

dress," Eisenberger said. "They might cut back a little on the price, but I haven't seen too much of that. We require a 50 percent down payment, and the other

Eisenberger offers discontinued dresses on sale at her store, but, for the most part, she's seen future brides stick more to picking the right gown for them, even

"They're more likely to cut back on other

• See Cakes, F9

Tips for a less costly wedding

According to JDK Group's President and CEO Jennifer Delaye, "You don't need to spend \$50,000 to have the wedding you want."

As the head of the Camp Hill business which helps couples with just about everything involved in weddings down to the coordination and planning of the event, she's seen plenty of couples create beautiful weddings for half the cost. She had a few examples of how other couples have kept the cost down while providing a memorable experience for everyone involved.

1. Pick what is most important to you. Is it the food, the atmosphere, the gown or the flowers? You don't need all the bells and whistles. Choose what you want and invest the money to make it exactly how you pictured it.

2. Choose the right venue. Delaye said that one of the most costly parts of the wedding is the bar, especially if the bar is at a banquet hall or reception hall that provides its own drinks.

"It takes a big chunk of your money if you don't have control over the liquor," she said. "If you go off premises and buy the liquor yourself, you spend one-fourth of the cost at halls that sell it for marked up prices."

One cheap, but impressive venue are area fire halls. Some big venues can cost \$5,000 for rental before you bring anything in, but fire halls are pretty cost-effective, provide some rental tables in some cases and allow you to bring your own alcohol and other outside services, such as flowers and lighting.

JDK Group also offers packages where they set up a tent and light it for the couple in locations around the midstate in Carlisle, Harrisburg and Lancaster, which makes a cost-effective outdoor wedding for those who can't pay the \$15,000 and up for tent rental costs.

3. Minimalism is in. You don't need the bouquets of flowers at every table, and if you do, Delaye has seen many a couple rush to Wegmans and arrange store-bought flowers themselves.

The new trend is natural and organic with centerpieces of twigs and branches, river rocks and wheatgrass in vases, which cost very little to produce.

• See Tips, F1



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