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A communal project.
Real Stories. Real People. Real Impact.

March 29th 2026



Fondly
"Six Pack"
Weekly
SERIES

I LOVE FDL

Weekly news, inspiration, updates and happenings

The Fondy Frontline

The Big Garlic, a new locally owned restaurant opening April 6 in downtown Fond du Lac, brings bold, garlic-infused flavors to classic comfort food favorites. Created by a passionate husband-and-wife team, the restaurant combines quality ingredients, creative menu options, and a welcoming atmosphere rooted in family values.

Faces Of Our Future

Fond du Lac's own Arlo Dexter is competing to become America's Favorite Student, with a chance to win \$20,000, appear in Reader's Digest, and meet Bill Nye the Science Guy. A curious and creative young learner, Arlo loves reading, science, and music—and encourages others to discover the power of their local library.

Play Explore Repeat

Project Linus Dodge, Fond du Lac, and Washington Counties brought the community together for its 19th Annual Make a Blanket Day, where volunteers created handmade blankets to comfort children in need. With a growing demand and a need for a new space, the organization continues its heartfelt mission of providing warmth, security, and compassion to local children.

Hometown Heroes

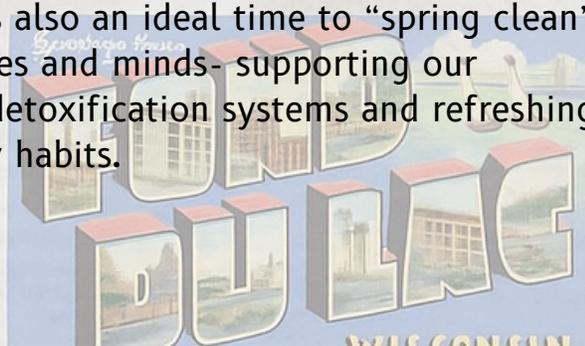
Critter Junction Animal Rescue has made a remarkable impact in the Fond du Lac community, rescuing over 20,000 animals while providing shelter, animal control services, and vital programs like Trap/Neuter/Release. Led by the dedicated Renee Webb, the organization continues to be a lifeline for animals in need and a trusted resource for pet owners and volunteers alike.

Creative Corner

Ziegler Winery in Malone offers a unique blend of scenic vineyard views, handcrafted Wisconsin wines, and a lively lineup of live music that brings the community together. With its relaxed outdoor setting, diverse performances, and welcoming atmosphere, it's the perfect place to sip, unwind, and enjoy an unforgettable evening.

Finding Balance

As the snow melts and longer days return, spring naturally invites renewal. While many of us focus on decluttering our homes, this season is also an ideal time to “spring clean” our bodies and minds- supporting our natural detoxification systems and refreshing our daily habits.



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THE FONDY FRONTLINE

New Flavor Arrives Downtown: “The Big Garlic”

Opening April 6 on Main Street Fond du Lac, WI

A new locally owned restaurant is set to bring bold flavor and a personal touch to downtown Fond du Lac. The Big Garlic, opening April 6, is the latest venture from a husband-and-wife team whose shared passion for food and community is at the heart of the business.

More than just a restaurant, The Big Garlic is described by its owners as a labor of love. Built on a foundation of family values and a commitment to quality, the couple aims to create a welcoming atmosphere where every guest feels at home.

Their concept began with a simple but flavorful idea: combine the rich, savory appeal of garlic-infused cuisine with classic comfort food favorites. The result is a menu that highlights bold taste while staying rooted in familiar, satisfying dishes.

Leading the lineup are their signature garlic cheeseburgers, made with premium ingredients and infused with robust garlic flavor. The burgers have quickly become the centerpiece of the menu, offering a distinctive twist on a traditional favorite. Guests can also expect popular sides like garlic aioli fries, along with a variety of other items designed to deliver what the owners call “full-on Big Garlic flavor.”

In addition to indulgent classics, The Big Garlic is also introducing a lighter option to start the year. Their new “Burger Bowls” offer a guilt- and gluten-free alternative, allowing customers to enjoy the same bold flavors in a fresh, customizable format.

With hours set daily from 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., The Big Garlic is positioned to serve both lunch and dinner crowds, adding another unique dining option to the downtown scene.

As Main Street continues to grow with new businesses and experiences, The Big Garlic brings not only a distinctive menu, but also a story rooted in passion, partnership, and a love of good food.



Written by: Kristin Santini

I Love FDL Faces of our future



AMERICA'S FAVORITE STUDENT - VOTE FOR ARLO!

Support local Fond du Lac resident Arlo Dexter as he competes to be America's Favorite Student. One lucky student will win the national contest and tour The Planetary Society with Bill Nye the Science Guy, appear in Reader's Digest and win \$20,000!

Arlo is an elementary student who enjoys the challenge of math and discovering new hobbies. Currently, he spends his days playing the electric guitar, drawing, reading manga and researching science experiments to try out.

Always an avid reader, Arlo takes great pleasure in devouring books and biking them to local little libraries to pass along to fellow bookworms.

His advice for young learners is to "Find love for your local library and you will succeed!"

Voting for the Top 15 ends Thursday April 2nd at 7pm!

One free Facebook vote daily will put this curious kid one step closer to meeting Bill Nye the Science Guy!

<https://americasfaustudent.org/2026/arlo-dexter>



Author: Katelyn Dexter



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Critter Junction Animal Rescue

Have you ever heard of Critter Junction Animal Rescue?

Did you know they have rescued over 20,000 animals?

Critter Junction Animal Rescue 501C3 Charitable Non-Profit rescue, state licensed Animal Control Facility and Animal Shelter. Additionally, an owner surrender, contracted stray animal intake from the City of Fond du Lac and Village of North Fond du Lac, and a Trap/Neuter/Release (TNR) Program.

Critter Junction is ran by Renee Webb, an amazing, selfless person that goes above and beyond to ensure all the animals in our community are taken care of. The amount of drive and passion is insurmountable for our neighborhood animals that don't have a voice for themselves.

If you are looking for a place to surrender your animal, a place to get your pet spayed or neutered at a reasonable cost, volunteer, or you simply have found a stray animal, call Critter Junction today to help work with you on your needs.



The greatest gift that comes with privilege of speech is using your voice for those that don't have one - Rick Gervais



Making a Difference, One Life at a Time.



Sip, Savor, and Sound: Live Music at Ziegler Winery

Tucked just outside Fond du Lac in the rolling countryside of Malone, **Ziegler Winery** has built a reputation as more than just a place to enjoy a glass of wine—it's a destination where **live music, community, and scenic beauty come together**. Whether you're a casual listener or a devoted music fan, this winery delivers an atmosphere that feels equal parts laid-back vineyard and lively outdoor concert venue. If you haven't experienced it yet, I highly recommend it!

A Stage Set in the Vineyard

One of the defining features of Ziegler Winery is its commitment to **live entertainment**. With a dedicated outdoor stage and expansive patio space, the winery regularly hosts musicians across a wide range of genres—from acoustic country and Americana to rock, pop, and even specialty performances like dueling pianos.

On any given weekend, you might find:

- Solo artists delivering heartfelt acoustic sets
- Duos blending guitar, mandolin, or piano
- Full bands bringing high-energy, crowd-pleasing performances

Events are typically scheduled **throughout the week and especially on weekends**, creating a steady rhythm of entertainment that keeps guests coming back.

A True "Sip and Stay Awhile" Experience

What makes the live music experience here stand out isn't just the talent—it's the setting.

Guests are invited to:

- Relax on spacious patios or bring chairs and spread out on the lawn
- Sip from a selection of **20-30 handcrafted wines made from 100% Wisconsin grapes**
- Enjoy locally sourced appetizers, flatbreads, and charcuterie

The result is an atmosphere that feels more like a **summer festival meets wine country retreat** than a traditional tasting room. Many visitors opt for bottles to share with friends while enjoying the music outdoors, turning each performance into a social, immersive experience.

Music That Brings the Community Together

Ziegler Winery places a strong emphasis on community, and live music plays a central role in that mission.

The lineup frequently features:

- Local Wisconsin artists
- Regional touring musicians
- Crowd-favorite returning performers

From country artists with Southern grit to indie-pop vocalists and blues-inspired bands, the variety ensures there's always something new to discover.

Most shows are **free to attend**, reinforcing the winery's goal of creating an accessible, welcoming environment where people can gather, unwind, and connect.

Author: Darren Goodpaster



Sip, Savor, and Sound: Live Music at Ziegler Winery

Rustic Charm Meets Modern Energy

Inside, the winery offers a warm, upscale feel with fireplaces, mezzanine seating, and a spacious tasting room. Outside, the energy shifts—especially during live performances—into something vibrant and dynamic. This balance is part of what makes Ziegler Winery unique:

- **Relaxed and intimate** during quieter afternoons
- **Energetic and social** when the music starts

The venue's blend of rustic architecture and modern touches creates a setting that feels both authentic and elevated.

Why Ziegler Winery Stands Out

Ziegler Winery isn't just hosting music—it's **curating an experience**. The combination of:

- Scenic vineyard views
- Consistent live music programming
- Locally crafted wine and food
- A strong community atmosphere

...makes it one of the premier spots in the Fond du Lac area for a night out.

If you're looking for a place where you can **kick back with a glass of wine while live music fills the air**, Ziegler Winery delivers every time. It's the kind of venue where a simple afternoon can turn into an unforgettable evening—one song, one sip, and one sunset at a time.



Author: Darren Goodpaster



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Author: Darren Goodpaster

PLAY. EXPLORE. REPEAT.



19th Annual Make a Blanket Day Brings Comfort to Children in Our Community (Part 1)

As the Chapter Coordinator for Project Linus Dodge, Fond du Lac and Washington Counties I am very thankful for the many blanketeers (volunteers) who came to our 19th Annual Make a Blanket Day on Saturday March 28. This was a great family event. We had fun making ___ blankets for the children in our area. There were many door prizes, raffle items and a great lunch donated by Thrivent Financial.

Project Linus is a nationwide non-profit organization. There are more than 300 chapters throughout the United States with at least one in every state. Our mission is to make new, washable, handmade blankets, afghans and quilts to be given to children in need of a hug, warmth or comfort. The organization began December 24, 1995 when the founder read a magazine article about a little girl. In the article the little girl said that taking her blanket to her chemo appointments really helped her get through treatment. Karen Loucks Rinedollar, our founder, got the idea to make 100 crochet blankets for her local cancer center within the next year after reading this. Karen began telling her friends and soon she had an army of volunteers helping make blankets.

Author: Penny Kollmansberger



PLAY. EXPLORE. REPEAT.



19th Annual Make a Blanket Day Brings Comfort to Children in Our Community (Part 2)

Our Fond du Lac chapter began November 1, 2006. Since then, we have added Dodge and Washington Counties as the needs arose. We average between 1500 and 2000 blankets delivered every year. The majority of those deliveries stay within our area. There have been a few times over the past that we sent blankets to survivors of school shootings and natural disasters. One of my favorite stories about both the power of these blankets and our Project Linus Chapters is regarding the accident that happened in Campbellsport many years ago. At the time of the accident, I had 23 blankets on hand and most of those were infant sized. I sent out an email to all of our chapters and those blanketeers in our area asking for any blankets they could send as I wanted to cover the entire high school with blankets. Within a week more than 500 blankets were received at my home from all over the country and all cities within our county. That was one of the first times I actually got to personally deliver blankets, normally they are given to hospitals, police, fire, social workers etc. to deliver. It was so moving to watch all these teenagers rush to help carry the blankets into school so they could pick the perfect blanket to comfort themselves. Watching the big football players wearing their blankets as capes and the ladies who you could see were truly comforted by them made me realize exactly how much the blankets meant to all involved.

Author: Penny Kollmansberger



PLAY. EXPLORE. REPEAT.



19th Annual Make a Blanket Day Brings Comfort to Children in Our Community (Part 3)

At this time our chapter has a greater need than normal. Covenant United Methodist Church has graciously donated a space for us to store our supplies and host our monthly meetings for the past six years.

Unfortunately for us but great for them they are now in need of this space. Thus, we are trying to find a new place to move into. If you know of a place that might be able to let us move in, please contact me, Penny Kollmansberger, at 920-251-3527 or via email at penny@dauidcross.name. The space we are using now is probably similar in size to a large conference room. We have the shelving units for storage and tables to cut material on. We just need space. Besides a new PLACE (Project Linus Activity Center Etc,) you can help us by sewing, knitting, crocheting or tying blankets. Can you help with pick-ups from our local drop off spots (in Fond du Lac these are at the Ol Bread Store and Quilting Legacies)? How about making deliveries to places to hand out blankets for us or donating much needed funds? Let's find a way to work together to comfort children in our area.



Author: Penny Kollmansberger

Finding Balance

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Spring Clean Your Body & Mind: A Gentle Reset (Part 1)

As the snow melts and longer days return, spring naturally invites renewal. While many of us focus on decluttering our homes, this season is also an ideal time to “spring clean” our bodies and minds- supporting our natural detoxification systems and refreshing our daily habits.

The good news?

Your body is already designed to detox beautifully. The liver, kidneys, lymphatic system, skin, and gut work around the clock to eliminate waste. Rather than extreme cleanses, restrictive detoxes, or massive overhauls- the goal is to support these systems so they can function at their best.

Simple Ways to Support Natural Detoxification

Detoxing doesn't have to be complicated. Small, consistent habits can make a powerful difference:
Hydrate intentionally - Aim for half your body weight in ounces of water daily. Add lemon or cucumber for a gentle detox boost. (Bonus: squeeze fresh lemon and a pinch of celtic salt in warm water to start your day!)
Prioritize whole foods - Focus on vegetables, fruits, clean proteins, and healthy fats while reducing processed foods and added sugars. If this is a bit extreme for your current diet, try a shot of apple cider vinegar before meals!

Support your liver - Incorporate foods like leafy greens, beets, garlic, and cruciferous vegetables (broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts).

Move your body daily - Walking, stretching, and strength training help stimulate circulation and lymphatic flow.

Sweat regularly - Exercise or sauna sessions help eliminate toxins through the skin.

Get quality sleep - Your brain and body detox most efficiently during deep sleep... aim for 7-9 hours.

Reduce toxic load - Swap to cleaner household and personal care products when possible.

One of our local nutrition coaches, Ginger at Into the Woods Wellness, also suggests that even making tiny changes can have big impacts! She offers the following dressing swap that is full of flavor:

Detox Salad Dressing

4 fresh garlic cloves, minced

2 Tbsp Dijon mustard

½ cup apple cider vinegar

4 Tbsp fresh squeezed lemon juice

2 Tbsp raw honey

¾ cup extra-virgin olive oil

Sea salt, pepper to taste

Combine and stir well. Store in the fridge for about one week.

Author: Cassandra Leffelman

Finding Balance

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Spring Clean Your Body & Mind: A Gentle Reset (Part 2)

Mindset Matters: Detoxing the Mind

Spring cleaning isn't just physical- it's mental too. Chronic stress can slow detox pathways and impact overall health.

Try incorporating:

- Daily quiet time (5-10 minutes of deep breathing or meditation)
- Time outdoors to reset your nervous system
- Digital boundaries to reduce overstimulation (especially before bed!)
- Gratitude or journaling to clear mental clutter

Sustainable Lifestyle Shifts

The most effective detox strategies are the ones you can maintain long-term. Consider:

- Swapping one processed meal per day for a whole-food option
- Taking a 10-minute walk after meals
- Keeping a reusable water bottle nearby
- Building a consistent sleep routine
- Gradually upgrading products (cleaner skincare, non-toxic cleaners)
- Local Support for Your Wellness Journey

If you're looking for additional support, many local businesses offer services that can gently enhance your body's natural detox processes:

Infrared sauna sessions are available at Legacy Training Lab and Into the Woods Wellness.

Massage and lymphatic drainage therapy to support circulation available at local spas, Into the Woods Wellness, New Directions

Chiropractic services for whole-body alignment available at Ideal Chiropractic, Dynamic

Juice bars and health-focused cafés offering fresh, nutrient-dense options such as Hometown Nutrition, Urban Fuel

Functional medicine or wellness practitioners for personalized guidance are also available in our community!

Spring is a season of renewal. By nourishing your body, calming your mind, and making simple, sustainable changes, you can step into the new season feeling lighter, clearer, and more energized.

Author: Cassandra Leffelman

This week is **PACKED** with awesome deals from some of Fond du Lac's favorite small businesses! If you've been needing a sign to shop local... this is it. Dive into the specials below, show love to the shops that make our city feel like home, and have an amazing week, Fondy!

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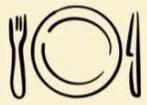
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