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Designer: **Monique L'huillier**



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jackie allen's
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Photo by Aesthetica Photography

Real
Kentucky
WEDDING STORIES





Leslie & Eric


April 14, 2012

Eric and I met freshman year of college through mutual friends. We remained casual friends throughout our first three years while I attended UK and he UofL. It wasn't until I transferred home for my senior year that we crossed paths and were basically together ever since. I knew within a couple weeks of dating that he was marriage material, although I think it took him a little longer to figure it out!

On our one year anniversary Eric was drafted into the NFL by the Buffalo Bills. During his first season he suffered a devastating injury, a broken tibia/fibula. Our relationship was really put to the test when I dropped my life in Louisville to go to Buffalo to nurse him back to health. This is when I think he started to understand that this was "it". We got engaged 8 months later!

From the moment of our engagement we knew we wanted our wedding to be a huge party. With the help of my mom and my amazing wedding planner, we made that dream come true. I tried to choose simple, elegant details that I could look back on in twenty years and still love. The Crystal Ballroom of The Brown Hotel provided the most beautiful backdrop for our reception. With half of the bridesmaids being former UK dancers and UofL Ladybirds, it wasn't long until the dance party erupted and the band became the hit of the night!

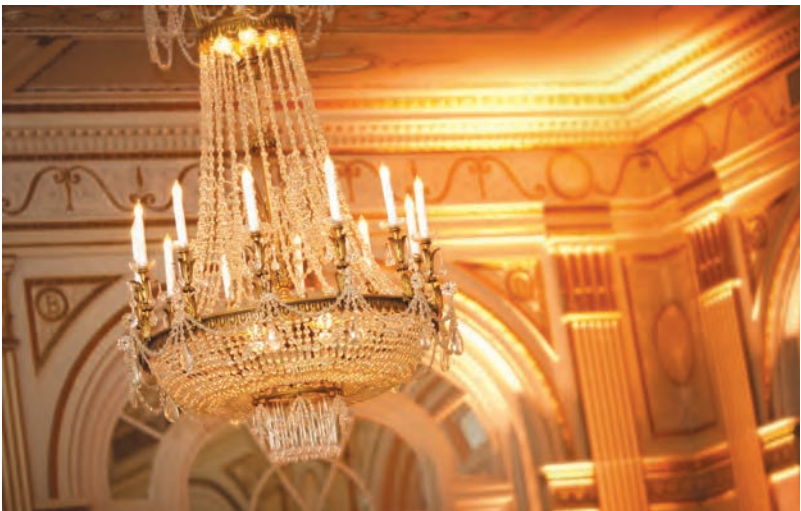
My favorite moment of the day had to be seeing my groom before the ceremony. We both agree that whatever nerves we had before that simply vanished. Having those few moments alone allowed us to forget about everything else and just get really excited!

At the risk of sounding cliché, this really was the best day of our lives. Being surrounded by our closest friends and family on that special day truly is indescribable. It was definitely a night that we and our guests will never forget! 



At the risk of sounding cliché, this really was the best day of our lives.





Leslie and Eric's Wedding Team

Photographer: David Blair Photography

Wedding Planner: Shafox Weddings & Events

Band: The Louisville Crashers • Bride's Dress: The Couture Closet
Bridesmaid's Dresses: Amsale, Bella Bridesmaid • Cake: Mert's Cakes
Ceremony: Saint Paul United Methodist Church • DJ: Triangle Talent
Florist: Wayne Esterle, In Bloom Again • Hair: Joseph's Salon & Spa
Reception: The Brown Hotel • Videographer: Kay Rountree Videography





Jill & Chad

May 5, 2012

Chad and I were possibly each other's longest rebounds ever. In the midst of us coming out of our own bad break-ups, a mutual girlfriend of ours decided she would take it upon herself to end our self-pity and wallow by introducing us over dinner.

We hit it off great and two wonderful years later, Chad asked me to marry him while on vacation in Puerto Rico. I happily accepted and the planning began.

We decided we would marry on Chad's beautiful Lexington farm where together we raise chickens. We chose Saturday, May 5th as our wedding date, since not only did Cinco de Mayo and the Kentucky Derby coincide on this day, but it was also the eve of the Super Moon.

The ceremony took place in a small grove of trees in a field on the farm. Our guests consisted of our immediate family members seated on muslin covered hay bales placed in a semi-circle around the spot where Chad and I would marry. I walked down the grassy aisle to the ethereal sound of a harp. Chad and I took our vows while holding a brick we used as an Oathing Stone to honor an old Scottish wedding tradition, and afterwards placed it in the ground on the spot where we stood to take our vows. It had been dreary and overcast up until this point, but the clouds parted and the sun came out for the ceremony, making this my most favorite part of the wedding.

For the reception, Chad, his Father and Brother built a 32 foot long wooden picnic table that my Mother and I dressed in vintage linens. I used mix-n-match dishes with old, silver-plated flatware wrapped in twine with brown paper name tags as place settings. In honor of Cinco de Mayo, Chad and I served Mexican food and margaritas for dinner and there were two piñatas for the children to smash while Mariachi music played in the background. We danced the night away in the field under the Super Moon to three of our favorite bands: The Tall Boys, a local Lexington favorite, the legendary Jimmy "Duck" Holmes, straight from Benton, Mississippi, and the Star Devils, our favorite Rock-a-Billy band. Soon after, Chad and I made a break for it in a vehicle vandalized with "Just Married" graffiti and the rest is a very merry Happily Ever After. [KB](#)







We danced the night away in the field under the Super Moon!





Jill and Chad's Wedding Team
Photographer: You, Me Wedding Photojournalism
Bands: The Tall Boys, Jimmy "Duck" Holmes, Star Devils
Cake: Tinker's Cake Shop • **Caterer:** Mi Mexico Restaurant
Flowers: E. Stephen Hein Florist • **Harpist:** Elaine Cook
Lighting: Walker Electric • **Seamstress:** Martina Hensley





Misty & Rafael

September 24, 2011

Rafael and I met in Boston. I had just moved there to attend Emerson College and got a job waitressing at a little bar and grill called Sweetwater Café, where Rafael worked as a bartender. We were complete opposites in every way, but I guess that's what immediately attracted me to him.

My family and career were all pulling me back to Kentucky. And while Rafael, who had lived in Boston his entire life, was a bit skeptical about moving to horse country, he agreed. He decided to make the most of his first day in Kentucky, and surprised me by kneeling on one knee and asking me to marry him.

Just three days after our engagement I was in Singapore on a business trip when I happened to come across a little bridal shop. Upon walking into the store the consultant said, "I have just the right dress for you." I was surprised, since I didn't really have any idea what I wanted. The dress he brought out was better than any dress I could have dreamed up. I knew right when I saw it, I would not find anything that would fit my style more perfectly. From that point, the stage was set for a vintage, outdoor wedding.

Looking for an elegant, vintage venue, we chose to use the gardens of two historic homes in the Gratz Park area. Staying true to the southern experience I promised everyone coming from Boston, DaRae and Friends Catering put together a great menu with shrimp n' grits, deep fried Cajun turkey, corn pudding, Lexingtonian salad, and many more delicious treats.

I spent all summer collecting vintage china and mixed it with family heirlooms, like china my grandfather had brought back from Japan when he served in the Navy. Each table had an assortment of different china, which came with their own unique story.

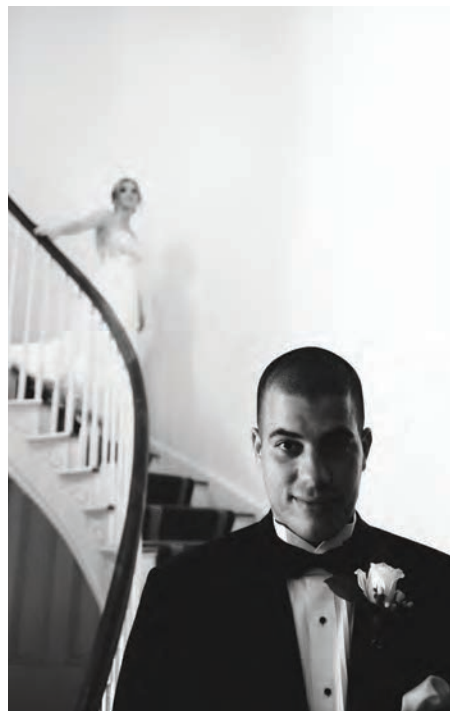
Rafael's sister is a pastry chef and their family owns White Mountain Cupcakery. She designed and created a beautiful cake, but had kept the designs secret until the ceremony. It was a wonderful surprise. She had tons of cupcakes set up in china teacups around the table. It was the most beautiful display I had ever seen.

The night was truly something out of a fairy tale. I loved all the personal touches we worked hard to create and having so much of our family and friends weaved throughout the night. [KB](#)



He decided to make the most of his first day in Kentucky, and asked me to marry him.





Misty and Rafael's Wedding Team

Photographer: Eric Von Bargaen

Planner: jacki & jaimeson, Wedding and Event Planners

Band: The Swells • Cake: White Mountain Cupcakery (Boston)

Caterer: DaRae & Friends • Ceremony: Hunt-Morgan House

Dress: Singapore • Flowers: Fields in Bloom

Reception: Bodley-Bullock House • Rentals: Events by Design





Trish & Zach

March 10, 2012

Zach and I met in high school when we were both involved in our high school ministry called Young Life. He was a senior and I was a sophomore. We continued to date through college and eventually he proposed in December 2010.

We wanted the vision of our wedding to be as joy-filled and simple as our love for each other is and has been for the many years we were together before we were married. After many times changing the wedding date, we eventually settled on a date that was perfect. We got married on March 10th, our 6 year anniversary.

We wanted our wedding to be simple with a more antique look by using my grandmother's and sister's old blue jar collections for the centerpieces, lace wedding dress, a bow tie for the groom, and borrowed jewelry from both grandmas. Zach and I are very laid-back and relaxed people and that's exactly how our wedding day went - no problems at all.

One of my favorite wedding day moments was reading the love letter he wrote to me right before I got to see him for the first time that day. Being surrounded by friends and family throughout the day was one of the greatest gifts. Many of my friends and family contributed their talents of hair, makeup, cake, and disc jockey skills in order to make our day all the more blessed. Another favorite moment of mine was dancing with my father to two of his favorite songs he personally mixed together for our dance. My father loves the Beatles and introduced me to them when I was little, so it was only fitting to have them be a part of our dance. I honestly wouldn't have asked for a better wedding - it definitely was a dream just to be able to marry my best friend finally after a long six years. [KB](#)



The vision of our wedding ... [was] as joy-filled and simple as our love for each other is.





Trish and Zach's Wedding Team

Photographer: Arielle Elise Photography

Wedding Planner: Kelly Lux

Cake: Sami Crittenden, friend and culinary student at Cincinnati State College • Catering: Vondehaar's Catering Company • Ceremony: Christ's Church United Church of Christ • Florist: Secret Garden, Florence
Reception Hall: Fort Thomas Community Center • Wedding Hair Stylist: Maria Tracy, Tanya's Image and Wellness Salon, Crestview Hills





Laura & Luke


May 26, 2012

Luke and I met at the bowling alley through a mutual friend. Luke seemed very fun and outgoing, so obviously I was interested. The next Thursday night was bowling night again, and as we all sat on the back of his truck, I heard him giving out his phone number. I didn't want to miss the opportunity, so I secretly typed it in my phone. A couple of weeks later when our mutual friend left for college, bowling night rolled around so I texted him to ask if he wanted to go. When he asked who all was going, I responded... just me. He said yes and three years later on top of the Eiffel Tower (at King's Island), I said yes!

As we began planning our wedding we knew we wanted it to be country, shabby chic, and eclectic. First, we decided to have it at my grandparent's old tobacco barn. Then we started collecting mix and match china and ended up gathering over 300 place settings. Grandmother even started shopping on ebay to help us find exactly what we wanted. As a wedding gift, she gave us our favorite set, Old Country Rose. Our seating included church pews, that my parents drove to Tennessee twice to retrieve, and bales of straw covered with family heirloom quilts. We even hung Mom's vintage wedding dress on the barn. Joining the wedding bandwagon, my dad and Luke hung lights on every tier in the barn. As a special memento, Mom added a picture charm of Paps to my bouquet in remembrance of him.

We wanted our wedding to be exciting and fun... something out of the ordinary. So we included line/square dancing, a photo booth, wedding mad-libs, cornhole, croquet, horseshoes, and a country dinner. We also included a dessert bar filled with home-made favorites prepared by special family and friends. After all, what family dinner would be complete without Grandmother's strawberry pie, Nonnie's 3 day coconut cake, Mamaw Stella's famous strawberry cake, and Mamaw Camillah's wonderful fudge?

One of my favorite moments would have to be when my brother surprised Luke and I with a special rap. It included advice for the groom, while documenting funny, quirky memories. Now family and friends know that I am "directionally impaired" and dropped Public Speaking class 9 times.

After all the hard work and our memorable wedding, we realize our celebration has just begun. 



We realize our celebration
has just begun.





Laura and Luke's Wedding Team

Photographer: Joshua McCoy

Bridesmaids' Dresses: Ruche • Cake: Southern Confections

Catering: Neil's Catering • Ceremony Music: Watkins Strings Quartet

DJ: Joshua Amyx • Flowers: In Bloom

Wedding Stationary: You Name It Printing





Jill & Andy

May 19, 2012

I had recently moved to Chicago from Kentucky and was not adjusting well to the big city life. My younger sister had asked me to come out with her, her boyfriend and one of his friends for a drink. There was nothing I wanted to do less at the time, but with the help of a phone call from my mom, I was dragged from my apartment and off to Butch McGuire's we went. I wore a red sweatshirt, jeans and threw my hair into a messy ponytail. I didn't even bother with any make up. When we arrived, I realized that I was not invited for "just a drink," it was a set up. When I spotted Andy sitting at the bar, our connection was instant and all my doubts about the evening had disappeared. We spent the night tucked away in a corner talking and laughing. From that point on, we were inseparable. Andy showed me a different side of Chicago and I began to fall in love ... and with more than just the city.

Like many women, I had been planning my wedding since I was a little girl and had always dreamed of being married in my home town, Owensboro. My vision for the wedding was very feminine and modern with touches of shabby chic. I created this feel by combining pale pink with lots of white. An outside reception was always something I wanted, making the River Park Center patio the perfect location with a beautiful bridge as the backdrop and scenic river view.

Andy and I chose not to see each other before the ceremony, so when I stepped out, onto the aisle that would lead me to my groom, the smile that lit up his face brought me to tears. As my dad walked me down the aisle and gave me away to the new man in my life, kissing him one last time as a Hofer girl, tears ran down my cheek. Although I had numerous special wedding moments, this one will be one of my most precious memories forever.

The whole day was incredibly special to both Andy and I. We were surrounded by so much love, so many family members and friends who not only helped make the day possible, but made it one of the most special days of our lives. [KB](#)

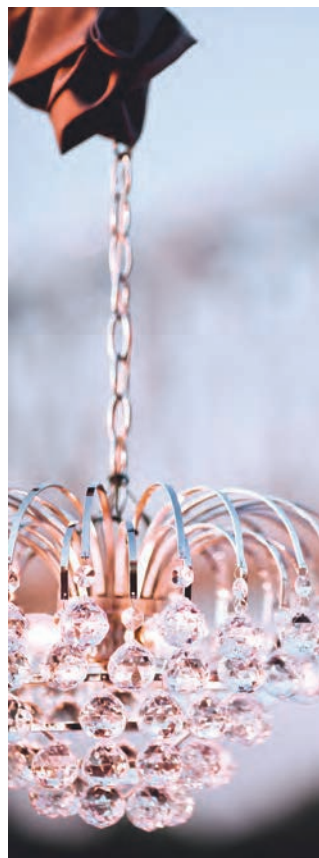






When I stepped onto the aisle that would lead me to my groom, the smile that lit up his face brought me to tears.





Jill & Andy's Wedding Team

Photographer: Aesthetiica Photography

Planning and Coordination: Rachel Hofer, Ann Horton, Sally Barker

Cake and Desserts: Dalisha's Desserts • Caterer: Moonlite Catering

Dress: Vera Wang • Florist: Welborn Floral and Events

Guide to
Venues

Wedding →

←
RECEPTION



Events Options: Ceremony, Reception **Facility Type:** Resort
Location Options: Indoor/Outdoor **Capacity:** 20 - 1,000 **Catering Range:** Starting at \$260/person
Facility Fee: None **Parking:** Complimentary Valet Parking

West Baden Springs Hotel at French Lick Resort

8538 West Baden Avenue, West Baden Springs, IN
866-418-4927
FrenchLick.com

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Facility Type: Art Museum (unique venue)

Event Options: Ceremony/Reception

Location Options: Indoor/Outdoor **Capacity:** 250 seated ceremony (inside); 160 seated dinner

Facility Fee: Yes

Parking: Free with facility fee - 300 spaces

Cincinnati Art Museum

953 Eden Park Drive, Cincinnati

513-639-2347

CincinnatiArtMusuem.org

Creating the finest events in the city is an art form, too ... The Cincinnati Art Museum is a most memorable location for your wedding ceremony, reception, rehearsal dinner or bridal luncheon. Our exclusive Cincinnati Art Museum caterer will exceed your expectations for culinary excellence. We offer you custom menu planning and sophisticated service.



Event Options: Wedding Ceremony, Reception, Rehearsal Dinner

Facility Type: Country club with resort atmosphere & amenities

Location Options: Indoor/Outdoor **Capacity:** 400

Facility Fee: Varies **Parking:** Free, valet available

The Club at Olde Stone

950 Village Way

Bowling Green, KY 42103

270-745-1758

Olde-Stone.com

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Facility Type: Resort **Event Options:** Ceremony/Reception/
Rehearsal Dinner/Showers **Location Options:** Indoor/Outdoor
Capacity: Up to 700 **Catering Range:** With multiple venues
available, we can work with you to meet your budget **Facility
Fee:** Based on venue type **Parking:** Self or valet available

Facility Type: Thoroughbred Horse Farm
Event Options: All events
Location Options: Outdoor **Capacity:** 200 +
Facility Fee: Yes **Parking:** Self parking

Griffin Gate Marriott Resort & Spa

1800 Newtown Pike, Lexington
859-231-5100
GriffinGateMarriottWeddings.com

Disembarking from a horse-drawn carriage and entering your wedding ceremony on the front lawn of an antebellum mansion as your guests await your arrival. It's just one of the many unique possibilities when you host your wedding at the Griffin Gate Marriott Resort & Spa. We offer five unique choices for your wedding celebration – The Grand Ballroom, The Mansion, and Terrace Ballroom offer unique indoor space for weddings and receptions. The Bluegrass Pavilion & Patio and The Paddock Pavilion create a unique experience overlooking 200 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds. There's no better place than Marriott's Griffin Gate Resort to begin your happily ever after.

Photo by Melanie Mauer (Polo Barn)

The Polo Barn at Saxony

469 Browns Mill Road, Lexington
859-619-3523
PoloBarnAtSaxony.net

Broussard and Rosie Hundley would like to welcome you to a truly one-of-a-kind setting – The Polo Barn at Saxony. Situated in the heart of Kentucky's famous Bluegrass region, this 40-year-old working Thoroughbred farm boasts unique outdoor and indoor areas to suit any event. As the name suggests, two former polo barns border a large grassy area, lined with mature bur oak, pecan, sycamore and maple trees. This site offers ample space for a marquee and has the option of being used in conjunction with the two polo barns. We work with a select group of highly regarded caterers and wedding planners. For a private showing, please contact us to set up an appointment.



Event Options: Ceremony, Reception **Facility Type:** Historic Racecourse
Location Options: Indoor/Outdoor **Capacity:** 50 - 450 **Facility Fee:** Varies **Parking:** Free, valet available

Keeneland

4201 Versailles Road, Lexington
859-288-4307
Keeneland.com

With a rolling Bluegrass landscape and breathtaking views, few venues offer the beauty and elegance of Keeneland. Whether your wedding is small and intimate or large scale, we have the space to accommodate all sizes. Our venues include the expansive Keeneland Entertainment Center and Keene Barn, the newly renovated Keene Place historic mansion, and dining rooms with paddock or trackside views. Keeneland's picturesque grounds throughout provide stunning backdrops for capturing photos of your special day. Turf Catering, our in-house caterer, specializes in producing superior events with the quality and prestige synonymous with Keeneland.



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www.olde-stone.com

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as unique as your love for each other!”*

wedding day fit

From the

Farm Table

to the

by Molly Galbraith





Summer's here and that means warm weather, blue skies, pool parties, cookouts, vacations, and for you... probably a lot of wedding planning! And of course, one part of planning your wedding is doing everything you can to ensure you look and feel your best on your wedding day! One of the best ways you can do this is to consume as many whole, natural, unprocessed foods as possible, including plenty of meats, vegetables, fruits, healthy fats, nuts and oils.

Above I listed plenty of things that we equate with summertime like warm weather and cookouts... but you know what else becomes available in Kentucky during the summer? TONS of fresh, local produce! Of course, if you're reading *Kentucky Bride Magazine*, you're obviously a savvy gal who is interested in buying from and supporting the local businesses that help Kentucky thrive. In this issue of *Kentucky Bride* I want to explain what it means to buy local, how to buy local, where you can buy local, and the benefits of buying local.

"Buy local!" You may have heard this phrase a lot lately, but what does it mean exactly? And why is it important?

Not only are you helping bolster the local economy when you buy local produce, but you can also ensure that you're buying and consuming food at the peak of freshness and when it has the most nutrients.

Well if you know anything about food, and how it gets from the farm to the supermarket to your table, you know it can be quite a journey. Think about it. If you walk through a normal supermarket and take a look at the produce, you'll see avocados from Guatemala, bananas from Ecuador, and

oranges from Florida. On the one hand, it's wonderful that living in modern-day America affords us the luxury of having access to such a wide variety of produce year-round. On the other, we have to wonder, just how fresh is a banana that came from Ecuador? And if it traveled all the way from Ecuador and it's still not ripe yet... what did it look like when they picked it? (Not to mention that some experts claim that it's not healthy for us to eat foods to which we would not normally have had access during the winter months, but that's a story for another day.)

What I want to bring to your attention is how easy it is to buy produce that's fresh from a local farm located right here in Kentucky. Not only are you helping bolster the local economy when you buy local produce, but you can also ensure that you're buying and consuming food at the peak of freshness and when it has the most nutrients. Fresh, nutrient-dense produce contains vitamins and minerals that help you look and feel your absolute best, and when you're filling up on those types of foods, it's much easier to turn down the highly processed hot dogs, potato chips and soda that will prevent you from reaching your health and physique goals.

So where can you find local produce?


Bigger cities often have corporate chains like Whole Foods and Trader Joe's, which will typically carry local produce. While those are fine, I personally prefer supporting a smaller locally-owned grocery store like the Good Foods Co-Op in Lexington or a locally-owned group like the Whole Life Co-op in Louisville. And if you're really lucky, your town will have a well-organized Farmer's Market that is set up at least a few days a week.

A Farmer's Market is where a group of farmers bring all of their products to a central location (often times an empty parking lot or something similar) and set up tents or stations of some sort to display their offerings. It's wonderful to be able to have access to a wide variety of not only produce, but meats, cheeses, honey, baked goods, and even beauty products – all made locally – in one central location. Some other benefits include being able to talk to the farmer, ask questions about

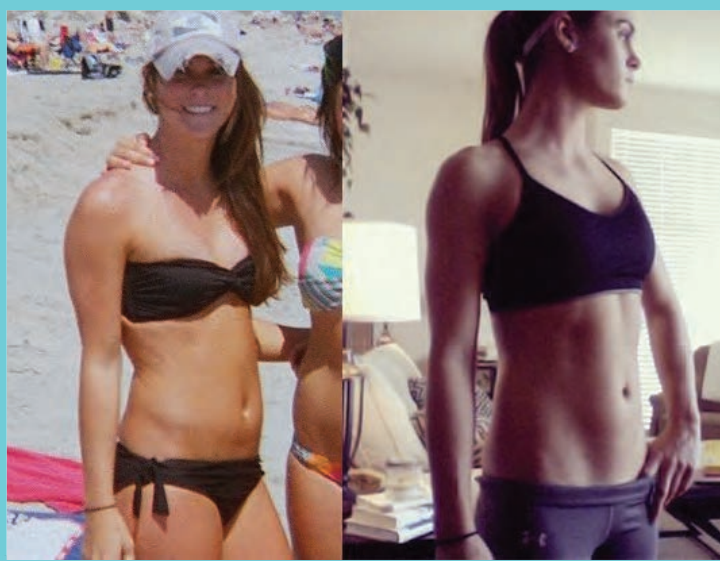
their products, sample the product, and often get fantastic deals on bulk purchases. And no worries...if you're not located in one of those bigger cities with a well-organized Farmer's Market, check out this website to see a map of Roadside Markets: <https://www.kyfb.com/federation/markets/>.

The map is fantastic because no matter where you are located in Kentucky, you can find a Roadside Market near you. Remember, different types of produce are in season during different times of the year.



So keep your eyes peeled for your favorite produce from the list above next time you are at the Farmer's Market this summer. Not only will these foods taste delicious and help you look and feel amazing as you get ready for your wedding, but you will feel good knowing that you supported local Kentucky farmers in the process! 

Molly Galbraith is an Athlete, Coach, and Trainer based in Lexington, KY. She is Co-Owner of J&M Strength and Conditioning and Red Point Fitness, and Co-Founder of Girls Gone Strong. You can read more about her at MollyGalbraith.com.



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wedding day fit



What "Running" (*in The Bluegrass*) Really Means

by **Eric Patrick Marr**

There are two definitions of "running."

One sucks. (I mean sucks big time).

The other absolutely ROCKS THE PLANET!

The old-world definition of "running" is probably better known as "going for a jog." You know, that boring activity where you throw on an old t-shirt, some shorts, and walk out your front door in an attempt to lose 5-10 pounds - so you'll fit better in your clothes and look better in the mirror. You probably tell yourself you'll go for a jog when you get home from work tomorrow night. Yeah, that's right, maybe even go 3-4 miles...

The problem is, that's so incredibly boring you wind up feeling like a hamster on his never-ending wheel, mindlessly putting one foot in front of the other. You begin looking at your watch every other second, since you're counting down the clock in your head, anyway - dreaming of what's for dessert when you get home! Surely these 2-3 miles (ahhh,

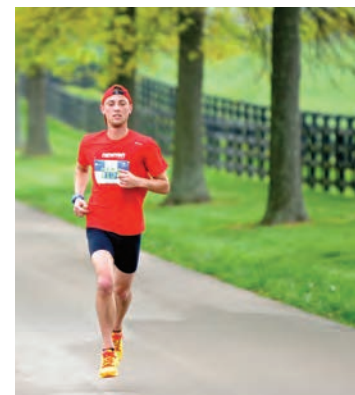
2-3 is good enough for tonight, "It's a good start," you tell yourself) will burn off enough calories to allow you that piece of cake and ice cream!

That particular form of "running" is likely the most monotonous, mind numbingly boring activity ever conceived by man.

The other kind of running, however, is a whole different ball game! (Particularly if you're fortunate enough to live in the Bluegrass - where the countryside seems to have been handcrafted by Mother Nature just for racing Thoroughbreds and Humans.)

Let's look at this new-world reality of running that's exploding in popularity right now, not only across the United States but across all of Kentucky as well.

Running, today, is an extremely social activity. Chances are very high that a whole slew of new friends awaits you in one of the many running groups throughout the land (in



Lexington, alone, there are at least five large – very active and very inviting – running groups throughout different parts of town). Social media has exploded “real running’s” immense popularity and truthfully, “real running” with your new best friends is arguably the best therapy on the market. You laugh, you joke, you cry, you achieve, you fail, you win, you improve ... all because of this unbelievable network of people around you.

Running, today, means setting a serious race goal for yourself. Ask one of your “real running” friends and you’ll quickly hear that registering for a race, probably one of a longer distance than you can currently run, is the singular best motivational force that exists. If you sign up and tell all your friends on Facebook you’re running a Half-Marathon, there’s no way in hell you’re skipping that morning’s training run because if you don’t finish those 13.1 miles, what will your friends think?!

Real running – in Kentucky, particular – yields one of the most intimate love affairs with nature you’ll ever experience. Our unique Thoroughbred Farms, on an early, foggy Saturday morning’s long run, give you some of the most beautiful views anywhere in America.

In this spring’s RunTheBluegrass Half-Marathon at Keeneland, over 2,100 runners from 29 states and three

countries experienced the heaven on earth known as Bluegrass Country. (And this was only our 2nd year – we expect upwards of 10,000 runners in the near future!) The adrenaline, the buzz from all of the people from all over the world – all lined up as far as the eye could see – created magic you could feel in your bones.

Magic so powerful, that even with Bluegrass Country’s endless rolling hills, many runners ran the fastest races of their entire lives, conquering one of the most beautiful and more challenging Half-Marathons in America.

You see, if running is drudgery, you’re simply doing it wrong. (And we’ve all been there).

Real running – especially running the Bluegrass – makes you happier than you’ve ever been before! [KB](#)

Eric Patrick Marr is the Founder and Executive Director for LeXenomics, a 501-3(c) that specializes in organic economic and cultural growth for the Bluegrass. From LeXenomics, he is the organizer for Run The Bluegrass, the prettiest Half Marathon in the nation as well as The Smart Series, Connecting and Catalyzing Kentucky’s Brainpower. To learn more LeXenomics and Run The Bluegrass, please visit RunTheBluegrass.org.

Wedding Countdown Checklist

Every detail counts, so to help you keep track of your wedding day duties, we've created this checklist that will see you through all the way to your "I do."

Engaged



- ✓ Pick up a copy of *Kentucky Bride*
- Announce your engagement to your friends and family
- Confer with your fiancé and parents about wedding expenses
- Pick a date!
- Select and hire a wedding planner and opt for the planning package that suits your needs
- Check out venues for the ceremony and reception – make sure they're available!

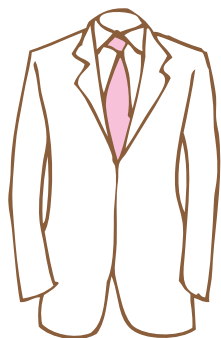
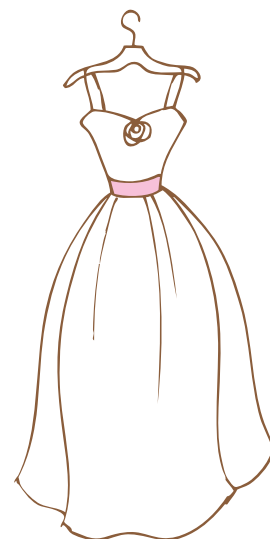


12
months before

- Choose bridal party
- Start looking for your dream dress
- Choose number of guests (this is crucial for your budget)
- Decide on style of wedding and how formal/casual it will be
- Contract your photographer

6-9
months before

- Hire caterer
- Book all necessary party rentals (dinnerware, glassware, chairs, linens, tables, tents, etc.)
- Select an officiant
- Choose and meet with a florist to solidify your vision
- Contract your videographer
- Select musicians for the ceremony and reception
- Make an appointment for and take engagement photos
- Make a final decision about your gown and purchase it
- Choose bridesmaids' dresses and order them
- Begin looking at honeymoon destinations
- Compile a list of names and addresses for invitations (this is a major task to take on)
- Register for gifts at your (and your groom's) favorite stores
- Send save-the-date cards for out-of-town guests
- Schedule appointments for beauty treatments (waxing, teeth-whitening, etc.)



4-6
months before

- Explore accommodations for out-of-town guests and negotiate the rate for a block of rooms
- Choose formal wear for the groom and groomsmen
- Book the honeymoon
- Choose and reserve transportation for your wedding day
- Do a cake tasting and select cake
- Finalize your guest list and decide whether to include "and guest" for single persons
- Choose all invitations, thank-you notes, etc. and order them
- Plan the rehearsal dinner



2-4
months before

- Find information on marriage licenses by contacting your courthouse
- Meet with your officiant and review wedding vows
- Choose readings, music and procedures that will take place during the ceremony
- Purchase attendants' gifts
- Verify all accommodations for out-of-town guests
- Order wedding favors
- Select wedding bands
- Purchase all bridal accessories for your wedding day (veil, shoes, jewelry and lingerie)



6-8
weeks before

- Send out invitations
- Complete menu with caterer
- Make an appointment for a trial of your wedding day hair (don't forget the veil!)
- Send wedding announcement to local newspaper
- Schedule necessary alterations for you and the bridal party

2-4
weeks before

- If necessary, schedule appointment for hair treatments
- Confirm all orders with each vendor
- Schedule final gown fitting and take all wedding day accessories with you
- Make welcome baskets for out-of-town guests; ask your attendants to help you assemble and provide wine & cheese for the get-together
- Write personal vows for the ceremony and a toast, if you plan on giving one
- Print menu cards, table cards, programs, etc.
- Celebrate with your bachelor/bachelorette parties

1

week before

- Pick up your beautiful wedding gown
- Put each gratuity that you wish to give in an envelope with the wedding professional's name on the outside and give to your wedding planner so they can be given to the right people
- Verify number of guests with caterer
- Pack for your honeymoon
- Make sure to pick up your certificate of marriage



1

day before

- Enjoy a manicure/pedicure
- Visit with family and relax
- Rehearsal and rehearsal dinner

Wedding Day

- Pamper yourself—get your hair and makeup professionally done
- Take wedding rings and certificate of marriage to the ceremony site
- Relish each moment
- Don't forget a snack
- Say "I do" and begin your happily ever after!

Firsts

As if preparing for your wedding wasn't big enough, next comes your new adventure as a couple. The following pages will guide you through many first experiences as husband and wife.



BUY BEFORE “I DO” OR AFTER?

by Meredith Lane



Congratulations! You just got engaged to the love of your life! Now you probably have the next ___ (fill in the blank) number of days to get the next year or so of your life planned out.

You've Got



“Wait. What?!?” You may be thinking. “Buy a *house* during the middle of my wedding planning?!?! Heck no! That’s too stressful!”

But the fact of the matter is, purchasing a home before you tie the knot may actually be less stress on you in the long run. Many couples are opting to purchase a home before they say, “I do” for a number of reasons. It helps when it comes to registering. You’ve got his stuff, plus your stuff—what “stuff” do you really need or what do you have too many of now that you’ve combined your things? What spaces will you need to fill in your home together? Furniture works differently in different spaces, so it’s easier to plan on what you need when you know what rooms you need to fill. Also many couples actually find shopping for a home as a reprieve from the wedding planning itself.

Maybe you’re not ready to commit to buying a home together before you legally commit to each other on your wedding day... and hey, that’s okay! But regardless of whether you decide to purchase a home together before or after the wedding, there are some useful things you should know.

Should you buy before you get married – the pros and cons

Pros

The home will already be ready to move in (or you will already live there) after the wedding.

You're ready to start your life together as soon as you say, "I do."

You don't have to move the wedding gifts multiple times!

Alleviates your stress.

Do you want to commit to a home before you legally commit to each other?

Adds to your stress.

Cons

Is buying a home right for you?

Housing affordability is about the best it's ever been and tight lending conditions are now protecting buyers much better than before.

Interest rates are at historic lows, which means buyers are getting a lot more bang for their buck when it comes to affording nicer, larger homes for the same monthly payment as what a smaller, more basic home may have cost them a few years ago.

Is renting or buying better? Kentucky has been fortunate in that the housing market and home values haven't been as negatively affected as they have been nationwide. Prices here also remain affordable. In many cases, it's even cheaper to pay a monthly mortgage payment than your monthly rent. Plus, when you go to sell your home, you can recoup the

purchase price and hopefully, earn a profit too. However if you're planning on moving out of town in the next couple of years, buying right now is probably not the right choice for you.

What steps do I take to buy a home as a first-time buyer?

- Find an experienced and professional real estate agent to guide you through the process. They should hold your hand and walk you through the process, being available to answer questions for you and handle any situations that arise. Their job is to find you the best house, for the best price and have your back along the way. Bonus... using an agent to buy a home doesn't cost you anything!
- Find a lender who can get you prequalified and give you an estimate of what your monthly payments would be. Using someone local will benefit you much better than finding an out-of-town lender online. Your Realtor can likely recommend some hardworking, trustworthy mortgage brokers who offer competitive rates.
- Determine how much money you want to put down as your down payment. Depending on what type of loan you choose, your lender will require different down payments. Talk with them about what option is right for you. Some banks even have in-house loans with 100% financing for qualified homebuyers.
- Determine where the down payment cash is coming from. Do you have it in savings? Will a family member "gift" it to you? Will you need down payment assistance? Will you qualify for 100 percent financing? Your lender can also help you get creative with this.

Housing affordability is about the best it's ever been.

- Look at homes for sale online and in person with your agent. Be realistic on the price and conditions when you make an offer – not all homes in this market are “fire-sales.” Your agent will be able to guide you through making a reasonable, yet competitive offer on the property you love.
- Once you've found “the” house and negotiated the contract, hire a licensed home inspector to thoroughly inspect all aspects of the home. You'll also want to call a termite inspector to make sure there's no wood destroying insects making this property their home.
- If applicable, negotiate repairs with the seller. Then do a final walk-through before closing to make sure the agreed upon items have been repaired and your new home is in as good as, if not better, condition than when you originally made your offer.
- Before closing, shop for home insurance and consider if you need additional title insurance. Your lender and real estate agent can likely recommend some good companies to contact.

Make a list (mentally or on paper) of what you're each looking for in a home. Remember, compromise is key!

- Choose your style of home. Do you like older and traditional, newer and modern, fixer upper, older home that's already been updated, etc.
- Choose what area of town or neighborhoods you want to be in. Do you want to be downtown, in an older neighborhood, do you like new construction? Are school districts important to you? Also, depending on what type of style of home you like (new or old) will help determine what part of town you will likely end up in.
- Decide your price range – what monthly payment feels most comfortable to you? Talking to a lender will help you determine what price point you should start your home search in, in addition to helping you decide which loan program is best for your financial status.

- Decide what both of your must-haves in a house are. Square footage; number of bedrooms; number of bathrooms; two story or ranch; big or small backyard; townhouse, single family home or condo; basement; garage; lots of storage; big kitchen... you get the picture. Figure out what the “needs” and the “wants” are and make your priority list from there.
- Again, you may have to compromise a bit when it comes to getting all the features you want in a mortgage payment you can afford. Also, just like marriage, be willing to give and take a bit with your partner. Yes, my dear, that does mean allowing him to use that bonus room for his man cave... or him allowing you to take up two-thirds of the master closet with your shoe collection.

Purchasing a home before you tie the knot may actually be less stress on you in the long run.

Whether or not you decide to take the plunge into homeownership before or after you head to the altar, make sure you talk to a professional to help you establish a financial game plan for the future. Buying or selling a home shouldn't be a stressful process and for the couples I work with, buying a house is just another step they take together in their journey together as (soon-to-be... or already) husband and wife. [KB](#)

Meredith Lane is a Realtor with Milestone Realty Consultants, specializing in representing first-time homebuyers, resale properties and new construction homes. Call or text 859.539.9169 or visit MeredithLane.com for more information on homes for sale and how to start your home buying or selling process.



Find Your
Color...



Colors come from within and are “spoken” first, then “seen.”

So it's simple, right? Just pick a color and slap it on the wall, upholster your favorite chair in it, or make those toss pillows that you need for that great accent. Yeah, right...

Color is tricky. It can be one thing in the daylight, another thing in the evening sun, and then another under the lights that you use every day in your home. However, picking that color is not as hard as you may think. With a little help from a designer, and your input, the color choices are easy.

When I am asked to come to a client's house for a design consultation, particularly color choices, there are a few key questions that are always asked ... and one generally will not be “What is your favorite color?” If you could answer that, there would be no need for my help!

Colors of one's clothes are very different than colors on walls. Yes, there is some overlap in the preference, but the actual application is very different. Instead of asking the obvious, I take the approach of looking at and speaking about things that are important to you. The photos on the wall, the accessories that you already have, and even the

color of towels you choose for your morning showers are all topics of conversation.

Color, for lack of a better explanation, lies within your personal feeling, you just may not be seeing it because you are around it so much. I want to discuss the favorite vacation pictured in the frame on the wall, or how you want to use the space ... colors come from within and are “spoken” first, then “seen.”

Call it a metaphysical approach, call it voodoo, whatever makes you feel better, I simply call it seeing the client {you} for who they are and what they enjoy. Coupling that with a strong understanding of what the color means to you, and overall design knowledge, the colors fall into place.

It's easy to fall into the trap of “Well, I guess beige is OK.” True enough, beige is a fine color, and one I use often, but there are also accents and other colors that you need to play with the beige. It all goes back to “feeling.” You know you have it! Now let's do it!

Stuart's "Do's and Don'ts" of color

DO

Pick what you like, and then adjust the tone or shade to fit with what you already have.

Be realistic in your approach to color. It really is the making or breaking point of an entire space. It can make you feel an array of emotions, so go with the one that makes you feel the best!

Consult someone if you are not 100%. Designers can help, or the paint professionals at the paint store can help, that is what they are there for!

DON'T

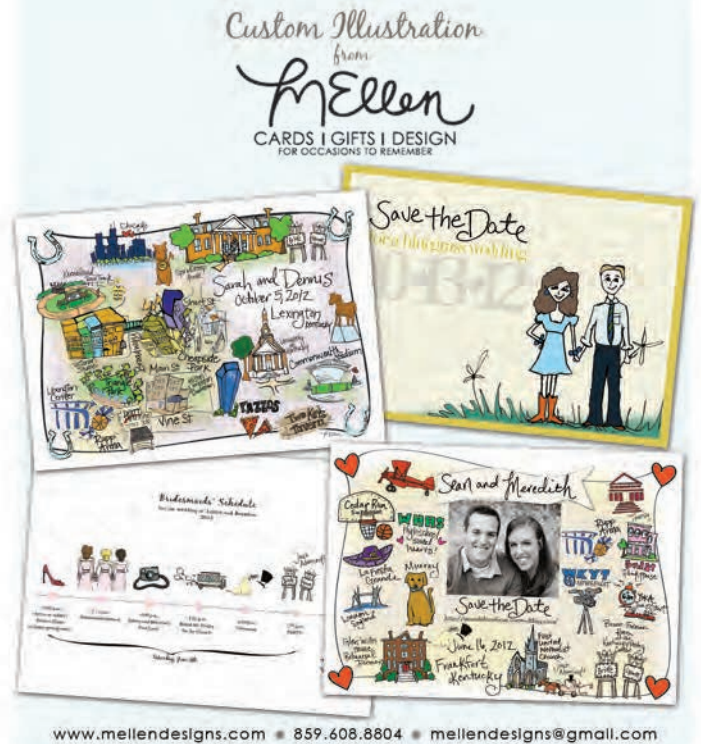
Kid yourself into thinking that the color is perfect. If you have doubts for your space, it is wrong. Step away!

Leave anything white ... unless it calls for it. Add a little punch!

Be afraid to ask for help ... It's paint, not your 401-K!

Now that we have the color picked, what sheen are we using??? [KB](#)

Stuart Hurt received his CID (Certified Interior Designer) licenses in 2006 being among the first in the Commonwealth to be awarded the certification. He has also been published in *Kentucky Homes and Gardens*, *Keeneland Magazine* and has appeared on numerous television spots for design advice and conversation. Hurt received his BA in Interior Design from the University of Kentucky. He has also branched into commercial design for selected clients, while maintaining a small business with 2 business partners in Lexington that specializes in Interior Design services, Wedding Floral and home accessories, house by JSD Designs.



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Until Next Time...

While we are enjoying the summer sun, we know that in Kentucky, the season will soon change, as will the weather. Just like getting prepared for the weather change {new boots for the wardrobe}, we also want to make sure that you are prepared for every scenario that may come your way. We will make sure that you have checked all Plan B items off your list. Make sure to pick up the next issue in October.

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