



The O'Sullivan and Knott families gather after the ceremony.

Aimee & Ryan O'Sullivan

BIG CITY WEDDING PLANS GIVE WAY TO AN INTIMATE HOMETOWN CELEBRATION

AIMEE KNOTT AND RYAN O'SULLIVAN planned their nuptials and reception with a fancy downtown Chicago wedding venue, set for August 21, 2020. Intended for a large group of family and friends, with the venue under contract, their celebration would be in the city where they met in 2017 and would later become engaged. But that changed with the unforeseen pandemic.

Aimee and Ryan had a decision to make. They shared a glass of wine one evening in early October as their original wedding date had already passed and talked about what to do. The venue's contract was inflexible, health precautions and considerations were now the norm, and they didn't want to wait for another year to reschedule, especially since having a family is a priority. Aimee found her perfect dress at Barrington's Gilded Rose Atelier, having help from Jolly at Barrington Tailor Shop for alterations. The couple turned to Sarah Kathleen Events to help with the planning.


"We decided that we're not going to wait anymore," Aimee said. "We decided to have our wedding and reception here, in Barrington, our new hometown that we just love." They had moved to Barrington from Chicago as the pandemic hit. "We fell in love with downtown Barrington and decided 'no more city' for us. When we moved here, we easily made friends in our age group and now have a new community," she said. So, the next step was to plan a "micro-wedding" with only immediate family at their new Barrington home.

Last year, before asking Aimee's parents for her hand, Ryan first needed to ask his son, Jack, how he felt about becoming a family with Aimee before the engagement. Jack of course gave the go-ahead to his dad. Jack then played

a starring role in helping Ryan ask for Aimee's hand. The plan was for the couple and Jack to have dinner at a favorite pizza spot, in the city. Aimee had just returned from a long drive home from work and was tired. The plan was to walk the 606 Trail after dinner to a spot by Wicker Park where the Chicago skyline was a picturesque backdrop at sunset—but Aimee needed some serious convincing to take that walk. Once at the destination, Ryan asked Jack to take a photo of the two. Little did Aimee know that Ryan would get down on one knee, ring in hand, and give her the surprise of a lifetime. "I had no idea" she says. "I was in shock!" Aimee recounts that from that day of July 24, 2019, being Ryan's fiancée has been a wonderful time in her life.

The wedding took place on November 21 on their backyard patio. Weather was a concern as the days before were cold and rainy. But just in time, the sun came out offering a 55-degree afternoon, though a few outdoor heaters, jackets, and shawls came in handy. Ryan's long-time best friend, Sean Allen, officiated at the wedding. Jack stood up as Ryan's best man, and Aimee's sisters offered readings.

The couple headed to downtown Barrington before the ceremony for photos, starting at Memorial Park and then stopping at locations they liked, with onlookers cheering. "People are so nice here," Ryan says. Later, they met at ZaZa's Tavola in Lake Barrington. "They made it look so gorgeous it took my breath away," Aimee said.

For Ryan, it was Aimee who took his breath away when he first saw her at brunch while out with friends. "We started talking and hit it off," he said. "We get along well, can laugh together, and just be ourselves. And now, my best friend is my wife." 



A pause at Barrington Flower Shop.



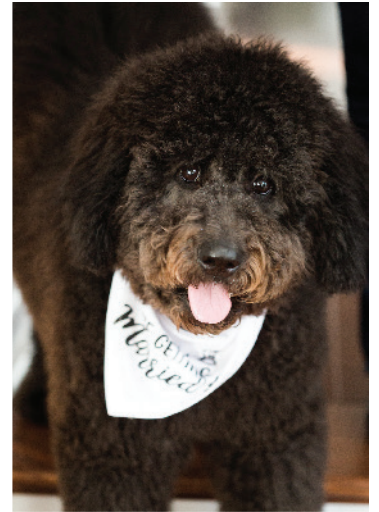
Aimee and Ryan O'Sullivan decided not to wait until next fall, and married in November 2020.



The couple stopped by downtown Barrington before their wedding ceremony.



ZaZa's Tavola hosted the reception.



Fred is the newlywed couple's puppy.



Wedding officiant Sean Allen is a friend of the couple. Moongate and table arrangements by Fabbrini's Flowers in Hoffman Estates.