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showed up!"

Patricia Fagerland at Forsythea agrees. "Astoria has really come back. Not only have we had the support of locals, we now see visitors who seem to arrive purposely to shop in a small town."

"It's amazing, I have people come in almost every day and ask for unusual items," says David Kiedrowski at Fruffels. "I'm having to expand the store into my office area. I could have a whole block and still need more space."

Even amid shipping challenges, and vendors unable to fulfill orders, shop owners have remained undaunted, using ingenuity seeking local and regional outlets and searching the internet for alternative sourcing.

Across the board, shop owners and locals seem to agree: Astoria is having a renaissance of vitality.

For fun, then, grab you coat and take a stroll through the historic center of downtown to see a few of the shopping options.

Starting out on Duane Street, it's cards, puzzles, notebooks, and crazy-wonderful games, and stuff you didn't know you



Photos by M.J. Cody

A yarn display inside Candy Skein.



The jewelry wall at A Gypsy's Whimsy Herbal Apothecary.



Fruffels owner David Kiedrowski has a knack for selecting the best in barware, kitchen gadgets, gourmet items and much more.



Ari Freitag caught in the act of hanging new clothing selections at her eclectic shop, Short Wave.



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