



*2020  
Wedding  
Planner  
& Keepsake*

MORNING STAR PUBLICATIONS

# Atlantic Transportation Services can provide a classy ride to your special event

By Carol Kinsley

Looking for a classy ride to a wedding or other special event? Atlantic Transportation Services has been the premier chauffeured transportation provider on the Delmarva Peninsula since 2012. Service extends from New York and to Virginia as well as the entire tri-state region. A whole fleet is available for corporate travel, wedding services, airport shuttle, tours, proms, parties and more.

Your choice of wedding vehicles range from a 10-passenger white Chrysler 300 Stretch Limo that is one of a kind in this area, standard passenger shuttles for ferrying guests back and forth, a Mercedes Sprinter van with limo-style seating for 10, or limo bus selections for up to 26 passengers. The company also features smaller vehicles such as a Chrysler 300, a Cadillac XTS, or an exclusive

Chevy Suburban.

The Mercedes Sprinter vans are “walk-in, walk-out” for easy access by a bridal party. The larger of the two has the same feel as a limo, plus two 42-inch flat screens, climate control, a wet bar, Bluetooth, Sirius radio, and DVD player.

“The trend is moving toward these comfortable and spacious vans,” said Kevin Roberts.

Some of the limo buses have mini-bars, X-boxes, Play Stations, or TV’s with an all-sports package.

“It’s our service that stands out — from reservations and dispatching to the ever-changing coordination and communications with our drivers,” said Roberts. “We’re in the business of making memories for years to come. With events such as weddings we want to ensure that we make a lasting impression for our clients.”

Principal owner, Christopher “Chip” Thompson, has been

involved since 2012 when the company started operating out of Rehoboth Beach. “He does it all — dispatch, phones, reservations, even drives when he needs to,” Roberts said.

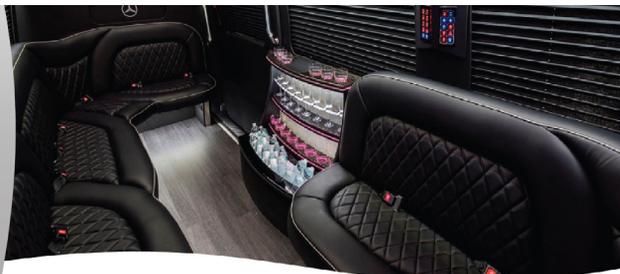
Drivers are trained, certified and randomly drug-tested and continue vehicle training and safety training throughout the year. The attire for drivers and wedding services are full suits for winter with white shirts, slacks, vests or ties and suits/suit jackets and ties with black slacks and shoes for summer.

Atlantic has its own certified mechanic who performs all of the safety and inspections services on the entire fleet. “There’s a lot to take into consideration when you’re shuttling people and safety is our main concern,” Roberts added.

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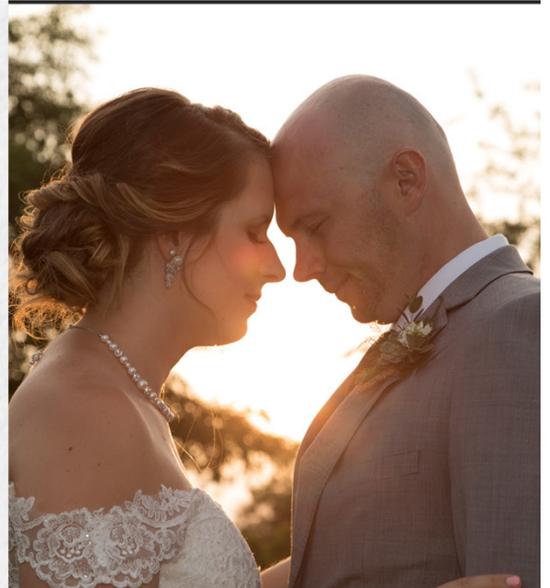


Erica and Ryan Stafford were married April 28, 2019 at Kylan Barn in Delmar. Photo by Erica Beck Photography



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**Shanice and Derrell Collins were married May 25, 2019 at Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church in Seaford. Photo by Erica Beck Photography**

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# A push for private vows

Weddings are very special occasions for two people who are in love. That's why many couples want close family and friends nearby when they tie the knot. But even the happiest couples may express some nervousness about one particular part of traditional wedding ceremonies.

Wedding vows are a way for couples to profess their love for each other. However, many couples who want to write their own vows are hesitant to say them aloud in front of an audience. If couples are intimidated by a heartfelt recital of their vows in front of a crowd, then exchanging vows in private may be for them.

Wedding planners and industry experts say that private vows have become very popular. While the

vows do not replace the public exchange that seals the marriage from a legal standpoint, they can be words shared in a private moment before the actual ceremony itself. A quiet moment alone allows couples to shed private tears and share a special moment before they make haste for the altar.

The Knot, a premier wedding planning resource, notes that there are many reasons to share private vows.

- You do not like being in the spotlight or become shy in front of crowds.
- There are words you would like to share with your future spouse that are deeply private, and you don't want to express those feelings to every person at the wedding.

• You do not want to censor your thoughts or words.

• You desire an intimately private and personal moment together before all of the fanfare and rush of the wedding.

• You'd like to recite loving words in a native language that some guests may not understand.

• You desire the potential for some very great candid photos if you invite the photographer to be there at a distance.

• You want to create a lasting memory that is only yours as a couple to share.

The popularity of private vows exchanged before a wedding ceremony is growing. This growing trend provides yet another way for couples to personalize their weddings.

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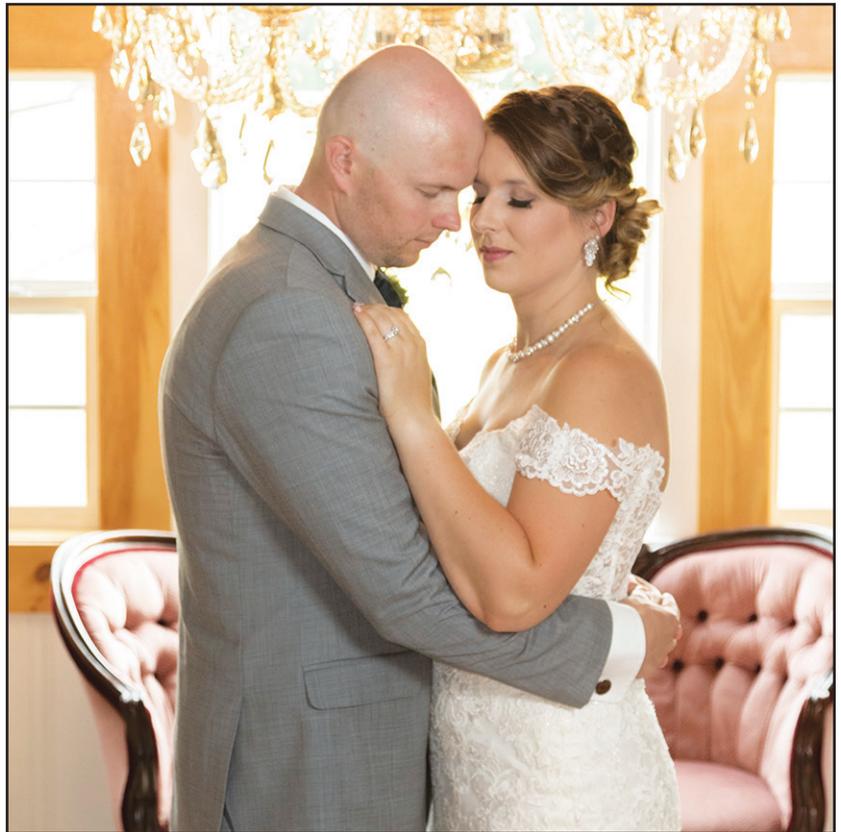
**302-629-0909**

## Engagement story

The following is the engagement story of Molly and Dylan Miller married at the Southern Belle on June 1, 2019.

“Dylan and I are both shift workers, I would jokingly say that we spent most of our years dating asleep because we were truly like ships passing in the night. So it was not often that we were able to spend time with both of our parents and each other at the same time. So we set a date for everyone to come to our house and have a crab feast in true Maryland style.

We had just finished setting up when Dylan called me into the garden saying that something was wrong with one of our dogs. When I turned the corner I saw Dylan on one knee and each of the dogs had a tag on their collar that said “Will you” “Marry Dad?”. Before I could even think I said “Did you ask my Dad?” to which he replied “of course”. So I gave him an enthusiastic yes! I am not even sure that he truly asked me if I wanted to marry him, it was just the moment that I had been waiting for since I first met him.”



Molly and Dylan Miller were married June 1, 2019 at the Southern Venues, Southern Belle in Delmar, DE. Photo by Erica Beck Photography



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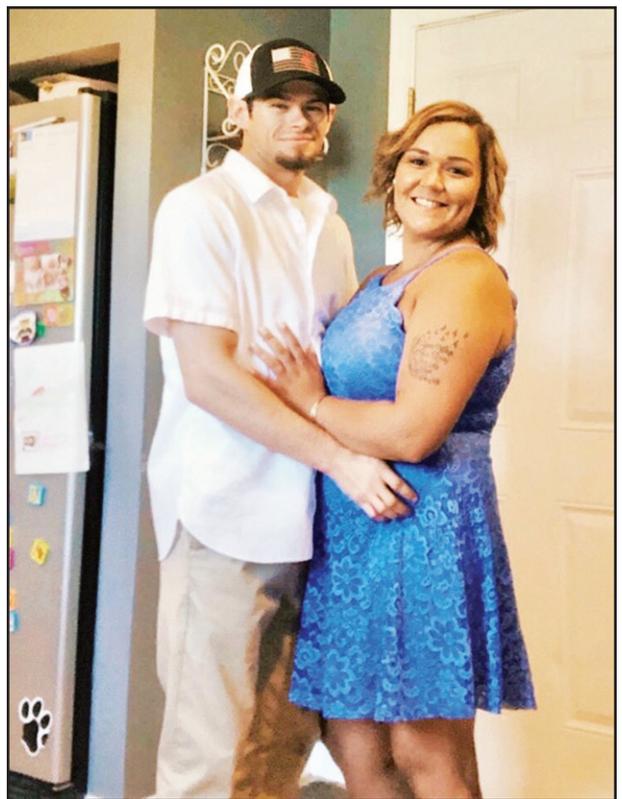


## Engagement story

A normal Saturday night, Kyle went to get pizza from our local pizza place while our two kids (Emma, four and Hayden, two) and I got the table ready. He returned, we started eating. Hayden asked for some juice so I got up, went to get him some and began walking back over to the table and Kyle asked me to grab him another slice of pizza.

Meanwhile, Emma started ranting on about a vacation she wants and she had enough money to go. As a mom you have to multiply task, listen and do something at the same time, as I did. I grabbed a slice of pizza out of the box as my head was turned, looking at her listening and getting ready to place the slice of pizza on Kyle's plate. Kyle quickly shouts out he wants the biggest slice in the box. "Eat this one then I will get you another one," I said as he insisted this wasn't the biggest piece. I then said, "Babe eat, they're all the same size". Emma shoots up from the table. "I will get it for you daddy" she says as she runs to grab him another slice, she opens up the pizza box, "Daddy got me a ring!" I quickly turned around as Kyle's racing trying to get up and grab the ring box from Emma.

As he grabbed the ring and looked at me, my heart quickly dropped. There it was after seven years. Yah, girl finally got her ring!



Kyle and Angelica Fuller

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# Two great Ocean Pines venues offer new, exciting wedding experiences

With the new year comes new brides and grooms to be, and new opportunities for people to experience the captivating charm of the Ocean Pines Yacht Club and Beach Club. Whether you're looking to elope, host an intimate ceremony, or throw an elaborate celebration for more than 200 people, these bayfront and oceanfront wedding venues in Ocean Pines provides a stunning setting with a variety of spaces for your big day.

Picture yourself outdoors at the Yacht Club on our sprawling marina patio overlooking the Isle of Wight Bay, or indoors in the enormous ballroom with a stunning, waterfront view. This secluded and relaxed wedding venue is just eight

miles from the world-famous beaches and boardwalk of Ocean City, Maryland.

For beachfront weddings, book the Ocean Pines Beach Club, on 49th street and the beach in Ocean City. The Beach Club includes a private ballroom overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, along with the same award-winning banquet and catering team from the Ocean Pines Yacht Club.

Starting in May, Ocean Pines will also offer a third choice for weddings inside the brand-new 7,200 square-foot Golf clubhouse. The new building will feature a large banquet space overlooking the natural beauty of the course, designed by legendary golf course

architect Robert Trent Jones, Sr.

Wedding Wire and Coastal Style Magazine each recognized the Ocean Pines Yacht Club and Beach Club as the top wedding venues in the Ocean City and Berlin area. Ready for an event of any scale, these venues offer both seated dinner options and buffet-style meals. Couples from across the region travel to the shore of Ocean Pines for one-of-a-kind wedding venues and show-stopping views.

For more information about the award-winning Ocean Pines Yacht Club and Beach Club, email [events@oceanpines.org](mailto:events@oceanpines.org) or call 410-641-7501.



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# Simply Elegant Linens and Design offer one-stop shop for big events

By Carol Kinsley

Simply Elegant Linens and Design is about as close as you can get to a one-stop shop for all the things that make a wedding or big party unforgettable. Owner and Lead Designer Christina Haynes believes Simply Elegant will someday have an exclusive venue for hosting events also. For now, she is focused on planning, designing and providing a unique, beautiful and elegant event for every client.

Haynes started out in this industry volunteering her services for events at schools and churches. Four

years later, she decided to make her hobby into a business opportunity.

“We provide event planning services for all occasions – weddings, anniversaries, vow renewals, birthday and bachelor/bachelorette parties, baby showers and more – in addition to event design, flowers, lighting, linens and chair rentals,” she shared. Haynes is partnered with long-time friends-turned-family Carlos and LeFeisha Cannon of Limousine Unlimited and Sharon Wescott of Captis Omnes Photography, so she is able to offer all-inclusive packages to help meet her clients’ event-related needs. She

also has relationships with other professionals, including make-up artists, hair stylists, caterers, bakers, travel agents and a host of others to make your day all you hope it to be!

“This is what separates me from others — I have the ability to offer every service without outsourcing. And everyone is certified and licensed,” Haynes said. Simply Elegant Events is a family-run business, with Haynes’ husband and their adult children pitching in to help as needed.

“Weddings are our specialty,”

**Continued on page 11**

Making every event

## Simply Elegant

Whether you are planning a wedding, anniversary celebration, vow renewal, baby shower, or birthday party, Simply Elegant Events by Christina is available to make your event more than you ever imagined!

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# A beautiful reception in a beautiful venue at the CHEER Community Center

Every bride wants her special day to be perfect. Every detail from the dress, to the flowers, to the ceremony, to the reception will make a statement about her that will last forever. The Warren L. and Charles C. Allen, Jr. CHEER Community Center in Georgetown can provide that special ambiance that will impress your guests and heighten the joy of the event.

Centrally located in Sussex County on the corner of Sand Hill Road and Route 9, east of Georgetown, the center offers a serene atmosphere that will capture your magical moment. CHEER offers a turnkey venue to host your wedding ceremony in one beautiful,

convenient location that has recently been redecorated with neutral paint on the walls to match any bride's color scheme and a sparkling tile floor that is perfect for dancing. Complete with a stage, the 6,000 square-foot reception venue can be divided into a smaller venue to accommodate a more intimate setting. Outside in our gardens, you will find a gazebo and seating area for outdoor ceremonies. Our experienced, professional staff will work hard to provide the atmosphere of your dreams on your special day.

Marilyn's Catering provides a wonderful selection of menu options that will have your guests complimenting you the entire day.

## Did you know?

While flowers certainly add beauty and a wonderful aroma to wedding ceremonies and receptions, there are other reasons behind their inclusion in such festivities. In ancient Rome, brides carried or wore flower garlands because the Romans believed flowers signified hope, fertility and new beginnings. In the Middle Ages, brides did not carry flowers, but rather strong-smelling spices and herbs. The rationale was that the herbs and spices would drive away bad luck and evil spirits. Flowers also served another practical purpose. In eras when bathing was a luxury, different flowers and herbs helped mask body odors. It wasn't until the Victorian era, when flowers were used to symbolize romantic love, that they became part of wedding ceremonies, according to Modern Weddings magazine.

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# Simply Elegant

Continued from page nine

Haynes said, “but we also do amazing baby showers, birthday parties, and ‘signature parties’ for those ‘big numbers’: 21, 25, 50... When people come to me for those types of parties, they are looking for ‘over the top’ parties!”

And she delivers every time! One customer wrote on her Facebook page: “Christina is truly talented. She will bring your vision to life and make it better than you imagined! She and her staff are very professional and the work is elegant. I’d hire her a million times over.”

Haynes has continued her work with schools, particularly at Woodbridge High School. She and her family are very active in the Woodbridge community. The people

at the school had seen her work and asked for help with the football banquet first. Since then, they have called on her for other occasions, including their prom for the last two years.

Simply Elegant maintains an office for consultations, open by appointment, at 105 New Street in Seaford. Haynes added, “It has a showroom for people to visit that makes planning and designing with the customer an event in itself!”

Simply Elegant Events serves all of Delaware and beyond. “We have the ability to travel to the venue of your choice and produce a picture-perfect event for you and your guests!” Haynes said.

A website is under development. For now, open appointment slots are listed on Facebook. To schedule an appointment, call (302) 448-9203 or

(302) 536-1201.

Haynes said, “When you book with us, you will get a professional, elegant night to remember with premium quality items every time. I have a 100 percent satisfaction rate for all my clientele. Give us a try. You won’t be disappointed.”

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## CHEER

Continued from page 10

Every event is special, and we take pride in our ability to ensure every bride and her guests are satisfied. Before you book your ceremony, you owe it to yourself to consider the reception venue at the CHEER Community Center to make your wedding dreams a reality.



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## Engagement story

Just doing my job as an advertising sales rep for the Seaford Star and Laurel Star, I called on the American Legion in Laurel. At times I worked with Dickie Elliott, who is the President of the Board of Governors, or Dina King, the legion manager for their ads. Eventually the three of us were friended on Facebook. I posted that I needed household items for a family who was struggling. Dina and Dickie responded, offering their donations. When I met Dickie to pick up his items I mentioned that we should go out sometime for a burger. Many texts and calls later we went out, but didn't get the burgers!

Fast forward. I made tacos for our dinner. The conversation led up to Dickie asking me to marry him. He apologized for not having a ring or a romantic setting but I still said YES! At this time in our lives we have already lived the biggest portion of life and so thankful that we have been brought together. Dickie and I feel that we have learned many life lessons and now planning a life together can be more of a challenge. We have been looking at rings and houses and planning a wedding. We still have lots of decisions to make but the biggest decision to spend the rest of our days together was the easy one!

**Chris Redman and Dickie Elliott**



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# Wedding registry tips

Building a wedding registry is a task unlike any other couples may encounter during their lifetimes. Wedding registries are invaluable resources that provide engaged couples' loved ones with gift suggestions. In spite of that value, couples may find it daunting and even a little uncomfortable to build their wedding registries.

Building a wedding registry can feel like walking a tightrope. Couples likely won't want to ask for too much or for gifts that are too expensive, but a poorly built registry can be a major inconvenience for guests. The following tips can help couples build adequate registries that benefit them without asking too much of their guests.

- Register with more than one store. It's important to register with

more than one store. Doing so makes things as convenient as possible for guests and increases the chances they will be able to shop at stores they're familiar with. Unless your guest list is predominantly local, try to register with at least one national chain so guests who live in different regions can shop for gifts in-person if they prefer to do so.

- Make a large list. Some couples are hesitant to make large wedding registries, feeling that doing so gives the impression that they're asking for too much. But large registries simply give guests more options to choose from. Many industry insiders advise registering for two to three gifts per guest. That might seem like a lot, but guests will appreciate having all of those options.

- Don't hesitate to include expen-

sive items on your registry. Couples also may be hesitant to include especially expensive items on their wedding registries. However, the couples' parents and other close relatives may be honored to purchase more expensive items, so couples should not feel embarrassed to include them on their lists. It's also important to note that many retailers, after couples' wedding days have come and gone, discount registry items that weren't purchased. So even if no one purchases the more expensive items, including them on a registry may significantly reduce their cost for couples who want to buy such items themselves after tying the knot.

- Vary the prices of items on the list. In addition to including more expensive items on the registry, make sure to include moderately

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# Registry

Continued from page 13

priced and inexpensive items. This gives guests more options and ensures guests who might be spending a lot to travel to and from the wedding can still purchase gifts without digging too much deeper into their pockets.

- Periodically update the registries. Periodically update your registries to remove items you have already received and to add items if many of the less expensive ones have already been purchased. This also makes things more convenient for guests.

Building a wedding registry is a unique task that couples can embrace as their wedding day draws near.



**Justin, Jacoby, and Lindsey**

## Engagement story

Justin and Lindsey started off as neighbors. Justin would randomly come over and mow Lindsey's lawn. From there they struck up a friendship and conversations. During conversations they realized they had a lot in common.

Even though there was a few years age difference between them, they realized they had both been through a lot in life. This gave them a strong foundation and a better understanding of the ups and downs of life. They then started dating and fell in love. After two years and three months, Justin surprised Lindsey by proposing to her and she happily said yes! In November of 2020 the big day will happen connecting Justin, Lindsey, and Jacoby as one family.

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# Ross Station prepares for second season of weddings

By Carol Kinsley

Ross Station at the Governor Ross Plantation in Seaford is ready for its second season of weddings, parties and corporate events. The 6,000-foot facility opened last spring on the grounds of the Italianate mansion built in the 1850s by William Henry Harrison Ross, once governor of Delaware, near the railroad tracks, which he helped bring to southern Delaware.

A historical landmark, Ross Plantation is perfect for couples looking for an idyllic setting to inspire lifelong wedding memories. Twenty acres of what was once an 800-acre plantation remain in scenic, rolling countryside surround the mansion and various outbuildings, including a barn, honeymoon cottage and former slave quarters.

The exterior of Ross Station is designed to resemble a railroad station, and a railroad crossing sign stands near the entrance. The interior

is modern and bright. Wooden beams and trim are crafted from locally sourced cypress. The ballroom, "Heyssel Hall," can accommodate up to 230 guests for a seated meal with room for DJ and a dance floor, or more than 300 for auditorium style seating. Tables, chairs and linens are included in all rentals. The facility is wired for sound throughout, with video projection available in the main hall and the multipurpose room. The latter room, just inside the entrance, can be screened off to create a private space for a bridal party.

The Historical Society maintains an open-door policy, allowing your choice of vendors. A caterer's kitchen with two large refrigerators and a pass-through window makes food service a breeze. Clean, modern, wheelchair-accessible restrooms are conveniently located and there is plenty of parking on-site or nearby.

Need more space? There is plenty of room on the sprawling grounds to

erect a tent, allowing a view of the mansion, the pecan grove and barns beyond. Weather permitting, outdoor parties can take place beneath the huge trees or on the patio of the beautifully refurbished mansion. If you prefer a more intimate setting, check out mansion's Main Parlor.

Ross Station is owned and operated by the nonprofit Seaford Historical Society and all proceeds go to preserve the mansion and grounds, as well as the Seaford Museum downtown. Construction of Ross Station was funded by grants and donations, so it is mortgage free. Thus, rentals are priced competitively.

Reservations are already being booked for 2021, so don't put off getting your reservation in. For more information, visit [www.seafordhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.seafordhistoricalsociety.com) or WeddingWire.com, email [admin@seafordhistoricalsociety.com](mailto:admin@seafordhistoricalsociety.com) or call (302) 628-9828.

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Our lush lawns and picturesque gazebos, overlooking the beautiful Arthur Hills-designed golf course, can be reserved for

outdoor weddings hosting up to 400 guests. Passwaters Restaurant, the 1730 Tavern and Sugar Beet Market offer additional onsite options for smaller receptions or rehearsal dinners. Additional rooms for pre-wedding preparations are also available.

Our team of experienced Wedding Specialists will provide all the care and attention your event deserves as they help you plan every detail of your day, from custom menus to decor concepts that reflect the personality and theme of your wedding.

Contact our weddings & events team to discuss your upcoming occasion at 302.337.9910 x316.

## Did you know?

A wedding is a tough time to experience a bad hair day. Clothing styles, time of day and weather all can dictate a wedding hairstyle, but ultimately one of the most important factors in a wedding hairstyle is finding a stylist who understands you and can exercise your vision.

A patient, understanding stylist who is open to viewing different photographs and drawing inspiration from various places, as well as running through a few trial styles, can help brides (and grooms) look their best. In fact, trials are a must to ensure that a chosen style will work with your hair texture. If you plan to get your hair colored, professionals recommend doing so about three weeks in advance of the big day so it looks natural and any potential snafus can be remedied beforehand. Your stylist may suggest a light trim prior to the wedding so that the ends are fresh and healthy. And since you're putting your faith in a qualified stylist, trust their expertise and vision. Keep an open mind to their suggestions. You may fall in love with one of the options you hadn't considered.



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# Viriden Center offers a change of pace for your wedding venue

By Carol Kinsley

The next time you're charged with finding a venue for a meeting, retreat, party, seminar or even a wedding, consider the unique experience offered at the University of Delaware's Viriden Conference & Retreat Center.

The center's 5,200-plus square feet of meeting space includes six private meeting rooms for 10 to 150 people and a 1,330-square-foot general session room that accommodates 90 people classroom-style or 150 theater style. High speed wireless internet is available, in addition to every conceivable audio/visual and video conferencing need. You'll have a dedicated conference services manager and an AV tech ready to help, along with other business services.

Located in the historic seaside town of Lewes, the Viriden Center offers a change of pace. Escape to a beautiful place where there's always plenty of sun and sea air to ease your mind and body, enabling you to be productive in a casual, informative atmosphere. Situated at 700 Pilottown Road, on the University Of Delaware Graduate College of Marine Studies Hugh R. Sharp Campus, at Delaware Bay's Roosevelt Inlet, the Viriden Center offers plenty of free parking.

On-site catering can be arranged in any meeting area for groups up to 200 people, including a patio encircled with the signs and sounds of natural habitat. You'll find the customized menus are delicious, fresh, varied and satisfying. The modest size of this facility ensures quick, courteous responsiveness from the staff.

Overnight accommodations include two lodges adjacent to the conference center, featuring 23 guest rooms capable of housing up to 46 guests. Each room features a private bath, air conditioning, television, and a spacious screened porch overlooking the surrounding wetlands. A hospitality room with a kitchenette is available as an adjoining suite or as a gathering place for after-meeting socializing.

If you have time, spend an extra day on bike, foot or boat, visiting nearby beaches or salt marshes, watching for dolphins on a sunset cruise, or go fishing, golf-ing or outlet shopping. Tour a nearby winery or brew-ery or arrange a fishing excursion.

The Viriden Retreat Center is open year-round, offering a peaceful haven free from the interruptions of daily life and a beautiful site for holiday parties, corpo-rate

**Continued on page 23**



## Elegantly U.D.

Fresh and bright. Our wedding planners at the Viriden Center in Lewes know that it truly is all in the details. That's why you can count on us to coordinate everything from start to finish. We specialize in indoor/outdoor celebrations, and our expansive grounds and onsite lodging make the day go smoothly. We invite you to tour our unique coastal venue and allow us to be a part of your special day.

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# Hilton Garden Inn in Dover offers the perfect venue for weddings

By Carol Kinsley

If there's a wedding in your future or an important event you are planning for family or business, you can't go wrong with the Hilton Garden Inn in Dover as a venue. The hotel is located a mile off Route 1, just south of Del Tech's Terry Campus and only minutes from Dover Downs or Dover Air Force Base. With full-service catering on-site and two large rooms that open into 1,600 square feet of space, the Hilton Garden Inn Dover can accommodate groups from five to 120 guests for any kind of meeting.

One of the best-kept secrets in Dover is the full-service restaurant, the Garden Grille and Bar, at the Hilton Garden Inn. The Garden Grille and Bar introduced a new din-

ner menu in February with some incredible dishes to delight your palate. Examples are Braised Short Ribs, Firecracker Shrimp, Austin Street Tacos, and Shaken Donut Holes for Dessert. Scrumptious selections! Not just for hotel guests, the restaurant is open to the public too. Stop in for a hearty cooked-to-order breakfast or come quench your thirst with your favorite drink during happy hour daily from 5 to 7 p.m.

While the Garden Grille and Bar is open for breakfast and dinner only, catering is available for any meal required for your special function, with menus suitable for any budget. A friendly and attentive staff will make your meal a pleasure.

Wendy Stephens, director of sales, will be happy to work with you to ensure that everything is just as you

want it for your event, whether a bridal shower, rehearsal dinner, wedding reception or business meeting or conference.

If some of your guests are coming from out of town, special room rates can be negotiated for groups requiring 10 or more rooms. The hotel has 95 air-conditioned rooms with all the comforts of home, including refrigerators, microwaves, coffeemakers and flat-screen televisions. Cable programming is provided for your entertainment, while complimentary wireless high speed Internet access keeps you connected. Bathrooms have designer toiletries and hair dryers. A 24-hour pavilion pantry market carries forgotten items as well as snacks and drinks.

Continued on page 23

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# Barn at Vanderwende Acres offers old, new wedding setting

By Carol Kinsley

What's old and new and a perfect wedding venue? A former dairy barn at Vanderwende Acres in Seaford has been transformed, with a lot of love and attention, into a rustic but elegant place to hold a wedding or big party. Surrounded by picturesque open farm fields, you and your guests can dance the night away on a fire-lit patio or relax in a beautiful pavilion as the sun sets over the round roof of the barn.

The historic facility at 22304 Atlanta Road was a working dairy farm as early as the 1930s until the 1980s, and touches of that history remain. Inside the remodeled structure, stanchions where cows were once milked have been removed

from one side. They remain on the other side, with the long feeding trough turned into a photo gallery. A new floor, walls and stairs were added; curtains and lights were hung. The wooden ceiling was white-washed and tall oak barrels were turned into tables.

The barn has separate groom's room and bride's quarters where wedding party members can prepare for the ceremony. The huge second floor, formerly the hay loft, is ideal for photographs. Brides may choose to use the balcony and outside staircase to float down like a princess at a ball, meeting her father at the bottom to be escorted down the aisle.

Outside, a beautiful stone patio was added, complete with an enormous stone fireplace which can serve

as a backdrop when the bride and groom exchange their vows. A fire pit encircled by a stone wall suitable for seating adds to the ambiance. An adjacent covered pavilion provides additional space for a reception or seated dinner. Tables and chairs are provided. Inside the barn, there is seating for 110; outside spaces will accommodate 250.

A farm shed offers private space for vendors to make final preparations indoors.

There is plenty of parking space. The beautifully landscaped venue abuts what is a true working grain farm. The cows are long gone!

Wedding rentals include exclusive use of the property for a 14-hour day.

**Continued on page 23**

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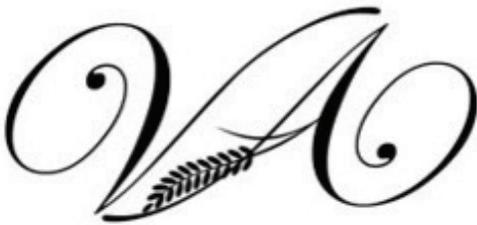




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Sarah Silicato, Events Coordinator  
 22304 Atlanta Rd.  
 Seaford, DE  
 vanderwendeacres@gmail.com

# Hilton

Continued from page 20

Hotel guests can enjoy the heated indoor pool, work out in the fitness center, relax in the whirlpool or lounge by the fireplace in the lobby.

Business travelers will appreciate the 24-hour business center and audio/visual equipment rental availability.

Family packages are offered, with cribs, high chairs and a children's menu available.

The hotel complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and all public areas are accessible. Accessible rooms are available upon request.

Free self parking is available onsite.

The Hilton Garden Inn is located at 1706 N. DuPont Highway, in the heart of Dover. Within a mile you'll find Dover Downs Casino, Dover International Speedway, Delaware State University and Dover Mall. Legislative Hall, the Old State House on The Green and Wesley College are within 5 miles, and Wild Quail Golf and Country Club is only a few more miles. Schedule a night's stay on the way to Delaware's beaches which are only 30 miles away!

Book your room at [www.dover.hgi.com](http://www.dover.hgi.com) or telephone (302) 674-3784. To plan a special event, call Wendy Stephens at her direct line, (302) 747-2983.



Shown is the Barn at Vanderwende Acres. Photos by Stacy Hart Photography

# Vanderwende

Continued from page 21

Sarah Silicato offers her event-planning services solely at Vanderwende Acres. She and a network of wedding industry professionals are available to help bring your wedding visions to reality, no matter what the size of the guest list or your budget.

"We coordinate with your vendors so the bride and groom can relax," Silicato said. "Our mission is to supply a wedding venue that is ahead of industry trends, offers unmatched hospitality to all guests and is versatile enough to meet the needs and wants of many different couples and their unique styles. We work tirelessly to provide our clients

with the best hands-on service available."

Donna and Jimmy Vanderwende, owners of Vanderwende Farm Creamery, had long dreamed of purchasing the farm. When offered for sale on Jan. 1, 2017, they jumped at the chance, with the hope of preserving the house and barns. Because the entire property and all its structures were tied up in a lease, it was a year before they could begin work. That gave them plenty of time to plan how to use the property. Recognizing the need for such a facility in the area, they developed it into one of Delaware's premier wedding venues.

Weekend slots are filling up fast. To schedule your big event, email Silicato at [vanderwendeacres@gmail.com](mailto:vanderwendeacres@gmail.com) or complete the online form at [vanderwendeacres.com](http://vanderwendeacres.com).

# Viriden Center

Continued from page 19

meetings, and family reunions.

University of Delaware's Conference Services offer two other locations. The first is the Newark campus which features Clayton Hall's auditorium and other meeting rooms, the Bob Carpenter Center and Club, two ice rinks, an outdoor swimming pool, and when not in use during the summer, the university's classrooms and lecture halls, theaters, student centers, dining facili-

ties and even the Morris Library.

The Wilmington campus, on the edge of the city, includes the historic Goodstay Center and modern Arsht Hall. Goodstay is a favorite site for weddings and social gatherings, with its beautifully restored, intimate meeting and dining rooms and Tudor gardens. Arsht Hall is equipped with state-of-the-art technology for

today's business and offers 17,000 square feet of meeting space.

For information on any of these, particularly the Viriden Center, call H. Jay Taylor, conference manager, at 645-4100 or for general information call 831-2214. You can take a virtual tour of the conference centers at [www.udel.edu/conferences/locations/lewes.html](http://www.udel.edu/conferences/locations/lewes.html).

## Send us your news

Readers are invited to send any news that they would like to see featured in the Star. Items can be e-mailed to [mmcclure@mspublications.com](mailto:mmcclure@mspublications.com).

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