



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Ron Schumacher checks out a car stereo at The Pawnshop and More.

## Downtown: ‘Old moving out, and new moving in is usually a positive’

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“I just think there’s room for a lot of what people are interested in now,” she said, adding she sees a lot of growth in the local food scene.

The Pawnshop and More, opened in the former A Gypsy’s Whimsy Herbal Apothecary, faced somewhat of a backlash over the store’s gun sales. But owner Gary Hunter and Manager Jon Shivers said the community reaction to the store has so far been positive, and even was helped by the publicity. The pawn shop’s opening in Astoria was partially driven by the number of coastal residents traveling to his location in Longview, Washington, Hunter said.

A Gypsy’s Whimsy moved across Commercial Street, and a similar store, Kit’s Apothecary, opened to the east on the same block, next to cosmetics store Muse Beauty Bar.

After the antique store Posey-Reed moved from Commercial to 10th Street, Fruffels co-owners David Kiedrowski and Thomas Lawler saw an opportunity to escape the escalating rents of Cannon Beach, moving their boutique department store to Astoria last summer.

New businesses hoping to make it downtown need to find a niche to avoid recreating what other stores do, Kiedrowski said, adding that downtown



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

David Kiedrowski moved his boutique department store Fruffels to Astoria after seven years in Cannon Beach. He and partner Thomas Lawler have another location in Centralia, Washington.



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

A message in a downtown Astoria storefront signals a new business is on the way.

needs to look at an illustrated street map of businesses for visitors.

Since the closing of Ada-

gio last week, Hobson Building co-owner Miriam Rose said she’s had a lot of interest in the space, and already has a new

type of retail business close to signing a lease.

“Old moving out and new moving in is usually a positive,” Rose said.

After Abeco downsized from its expansive storefront on

Commercial Street to the former Link’s Outdoor store just west, Portland vintage dealer Bill Hicks acquired the building. He hopes to reopen the former Abeco as soon as April as Astor Court, a miniature mall

he is building for all types of businesses too small for their own full-scale storefronts.

“I can see how in the wintertime, without the tourists, it’s hard to keep the Main Street alive,” Hicks said, adding he hopes the smaller spaces can help smaller businesses remain viable.

Representatives from the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association have cautioned patience when looking at the closing and opening of businesses. Sarah Lu Heath, the association’s executive director, has pointed to new projects such as the two buildings at Ninth and Commercial streets formerly owned by Mary Louise Flavel being purchased and refurbished by new owners as signs that downtown is progressing. Wild Roots Movement & Massage recently opened in the M&N Building being refurbished by Michelle and Marcus Liotta, with jewelry store Terra Stones following soon.

The success of development on Commercial Street has also spurred more activity off the main drag in places like the Astoria Riverwalk and Duane Street, Heath said.

“The core of downtown is important, and its success has led to the expansion of those boundaries off of Commercial,” she said. “We’re having some turnover, but that’s natural.”

## Wev: ‘I don’t have any prejudices or preconceived notions about Astoria’

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District 3 covers parts of Astoria as well as Miles Crossing, Jeffers Garden, Lewis and Clark, Youngs River, Olney, Green Mountain and parts of Walluski

In her 30 years of land use planning experience, Wev has consulted clients in government and private sectors on development, zoning and feasibility studies. Government organizations have worked with her to help chart and manage growth.

She also spent five years in former Portland Mayor Vera Katz’ administration as a member of a newly formed board that evaluated the results of policy decisions on public life.

“You deserve leadership who understands how county decisions affect people,” Wev said in a press release. “Clatsop County is poised for growth, but it must also be

prepared for growing pains.”

Wev listed economic development, housing, mental health services, drug addiction, jail overcrowding, emergency preparedness, infrastructure and environmental protections as issues she would like to tackle as a commissioner.

“The planner in me knows that a decision made today has lasting effect,” Wev said. “We are no longer the Clatsop County of yesterday and we must have leadership who can prepare us for the Clatsop County of tomorrow, while facing the challenges of today.”

Wev also pledged civility in her relationships with county colleagues and constituents. Over the past year, the commission has been marred by resignation threats, behavioral investigations and differences of opinion about how much authority commissioners should have relative to

county staff.

“Civil people may disagree on individual issues, but uncivil behavior is disrespectful to the people we represent,” Wev said.

Wev has lived in Seaview, Washington, and Astoria for the past four years.

“I’m not a native Astorian, but I think that’s actually a plus. I think that gives me a wide perspective. I don’t have any prejudices or preconceived notions about Astoria,” Wev said. “I’m not beholden to anyone. I’m independent.”

Three county commission seats will be up for election on the May 15 primary ballot. Susana Gladwin, a Jewell farmer, has announced she will run against Commissioner Lianne Thompson in District 5. Andrew Davis, an Astoria medical data analyst, will run for board chairman Scott Lee’s District 1 seat. Lee announced in 2016 that he would not seek re-election.

## Gladwin: ‘I want to run so that the Jewell area again is represented’

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background in a lot of things, and I want to give voters a choice.”

Gladwin, who has lived in Jewell since 1971 and owns 9 acres of forestland, would like to focus on forestry issues should she be elected, she said. She also would prioritize the housing strife, which she attributed to soaring rent prices in a booming economy. “Always the people on the edge have no hope and are getting depressed and taking drugs,” Gladwin said.

Issues that affect the Jewell area have not been properly discussed at the county level, Gladwin said. She added, though, that Thompson’s term hasn’t necessarily been a detriment to the community.

“I want to run so that

the Jewell area again is represented,” she said.

For example, Gladwin was “shocked” that she was the only person to offer public comment at a hearing before commissioners passed a vacation rental ordinance in January. If elected, she would use her connections in the Jewell community to inform people that a vote — and the last opportunity for public comment — was coming, she said.

The five-commissioner board will have three seats up

for election in May.

Medical data analyst Andrew Davis announced he will run for the seat occupied by board chairman Scott Lee, who has said he will not seek re-election. Pamela Wev — an Astoria land use planning consultant — and Peter Roscoe — a former Astoria city councilor and owner of Fulio’s Pastaria — intend to run for Commissioner Lisa Clement’s position. Clement said she is not sure whether she will run for a second term.

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