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Wedding show puts engaged couples in touch with local professionals | Updated



The West Sound Wedding Show's fashion show features the latest wedding styles, including professionally-done hair and makeup. — Image Credit: Aubin Ahrens Photography / Courtesy



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by **MICHELLE BEAHM**, Bremerton Patriot Reporter
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BREMERTON — Most engagements happen during the holiday season, between November and Valentine's Day, according to Paula Lowe, publisher of Wedding and Events Magazine.

Lowe said many of them get engaged in December.

That makes Sunday, Jan. 31, a great day to hold the West Sound Wedding Show in Bremerton's Kitsap Conference Center.

"The most popular time to get married, especially in the northwest, is between May and September, so the wedding professionals get really booked up," Lowe said, "so it's important to get them booked as soon as possible."

The West Sound Wedding Show will host more than 50 wedding professionals and range from photographers to florists, caterers to venues, and "everything they need for their wedding," Lowe said.

The event is in its sixth year being hosted by the Wedding and Events Magazine, but has been an annual feature for more than 25 years, according to Lowe.

"It pays for the brides and grooms to come to a local wedding expo," Lowe said. "If they go outside Kitsap County, they often have to pay a travel fee."

But at this event, nearly all the vendors are local (and the ones that aren't are nearby or travel a lot, Lowe said), and, as a side benefit, many have worked together numerous times.

"Your wedding will go smoothly, because it's people who have worked together before," Lowe said.

Couples who attend can enter to win dozens of prizes, ranging in value from \$50 to \$400, according to Lowe. Some of them include beauty products, hotel stays, photo sessions, a tuxedo rental package, jewelry, gift certificates and much more.

One major feature of the event are the two fashion shows, at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Lowe said, "They're featuring the latest styles and hairstyles, makeup, wedding dresses, tuxedos, bridal bouquets, boutonnieres...."

She added that all the makeup and hairstyles and so on are done by professionals to show up the coming trends for 2016 and 2017.

"They'll find really creative wedding decor at the show," she went on. "they'll get to sample cake and cupcakes and some food from our caterers, and they can see the beautiful Kitsap Conference Center, where the show is."

The conference center, Lowe said, also hosts weddings, and is a great venue due to its waterfront location.

"I think (couples are) looking for resources in one place," Lowe said, "because it's hard to find wedding professionals that you want, and ... you get to meet them, get a good idea of their personality ... and then get an idea of somebody they want to work with."

Tickets can be purchased for \$10 in advance online, or if purchased at the door the day of the event, attendees can get a discount with a military I.D. or by bringing a non-perishable food item, which will be donated to Bremerton Foodline.

The West Sound Wedding show takes place from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Jan. 31 at the Kitsap Conference Center, 100 Washington Ave., Bremerton.

To learn more about the show, visit westsoundweddingshow.com.

MICHELLE BEAHM, Bremerton Patriot Reporter
mbeahm@bremertonpatriot.com or 360-308-9161 x 5054



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