

Celebrate the new year in downtown La Grande

By Lisa Britton
Go! Magazine

LA GRANDE — A traditional New Year's Eve celebration is returning to downtown La Grande this year after going virtual in 2020.

A block party will start at 10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31, and the ball drop at midnight will welcome 2022.

The intersection of Adams Avenue and Depot Street will be closed off for the celebration, which includes burn barrels to keep revelers warm and a warming tent sponsored by John J. Howard & Associates Real Estate with hot cocoa and other goodies. Many downtown restaurants and shops stay open late, and Becky's Burger Wagon is scheduled to be serving up food.

Also, Loveland Funeral Home will be providing free rides home.

The event is organized by La Grande Main Street Downtown. In 2020, the organization did not sponsor a block party and the

NEW YEAR'S EVE BLOCK PARTY AND BALL DROP

10 p.m. Dec. 31
Adams Avenue and Depot
Street
Downtown La Grande

ball drop was livestreamed on Facebook.

"This year it's back to normal," said Ashley O'Toole, Realtor and property manager with John J. Howard & Associates.

O'Toole was the one who proposed the idea for a New Year's Eve party to La Grande Main Street Downtown.

This is the event's eighth year. "There's a lot of laughter, a lot of conversation. It's a fun, celebratory atmosphere," said Taylor Scroggins, executive director of La Grande Main Street Downtown.

Near midnight, the illuminated ball will descend the flagpole on the Phoenix Building as the crowd counts down to the new year.



The Observer, File
Locals filled downtown La Grande during the New Year's Eve block party on Dec. 31, 2019, to watch the ball drop and welcome in 2020.

"It actually glows pretty impressively," Scroggins said.

He said John J. Howard & Associates is a major partner for this New Year's Eve tradition, and O'Toole makes sure all the lights — for the ball and the illuminated 2022 — are in perfect order.

Scroggins said many community events came back in 2021. La Grande Main Street Downtown organizes Crazy Days, the Eastern Oregon Beer Festival, Downtown trick-or-treat, Plaid Friday and Small Business Saturday, the holiday parade and tree

lighting, and a guided lights tour (in partnership with the Union County Chamber of Commerce).

2022 may bring even more activities.

"We're looking to expand our events next year," Scroggins said.



Winter Classes at Crossroads

December Class

Tuesdays Portrait Painting with Acrylic
December 28 - February 8 • 5:30-7:30pm
FULL - Call to be placed on waitlist

January Classes

Fridays Exploring with Paint and Canvas
January 14 - February 11 • 10:00am-Noon
FREE High School Class

January 15 Barn Quilt Painting Workshop
9:30am-3:00pm

January 17 Adult Intermediate Wheel Throwing
January 17, 24 and February 7

January 20

Adult Wheel Throwing For Beginners
January 20, 27 and February 7
FULL - Call to be placed on waitlist

January 13

Intro to Calligraphy - "Easy Uncials"
January 20 and 27 • 6:00-8:00pm

Children's Ballet Classes

Tuesday Ballet I
January 4 - February 22 • 4:00-5:00pm

Wednesday Ballet II
January 5 - February 23 • 4:00-5:00pm

Thursday Ballet III
January 6 - February 24 • 4:00-5:00pm

2020 Auburn Avenue
Baker City, Oregon
541.523.5369
www.crossroads-arts.org

Crossroads is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00am to 5:00pm
Crossroads in accordance with the Oregon Health Authority requires masks for everyone age 5 and above.

