

Meet the Neighbors: Downtown's Coffee Cafes

Downtown Albany is a great place to meet friends and enjoy a cup of your favorite brew. Our three coffee cafes offer inviting indoor spaces and outside seating. Here are the spots where you can get your favorites and sit a bit.

The Brim Coffee Co.
241 1st Ave. W • (541) 905-0462

Since July 2021, The Brim Coffee Co. has been a Downtown destination for those looking for a quiet space to enjoy a cup with friends.

Owners Tiesha and Russell Williams have created a warm and welcoming coffee shop "where your heart and cup will be filled to The Brim."

The Brim offers espresso drinks, blended mochas, smoothies, Italian sodas, Lotus energy drinks and gourmet sodas. For something to enjoy with your drink, select from their signature panini, bagels or house-made scones in seasonal flavors.



Margin Coffee Roasters
206 2nd Ave. SW • (541) 248-3234

Margin Coffee Roasters opened in 2018 and has been "Albany's living room" ever since. Gabe Anderson and his team provide a welcoming third space for locals and visitors.

Stop in for a house brew, espresso drink, chai or matcha. Enjoy fresh-baked goodies, a breakfast sandwich or a bagel with lox. Beer and wine are available.

On Fridays, Margin is now open late, serving up a selection of fun cocktails.

"You can expect sassy drinks for sipping, classy food for sharing, and chill lounge-coffee shop vibes, per usual, shared Gabe. "Our full coffee shop menu will still be available during cocktail bar hours, as well as new food items, snacks, beer, wine, and friendly faces."

Margin roasts its own coffee and has second location near I-5.

Sidekicks Gourmet Desserts & Espresso
835 Lyon St S • (541) 967-7558

Krista and Jason Stitzel took over Sidekicks in December 2023. Sidekicks has been a Downtown fixture since 1995.

Serving espresso, gourmet desserts and food to the residents of Albany and those passing through.

Krista has brought back the signature cakes and cheesecakes from the Lovin Oven. They offer a nice selection of rotating flavors of these iconic towering cakes. Other sweets include danishes, coffee cake and cookies.

Also back is the Bonnie's Shrimp Crunch Salad, a menu item shared with The Depot Restaurant next door. Sandwiches, soups and salads round out the menu.

"We both look forward to serving the community and being a part of the legacy of this cool little bistro," said Krista.



Downtown Newsletter Subscriptions & Archives

Want to hear about all of the fun happening Downtown? Keep informed of new businesses and important news? Subscribe to the Downtown Albany newsletter to learn about activities, events, sales, businesses, volunteer opportunities, grants, parking and more.

Email subscriptions are FREE. Just send your name and email address to director@albanydowntown.com. Mailed subscriptions are \$6/year to help cover postage. Payment can be made by phone or at our office.

Did you miss an issue, or maybe you want to revisit a story about your favorite Downtown businesses? Our past newsletters are available online. Simply visit our website. An index of story headlines accompanies each issue for easy searching. Many stories are also available in our blog. Both can be found at www.albanydowntown.com/news.



Volunteer Spotlight: Matt Wadlington

Matt Wadlington is someone you know will always step up and be there to do what's needed without being asked.

When Matt moved the local office of Civil West Engineering to Downtown Albany, he made a point to get involved. He joined the Design Committee, working on hanging baskets and Downtown Clean Up events.

Matt stepped into the role of Committee Chair, initiating the flower basket sponsorship program in 2020 when ADA's city TLT funds dropped during Covid. He was recognized with a Volunteers on Main award at Oregon Main Street's 2021 Excellence on Main ceremony.

Joining ADA's board in 2020, Matt took the reins as ADA's board president in July 2023, smoothly guiding the organization to continued success.

Thank you, Matt, for the strength and determination you bring to the ADA and our Downtown business community.



Parking Update

Each month, ParkWise awards a month of free parking to a leased space or employee permit holder.

Our March parking winner is...

Norma Velazquez

Turner Hospitality Inc.

Downtown Events - March / April

Friday, Mar. 1 - 1st Friday in Historic Downtown Albany: Pot 'o Gold

Bring your friends Downtown for some 1st Friday fun! Look for sales, tasting, music, a special event at the Carousel and other fun. For more info, visit the ADA website www.albanydowntown.com/events or the 1st Friday Facebook page.

Friday, Mar. 1 - Gallery Calapooia Artist Reception

Gallery Calapooia featured artist Lori Garcy, metalsmith / jewelry, and Karen Miller, textile artist. The artist reception is 6-8 pm. For more info, call (541) 971-5701 or visit www.gallerycalapooia.com.

Mar. 1-9 - ACT presents: Eclipsed

Albany Civic Theater presents Eclipsed by Patricia Burke Brogan. Eclipsed is a powerful and moving award-winning play with dozens of productions around the world. Set in a Magdalene laundry in the 1960s, the all-woman play documents the Irish Catholic church and their practice of incarcerating pregnant and unwed Irish mothers in church-run laundries, making them work as penitents. If you saw the film Philomena, you have seen the story of one Magdalene. Although a drama, the play is filled with moments of humor as well as song. Directed by: Charlotte J. Headrick. Performances: Mar. 1, 2, 3(m), 7, 8, 9. For info, visit www.albanycivic.org. See story page 1.

Saturday, Mar. 2 - Little Royalty Tea Party at the Carousel

The Albany Carousel cordially invites all princesses, princes, kings and queens to a Little Royalty Tea Party. Party Perfection Princesses will attend, along with their face painters. A professional photographer will take photos with a princess! Refreshments and make your own crown! 11 am-1 pm. Tickets go on sale on Feb. 14 and are \$25 per person. For more information, visit www.albanycarousel.com or call (541) 497-2934.

Saturday, Mar. 9 - Monteith House Living History Activities

Step into 1850 with them on the second Saturday of each month at the Historic Monteith House. Exciting activities like woodworking, pioneer doll making and so many other family-friendly activities! Each time will be something new, and you'll learn a little more about this important piece of Albany's history. 12-2 pm. www.monteithhouse.org

Wednesday, Mar. 13 - History Bites

The Albany Regional Museum will host a fascinating discussion. Check ARM's website for updates on this month's presenter. Free, 12-1 pm. For info, visit www.armuseum.com.

March 15-31 - Downtown Easter "Egg" Hunt

Head to Downtown Albany and search for colorful paper Easter "Eggs" on windows throughout Downtown. See story page 1.

April - Family Tree Relief Nursery Diaper Drive

The Diaper Drive is the entire month of April. Diaper donation boxes will be arriving in early April and will be available for your donations through the end of the month.

Friday, Apr. 5 - 1st Friday in Historic Downtown Albany - Spring Fling

Bring your friends Downtown for some 1st Friday fun! Look for sales, tasting, music, a special event at the Carousel and other fun. For more info, visit the ADA website www.albanydowntown.com/events.

Saturday, Apr. 6 - Albany Taps & Caps

The 6th Annual Albany Taps & Caps is scheduled 4-8 pm. A Downtown brewery and tap house crawl, the event is a fundraiser for Furniture Share, helping families in crisis, and Beds for Kids. Information is available at furnitureshare.org, albanydowntown.com and on Facebook. See story page 1

Saturdays starting April 20 - Albany Farmers' Market

Each week, head to the Albany Farmers' Market for fresh local produce, meats, baked goods, seafood, plants, flowers and more. Hours: 9 am-1 pm in the Albany City Hall parking lot (corner of 4th & Ellsworth). www.locallygrown.com

Sunday, Apr. 21 - Mixology Madness

Albany Downtown Association's fundraiser is back! Sample cocktails created by Downtown's favorite bartenders and vote for your favorite drink at the best cocktail party in town. Advance sale only. Tickets on sale in mid-March. See details on Facebook and our website, www.albanydowntown.com, or call (541) 928-2469.

Sunday-Saturday, Apr. 21-27 - Downtown Restaurant Week

Enjoy specials at over 25 Downtown restaurants, bistros, cafes, bakeries and more. See details on Facebook and our website, www.albanydowntown.com, or call (541) 928-2469.

For info on these and other events, visit AlbanyDowntown.com



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Subscription: Email free. Mail \$6/yr.

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Downtown 1st Friday "Pot O' Gold" is March 1

Call it the luck of the Irish because 1st Friday has landed on March 1st! This month's theme, Pot O' Gold, has been embraced by some of your favorite businesses in Downtown Albany. Come by and see what they've got in store for you!

- **1st Hand Seconds Unique Boutique:** 20% off at the boutique! \$5 Bag o' coins! Wedding dress grab bags will also be available for sale! *except bridal & fine jewelry (5-7 pm)



Sniffany's Pet Boutique

- **Ba's Vietnamese Comfort Food:** Check out our green drink options. Plantasia (sencha gin, pandan, coconut and lime), Matcha Latte and Strawberry Matcha Latte.
- **Beloved Cheesecakes:** Debut of our new seasonal, Mint Chocolate Chip Cheesecake. Try a free sample. For those feeling lucky. Free raffle to win a free whole cheesecake! (5-8 pm)
- **Gallery Calapooia:** Featured artists of the month: Lori Garcy, metalsmith/jewelry, and Karen Miller, textile artist (6-8 pm)
- **Gamberetti's Albany (Vito's Trattoria):** We will be picking up the tab for one lucky couple on First Friday. Come join us! (4-10 pm)
- **High on the Hog:** Save your gold, \$2 off any sandwich (11:30 am-7 pm)
- **The Historic Carousel & Museum:** Carnival-themed 1st Friday with unlimited rides for just \$5! Carnival games, Mountain Man Candy 20% off, free books and a free carousel



Sweet Red Bistro

Albany Visitors Photo Contest Deadline is Mar. 8

Grab your camera or smartphone and find that perfect shot. The Albany Visitors Association (AVA) is proud to sponsor Albany's 17th Annual Albany Photography Contest.



Winner Student 2023
Bryant Park Train by Liv Kottre

The purpose of this contest is to find images suitable for use in the coming year's marketing materials for Albany and Linn County including the annual visitors guide. Photographers will get photo credit whenever possible.

The contest is open to photographers of all skill levels. First-, second- and third-place awards will be presented to winners in each category. Returning categories are Culinary, Events, Historic Albany, Landmarks, People and Scenic. A first-place prize will also be awarded in the Youth category (for young photographers ages 18 and under).

A new category for 2024 is Downtown Albany, sponsored by the Albany Downtown Association.

The deadline for submission is 5 pm Friday, March 8, 2024. Information, rules and release forms are available online at www.albanyvisitors.com.

Watch AVA's website and social media for an announcement on how to vote for your favorite photograph for the People's Choice Award.

For further information, contact the AVA at 122 Ferry St SW, (541) 928-0911 or info@albanyvisitors.com



Winner 2nd Place Culinary 2023
Ice Cream at the Carousel by Melinda Martin

ride token for a future visit! Party Perfection will offer face painting & balloon animals (fee). (5:30-8 pm)

- **Margin Coffee Roasters:** Specials: Irish Coffee and Lucky Charms (green matcha cocktail). Discounts: \$2 off cocktails from 4:30-6:30 pm (6:30 am-8:30 pm)
- **The Natty Dresser:** Live music with the Loose Flagstones Celtic band, serving Irish Buck cocktails and Welsh cakes. Anything green is 20% off. And you get to choose a gift from the pot o' gold with your purchase of \$10 or more. (5-7 pm)
- **Reds Boutique:** 25% off St Paddy Clothing and Irish adult cocktail
- **Sniffany's Pet Boutique:** Cat Saves will offer cat adoptions. (4-7:30 pm)
- **The Squeaky Cork:** Irish Whiskey Flight. Sláinte! (4-10 pm)
- **Sweet Red Bistro:** We will be featuring our Irish Whiskey Butter Cake and our Drunken Leprechaun cocktail, available for First Friday only! (4-10 pm)
- **Weathered Together Market - Cookies & Sales** (4-7 pm)
- **Wine Crush:** Come in for a glass of Poizin! Featuring amazing Zinfandel from Armida Winery tonight! (2-9 pm)
- **Urban Ag Supply:** 15% off all "green" plants (4-8 pm)
- **Urban on 1st:** All day dollar rack (10:30 am - 7:30 PM)

For more information, call the Albany Downtown Association at (541) 928-2469 or visit our website www.albanydowntown.com



DOWNTOWN ALBANY

March 2024

Albany Civic Theater Presents Eclipsed March 1-9

Albany Civic Theater presents Eclipsed by Patricia Burke Brogan. Eclipsed is a powerful and moving award-winning play with dozens of productions around the world.

Set in a Magdalene laundry in the 1960s, the all-woman play documents the Irish Catholic church and their practice of incarcerating pregnant and unwed Irish mothers in church-run laundries making them work as penitents.

If you saw the film Philomena, you have seen the story of one Magdalene. Although a drama, the play is filled with mo-



ments of humor as well as song. Note: This show has adult content and subject matter. Directed by: Charlotte J. Headrick.

Performances are March 1, 2, 3(m), 7, 8 and 9. Evening performances start at 7:30 pm. Matinees start at 2:30 pm. Box office opens 45 minutes before curtain.

On-demand streaming for Eclipsed will be available.

For more information and tickets, visit www.albanycivic.org.



Photos by Leta Brown

Downtown "Egg" Hunt starts March 16

The Downtown Easter "Egg" Hunt is a fun activity for the whole family with a little candy for all and a chance to win a Downtown Easter Basket!

Starting Saturday, March 16, head to Downtown Albany and search for colorful Easter Egg Posters on windows throughout Downtown. Before you leave home, print and color your Downtown Easter Hunt entry form. Then, stroll the side-

walks and record the eggs you find. Forms are also available at our office.

Drop your entry at the ADA office by Easter Sunday, March 31 (in the door slot) to be entered in a random drawing to win a Downtown Easter basket featuring gift certificates from Taqueria Alonzo, a movie ticket, a carousel ride and treats! The basket winner will be announced on Easter Monday!

To receive a candy-filled Easter egg, turn in your entry in person Monday-Friday, March 18-29 from 9 am-5 pm ... a few lucky kiddos might even find a Carousel ride token hidden in their egg.

Albany Taps & Caps is Saturday, April 6

The 6th Annual Albany Taps & Caps is scheduled for Saturday, April 6 from 4-8 pm. A Downtown brewery and tap house crawl, the event is a fundraiser for Furniture Share, helping families in crisis, and Beds for Kids.



The 2024 locations are No Rails Ale House, The Garage, Calapooia Brewing Co. / Vivacity Spirits and Deluxe Brewing Co. / Sinister Distilling. Attendees are invited to ride the Albany Trolley or walk from location to location.

Tickets are \$25 and include four tastes (one at each taphouse brewery), snacks, appetizers and prizes. The first 50 tickets sold include a souvenir glass growler. Event tickets can be purchased online at www.furnitureshare.org or at The Garage on the event day.

4 Stops - 4 Hours - 4 Fun

For more information, see the Furniture Share and Albany Downtown Association Facebook pages and websites.

