

**Newsday**

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## LAST-MINUTE PLANS TO RING IN 2019

FROM THE BALL DROP IN PATCHOGUE  
TO THE KIDDIE COUNTDOWN AT THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

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**FAMILY FUN** What to do with the kids during holiday break [newsday.com/family](http://newsday.com/family)





GREATER PATCHOGUE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Instead of Times Square, try a family-friendly ball drop at 9 p.m. New Year's Eve in Patchogue.

# The whole 9 for 2019

BY IAN J. STARK  
Special to Newsday

No plans for New Year's Eve yet? No problem. From a village-wide party to a family-friendly countdown, here are nine ways to ring in 2019 on Long Island.

## 1 WATCH THE BALL DROP

Patchogue hosts its own New Year's Eve ball drop, and thousands gather in the streets closed to traffic for a live countdown to a family-friendly 9 p.m. as a giant lighted ball descends from a crane. This year the event will be at West Main and West Avenue. Fireworks follow. Free admission (631-207-1000).

## 2 COUNTDOWN TO NOON

Kids can get their fill of hands-on activities at the Long Island Children's Museum during regular hours on Dec. 31, but the venue is hosting neon dance-themed celebratory countdowns at noon and 4 p.m. to give wee ones a sense of revelry for the start of the new year (\$14, [licm.org](http://licm.org)).

## 3 BAR-HOP IN BABYLON

Take the Long Island Rail Road to Babylon, and you'll be steps from two venues hosting a joint party. The Local's fete is a summer-in-winter tribute to Boardy Barn in Hampton Bays (631-983-8900, [localbabylon.com](http://localbabylon.com)). Around the corner, The Villager goes '90s. One \$75 ticket grants access to both, including light buffets and 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. open bar (631-482-8585, [thevillagerbabylon.com](http://thevillagerbabylon.com)).

## 4 SEE COMEDY, AND LIVE MUSIC, IN ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Madison Theatre at Molloy College in Rockville Centre mixes genres in a fresh twist on a New Year's Eve show. Starting at 6 p.m., comedians John Larocchia, Peaches Rodriguez and Jim Dailakis do stand-up sets before "The Sidemen Show," a band of musicians who have played behind such icons as Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Ray Charles, Barbra Streisand and Billy Joel (\$50 to \$65, 516-323-4444, [madisontheatre.org](http://madisontheatre.org)).

## 5 GO BACK TO THE '80S

Look (and sing) the part of the big hair decade with Jessie's Girl at The Paramount in Huntington starting at 10 p.m. (\$25 to \$55, 631-673-7300, [paramountny.com](http://paramountny.com))



PETER FRUTKOFF

The Stony Brook Jazz Loft Big Band plays New Year's Eve in an evening of song and dance with a buffet and dessert from Mirabelle's.

## 6 HAVE OYSTERS AND BUBBLY

Here's a twist on a fixed price dinner out: Louie's Grille & Liquors in Port Washington is hosting a 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. New Year's Eve party featuring passed hors d'oeuvres and a special cocktail before a four-course meal is served (entrees include surf-and-turf, pecan-crusted halibut, sea scallops and a double-cut Colorado lamb chop). From there, it's open bar, DJ music and dancing until a toast at midnight. Call to reserve (\$125, 516-883-4242, [louiesince1905.com](http://louiesince1905.com)).

## 7 HIT THE HAMPTONS

If you can't get near the Southampton Social Club in the peak of summer traffic, your odds are better in the offseason. The club hosts a four-hour party 9 a.m. to 1 a.m. with open bar, hors d'oeuvres, a Champagne

toast at midnight and music by DJ Loki (\$95, 631-287-1400, [southamptonclub.com](http://southamptonclub.com)).

## 8 FIND YOUR ZEN

Spend an alternative New Year's Eve in quiet reflection from 9:30 p.m. to midnight at the Kadampa Meditation Center Long Island in Huntington. The \$10 cost includes refreshments. Reservations suggested, but drop-ins are welcome. (631-549-1000, [meditationonlongisland.org](http://meditationonlongisland.org))

## 9 SWING THE NIGHT AWAY

Stony Brook's Jazz Loft rings in the new year in the spirit of the Big Band Era. Expect lots of horns, sultry singing and, yes, dancing. It's 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. with open bar, a buffet dinner and dessert from Mirabelle's next door (\$165, 631-751-1895, [thejazzloft.org](http://thejazzloft.org)).



LONG ISLAND'S CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Mark the holiday at noon and 4 p.m. at LI Children's Museum in Garden City.