with this, and it is the one and only thing we would have changed.”

The newlyweds also urged those getting married to focus on the big picture.

“Remember that none of the little things matter. Some things will be forgotten and guests will never know,” they said. “Remember that your day is just about the two of you and that not every detail has to be perfect.”



“It’s easy to let the stress get in the way of what will be the best day of your life, but it’s the most stressful week of your life leading up to it.”

— Cyrus Devine

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Be a wedding officiant in Vermont

Though it's been a while since the poll was conducted, in 2017 the data-tracking firm Wedding Report surveyed couples who had recently tied the knot, and one of the questions participants answered concerned who officiated their weddings. Roughly 25% of couples indicated a friend or family member had served as their wedding officiant, and that figure pales in comparison to older studies, one of which determined the number was around 40%.

But anyone who has attended more than one wedding in recent years has likely noticed that it's no longer unique to see laypersons officiate a wedding instead of more traditional officiants, which historically has meant clergy or other individuals with some formal affiliation with a house of worship.

In many places it's easy and open to anyone to become a licensed officiant. Couples who want a friend or family member to officiate their wedding are urged to make that request well in advance of their wedding, which can assure the person has ample time to complete the licensing process.

VERMONT OFFICIANTS

For Vermont weddings, people at least 18 years old can be authorized to perform a marriage in the Green Mountain State by applying to the secretary of state to serve as a temporary officiant. Or, if you are a member of the clergy, you can get a certificate from the probate division of the Superior Court.

Apply to the Vermont secretary of state for authorization to become a temporary officiant. The authorization will be limited to a specific civil marriage of a specific couple. Your authority will expire once the couple has received their marriage license.

To officiate a wedding, you must apply and pay a filing fee through the state's online system (tinyurl.com/OfficiantSoS) for each ceremony you wish to officiate.

Registering as a temporary officiant is just one part of the process of performing a wedding in Vermont. There are specific steps the couple and the officiant need to follow to ensure the ceremony is done accurately and the correct paperwork is obtained and filed with the right officials.

The Vermont Department of Health's Vital Records Department is responsible for marriage records. It has published the Getting Married in Vermont Information Sheet, which you can find online at tinyurl.com/HitchedInVt. We recommend reading that publication for answers to common questions. Additionally, the Vermont Department of Health and the relevant town/city clerk can provide guidance to make sure the process goes smoothly.

BECOMING A TEMPORARY OFFICIANT:

Prior to the ceremony:

Confirm the spelling of names and address(es) of parties **before** completing the registration form. Names and

addresses (physical addresses) of parties being married **MUST** be the same on the marriage license AND the temporary officiant registration. **Note:** The Secretary of State's Office can make corrections, but they can take up to two business days to complete.

Register & pay \$100 filing fee to become a temporary officiant **prior** to the wedding date. **Note:** You cannot backdate certificates of authorization.

Upon submitting the registration form, an e-mail will be sent to the address designated on the registration form containing two attachments: 1) a receipt for the transaction, & 2) a copy of the registration form and the certificate of authorization.

Use the Civil Marriage Checklist as a guide for the rest of the process. It is online at tinyurl.com/VTmarriageChecklist.

After the ceremony:

After performing the ceremony the Temporary Officiant needs to sign the marriage license in black ink and return it, along with the marriage license & printed certificate of authorization, to the issuing town/city clerk.

Steps for the couple getting married:

Prior to the ceremony:

The couple getting married must get their marriage license from a Vermont town/city clerk before the ceremony.

Additional Information:

Contact us: sos.temporaryofficiants@vermont.gov, (802) 828-2363.

Wedding party responsibilities

Participating in a wedding party is an honor. Couples invite many people to their weddings, and the select few asked to be in the party are typically those individuals with whom the couples shares a strong and special bond.

The role of the wedding party is not merely symbolic. Though it's up to the happy couple to determine how involved they want their wedding party to be, individuals asked to be in the party should know that their acceptance of these roles carries with it a certain level of responsibility.

MAID OF HONOR

The maid of honor may bear the most responsibility of any wedding party member. Maids of honor typically help with the planning of the wedding, offering advice and opinions on everything from the bride's gown to the bridesmaid dresses and anything else a couple might need help with. If the bride asks, the maid of honor may be asked to organize dress fittings and attend them as well. But is up to the bride how much advice she wants, so listen before you offer too much input.

A maid of honor typically plays an active, and often the lead, role in planning the bachelorette party. Come the day of the wedding, the maid of honor helps the bride prepare and may organize the bridesmaids to ensure everyone stays on

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Planning your vows for the wedding

The exchange of wedding vows is a key component of a wedding ceremony and sometimes helps to ensure the marriage is binding in accordance with the faith of the participants. Or, the couple may exchange vows just to show each other and their family and friends the commitment they are making to each other.

Couples have options pertaining to the vows they share. In religious ceremonies, vows may be predetermined as part of the requirements and rituals of that faith and religious texts. Individuals also may choose to read romantic verses from poetry. Another option is to write one's own vows.

When drafting vows, here are some guidelines to follow.

- Use a template. Scour the internet for resources on writing vows. You'll likely find sample vows or even templates where you can fill in information if you do not know where to begin.

- Use memories of when you met. Your

Seven traditional marriage promises:

These could be included in vows you write.

- To have and to hold from this day forward.
- For better, for worse.
- For richer, for poorer.
- In sickness and in health.
- Forsaking all others.
- To love and to cherish.
- Until death do us part.

vows can include special anecdotes or stories of time spent in the early days when you first knew this was the person with whom you would spend your life.

- Explain who this person is to you. Tell the audience what it is about this person that has you smitten. Is he or she your partner in crime? Confidante? Best friend? All of the above?

- Share what you are pledging. Write out exactly what you are vowing to your special someone. Be definitive and draw from your personal experiences. For example, "I vow to support you each time you adopt another shelter dog."

- "I promise to not hog the covers." "I vow to warm your toes on cold evenings."

Make it personal, heartfelt and humorous.

- Say you'll be there. At the heart of vows is a promise that you'll be around no matter what life throws at you.

- Keep things brief. There is no need to write a novel

for your vows, which may reassure you if you're nervous about the right wording and



Metro Creative photo

speaking in front of an audience. Outline the most important points you want to share and build on those sentiments.

- Reflect on the future. Wrap up your vows by noting your excitement about what the future may bring, whether that is a family, travel or another adventure.

Wedding vows are traditional components of most weddings. Couples easily can write their own vows to personalize the ceremony even further.

On the Reddit.com website, you will find lots of vows that others have written on the Wedding Planning subreddit. You can borrow liberally when writing your own.

Redditors have some thoughts on writing wedding vows. A Reddit user called "foodwineanddesign" suggests starting a "Wedding Vows" note in the Notes app on your phone, and then write down something for your vows whenever it comes to you. This person also said, "I brain/heart dumped into a word document in Comic Sans because it's weirdly proven to help with writers block."

A Redditor called "Anxious-Adventure"

said they keep their proposed wedding vows in an email draft, which allows them to look at, add to it when the feeling strikes them, revise from time to time, and then have it read to send to themselves or their partner when its "ready."

A Reddit user called "WaitForIttttt" offered these tips for writing vows:

- Make sure you agree ahead of time on length, tone, content, etc. You probably don't want to write 3 minutes of serious vows and have your partner have 20 seconds of lighthearted vows.

- It also helps to give them to someone you trust to compare to make sure they somewhat match one another (we gave ours to our best man).

- Put them down periodically and revisit them later. I easily spent a year and a half writing and revising mine. It was helpful to get a fresh perspective on them when it wasn't as fresh in my mind.

This couple intentionally made their vows pretty long — 9 minutes in of a 20-minute ceremony — because they really wanted them to be the whole focus of the ceremony.

By all means, once you have got your vows just the way you want them, then practice saying them *out loud*. You will find out what words or phrases you stumble on, and you will gain confidence, so that when it comes time to speak them aloud in front of all your favorite people — including your soulmate — they will come off perfectly.



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Weddings

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schedule. A maid of honor typically toasts the happy couple during the reception as well.

BEST MAN

Like the maid of honor, the best man has some extra responsibilities before the wedding and during the festivities. A best man may organize tux fittings, plan the bachelor party, help make arrangements if the groom requests help, and be asked to hold the rings on the day of the ceremony. A best man toast is common during the reception, and some grooms ask their best men to distribute tips to vendors at the end of the night.

BRIDESMAIDS

Bridesmaids often help the maid of honor plan the bachelorette party, and they also help to organize the bridal shower if the bride chooses to have one. Bridesmaids can offer input on wedding planning, particularly if they're already married, though that is not necessarily required and in some cases not welcome. Bridesmaids also can help relieve stress on the bride by being as agreeable as possible when scheduling dress fittings.

GROOMSMEN

Groomsmen help to plan the bachelor party and may be asked to provide some support prior to the ceremony. For example, on the day of the wedding, groomsmen may be asked to show guests, particularly elderly friends and family of the couple, to their seats. Like their bridesmaid counterparts, groomsmen can be especially helpful

by doing what's asked of them without resistance. Arriving on time to tuxedo fittings and offering insight when they think it might help are some simple ways groomsmen can pitch in.

FLOWER GIRL/RING BEARER

Often reserved for children, the roles of flower girls and ring bearers only require some simple participation during the ceremony. Flower girls may drop petals as they precede down the aisle ahead of the wedding party or just hold a bouquet in their cute little hands, while the ring bearer carries the ring down the aisle. If these roles will be filled by especially young children, couples may choose to have them walk down the aisle together.

PARENTS OF THE COUPLE

Parents of the bride and groom typically play supportive roles but may be asked to give speeches during the rehearsal dinner or the reception. The father of the bride typically walks her down the aisle, while the mother will likely spend the day of the ceremony at the bride's side as they get ready. Parents of the groom do not have any traditional responsibilities, though the groom and his mother customarily share a mother/son dance during the reception.

Couples need not feel compelled to assign bridal party members these duties if they don't feel comfortable doing so. However, sharing some of the responsibilities of wedding planning can help couples enjoy the process more and keep party members engaged.

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