

# Celebrate the new year in downtown La Grande

By Lisa Britton  
Go! Magazine

**L**A 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  
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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.

