



I Love FDI

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

March 8th 2026



Fondly "Six Pack" Weekly SERIES

I LOVE FDL

Weekly news, inspiration, updates and happenings

The Fondy Frontline

Located on North Main Street in Fond du Lac, Integrity Motors has built its reputation on honest service, quality vehicles, and a stress-free “no haggle, no hassle” buying experience. With a wide selection of vehicles and a full-service repair shop under one roof, the dealership focuses on building long-term trust with customers and serving the community with integrity.

Faces Of Our Future

The Arc Fond du Lac’s Fashion for All Fashion Show returns on March 12, bringing community members of all abilities together for a night of confidence, fun, and empowerment on the runway. What began in 2018 as a small event has grown into a beloved community celebration now hosting 40 participants at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center.

Finding Balance

Inspired by her own childhood experiences relying on community resources, B created the Take It or Leave It – Community Pantry at 195 E. Cotton St., a barrier-free pantry offering food, hygiene items, and other essentials to anyone in need. Stocked entirely through donations, the pantry reflects the generosity of the Fond du Lac community while providing dignity, connection, and support to neighbors facing difficult times.

Hometown Heroes

Before the sun rises each morning, Fond du Lac’s crossing guards step into harsh weather and busy streets to make sure local children arrive at school safely. For many of these dedicated community members, the job isn’t about the paycheck, it’s about the smiles, gratitude, and small moments of kindness that make the effort worthwhile.

Creative Corner

Located in the heart of downtown, Shut Up & Dance brings people of all ages together through fun, energetic classes and a welcoming environment that encourages confidence and creativity. More than just a dance studio, it’s a vibrant part of the downtown scene where community, movement, and joy take center stage.

Play Explore Repeat

Fond du Lac’s Loren Voss, known across Wisconsin as the “Turkey Commander,” has spent more than four decades sharing his passion for turkey hunting while mentoring others and preserving outdoor traditions. A cancer survivor and heart attack survivor, Voss’s remarkable resilience and faith have inspired him to help others facing life’s challenges find hope and peace in the outdoors.

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THE FONDY FRONTLINE

Integrity Motors: A Trusted Place to Find Your Next Ride in Fond du Lac

Right in the heart of Fond du Lac on North Main Street, Integrity Motors has built a reputation around a simple idea: doing business the right way. For local drivers looking for quality vehicles and honest service, this independent dealership has become a reliable destination. I worked for this Dealership as a Service Manager. I worked closely with the Owner, Larry Schmidt. Larry prides himself on honesty and customer service, and holds his Employees to the same standards. No corners are cut at this Dealership.

A Dealership Built on Trust

Since opening its doors, Integrity Motors has focused on creating a straightforward and customer-friendly buying experience. Their philosophy is reflected in their name—integrity isn't just branding; it's how they approach every customer interaction. The dealership even promotes a **"no haggle, no hassle"** buying experience designed to make purchasing a vehicle easier and less stressful. Instead of high-pressure sales tactics, the team focuses on helping drivers find the vehicle that truly fits their needs, budget, and lifestyle.

A Wide Selection of Vehicles

One of the things that sets Integrity Motors apart is its diverse inventory. Shoppers will find a constantly changing selection of:

- Reliable used cars
- Powerful pickup trucks
- SUVs and family vehicles
- Sports cars and specialty vehicles

The lot regularly features popular brands such as **Ford, RAM, Chevrolet, Jeep, Toyota, and Subaru**, ensuring that customers can compare different makes and models in one place.

Whether someone needs a dependable commuter car, a heavy-duty work truck, or something a little more fun to drive, there's usually something on the lot worth checking out.

More Than Just a Car Lot

Integrity Motors goes beyond vehicle sales. The dealership also offers **automotive repair and maintenance services**, helping customers keep their vehicles running smoothly long after the purchase.

Their service capabilities include common repairs and maintenance such as:

- Oil changes and tune-ups
- Brake and suspension work
- Engine diagnostics and repairs
- Exhaust, electrical, and heating systems

Having both sales and service under one roof makes the dealership a convenient option for drivers who want a trusted place to handle their automotive needs.

Written by: Darren Goodpaster

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THE FONDY FRONTLINE

Integrity Motors: A Trusted Place to Find Your Next Ride in Fond du Lac - CONTINUE

Commitment to Customer Satisfaction

Integrity Motors has earned recognition within the automotive industry, including honors such as a **CarGurus Dealer of the Year** award, which highlights dealerships known for positive customer experiences.

The dealership is also **BBB accredited with an A+ rating**, reinforcing its commitment to professional standards and customer service.

These distinctions reflect a business focused on building long-term relationships with customers rather than just making a quick sale.

A Local Business Serving the Community

Located at **421 N. Main Street in Fond du Lac**, Integrity Motors has become a familiar stop for locals searching for a vehicle they can depend on. The team welcomes walk-ins, test drives, and even offers services like trade-in evaluations and financing options to help make the buying process smoother. In a market where buying a car can sometimes feel overwhelming, Integrity Motors aims to keep things simple: quality vehicles, honest service, and a dealership experience built around trust.



I ^{Love} FDL Faces of our future

STRUTTING FOR INCLUSION: THE ARC FOND DU LAC'S FASHION FOR ALL SHOW RETURNS

Lights, camera, action! On March 12 at 6pm men and women, boys and girls in the Fond du Lac area will be taking the stage to strut their stuff as they participate in the Fashion for All Fashion Show put on by The Arc Fond du Lac. The Fashion show has been going on in The Fond du Lac community since 2018. Initially starting because they wanted to use the Thelma Sadoff Center for The Arts for a book club but just renting a space would have been too expensive so they decided to hold an event there and this is when the fashion show was born. Since then, it has only grown from there with even more participants and needing a bigger space for it to be held, which is now at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center. The first year we had 18 participants and this year we will have 40!

To quote The Arc Fond du Lac Mission Statement, "We are a human service organization that empowers adults and youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities to become independent and integrated into the community through advocacy, education, training, and support." The Arc believes strongly that there should be inclusion for all people despite a person's abilities. This event is open to the public and is very empowering, fun, and entertaining to watch everyone come together for this one-night show. I am excited to attend for my second year this year and hope to see some new faces there as well! Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased through the website, from the building at 500 N. Park Ave., or in person at the door.





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Guardians of the Crosswalk: The Dedicated Crossing Guards of Fond du Lac

Working as a crossing guard for the City Police Department is a demanding role that many might not consider. We start our days before dawn, standing in bitter cold or pouring rain to ensure the safety of school children. Many guards in their 60s and 70s do not do this for the income, but out of a commitment to the community. We navigate speeding cars and unruly drivers, but we also receive heartfelt thanks from those who appreciate our presence.

There is a deep sense of fulfillment in sharing an encouraging word or a smile with a child. Many of these students come from low-income homes, yet they are incredibly generous, often offering to share their snacks with us at the end of the day. In one touching instance, a mother presented me with a new cap and scarf after her daughter mentioned how much I liked her own winter gear.

Each year, the City Council recognizes our efforts during Crossing Guard Appreciation Week with a formal proclamation for keeping the children of Fond du Lac safe.

These moments of connection are why I get out of bed in the dead of winter, put on my safety vest, and head to my post. Despite the cold, serving this community is a genuine blessing and a joy.





Shut Up & Dance: Bringing Energy and Community to Downtown Fond du Lac

Shut up & Dance Keeps Downtown Moving In the heart of downtown, Shut up & Dance continues to bring energy, creativity, and community together through the power of dance. A longtime part of the downtown scene, the studio offers a welcoming environment where people of all ages and skill levels can move, learn, and have fun. From upbeat classes to special events, Shut up & Dance focuses on building confidence while creating a supportive and encouraging atmosphere.

Businesses like Shut up & Dance help add vibrancy to Downtown Fond du Lac, giving residents and visitors another reason to gather, stay active, and enjoy everything the downtown district has to offer. Sometimes the best thing to do is exactly what the name suggests – just Shut up and dance. 🕺💃



PLAY.
EXPLORE.
REPEAT.



Loren Voss: The Resilient Story of Wisconsin's

“Turkey Commander”

A resilient person is someone who can adapt well and bounce back quickly from stress, adversity, trauma, or significant life challenges, maintaining emotional strength and continuing to move forward, often growing stronger from the experience. They possess traits like flexibility, optimism, and good coping skills, allowing them to handle setbacks without being overwhelmed, and see challenges as opportunities for growth rather than insurmountable obstacles. Loren Voss fits the definition of resilient.

In the world of wild turkey hunting, few names are as well-known or as beloved in Wisconsin as Loren Voss, affectionately nicknamed the “Turkey Commander.” Hailing from Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, Voss has spent decades pursuing his passion for chasing the wily wild turkey – and helping others do the same – earning statewide recognition and making a lasting impact on the outdoor community.

The moniker Turkey Commander didn’t result from any formal title or official appointment – it grew organically out of Voss’s infectious enthusiasm for turkey hunting and his willingness to teach others. Friends and fellow hunters began calling him that nearly thirty years ago after a Ducks Unlimited event in Oshkosh, and the name has stuck ever since.

Voss’s turkey hunting career spans more than four decades, during which time he has harvested 175 wild turkeys across Wisconsin and other states. His experience ranges from using traditional shotgun and archery methods to mastering calls and decoy techniques – all skills he’s happy to share with hunters of all experience levels.

But turkey hunting for Voss is about much more than numbers. It’s about connection – to the land, to tradition, and to other people. He regularly participates in turkey hunting seminars and conservation events throughout Wisconsin and the Midwest, offering instruction on camouflage, decoys, calling, safety, and the subtleties of hunting strategies that only years in the woods can teach. In February 2024, for instance, he led a Turkey Hunting 101 seminar at the Horicon Education and Visitors Center, sharing insights with beginners and seasoned hunters alike.

Voss’s outdoor legacy also includes television appearances. On episodes of Outdoor Wisconsin, he demonstrated traditional skills like crafting turkey calls from wing bones, bringing the art and craft of turkey hunting to viewers across the region.

Author: Jill Wilhelms

PLAY. EXPLORE. REPEAT.



Loren Voss: The Resilient Story of Wisconsin's

“Turkey Commander” - CONTINUE

Yet perhaps the most compelling chapters of Loren Voss's life aren't just about birds and blinds – they're about resilience and empathy. More than 30 years ago, Voss was diagnosed with stage four lymphoma and given as little six months to live. He also was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2025 which resulted in 44 radiation treatments plus multiple hormone shots. Loren even survived a heart attack 3 years ago. He survived, defying expectations and drawing strength from family, faith, and the rhythms of outdoor life. That experience inspired him to collaborate with his oncology nurse, Barb Kraft, on a memoir titled *Living on Death Row*, a story of survival, hope, and perseverance.

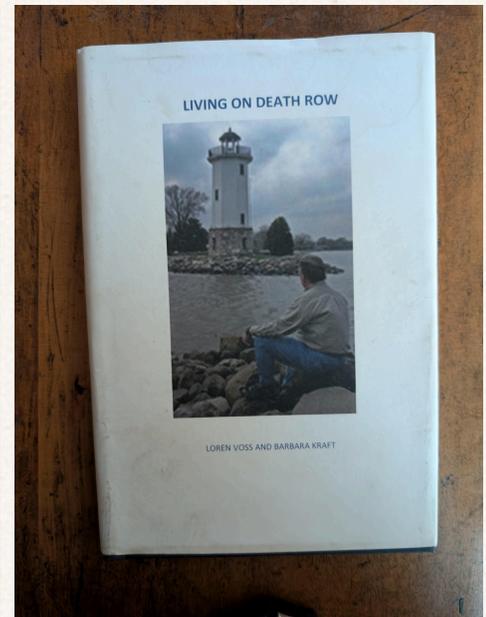
Even after facing a second cancer diagnosis later in life, Voss hasn't slowed down. He uses his own journey to support others facing critical health challenges by taking them into the woods to experience turkey hunting firsthand. Through mentorship and camaraderie, he has introduced people battling illness and those with special needs to the serenity and excitement of time spent in nature.

At every turn, what defines Wisconsin's Turkey Commander is his devotion to community – not just the hunting community, but anyone willing to take part in the rich outdoor traditions of the Badger State. Loren Voss's story is one of passion, persistence, and the simple joy of hearing a gobble echo through an early spring morning.

Loren will be appearing at the Milwaukee Sports Show March 6 - 8 which is held at State Fair Park. Stop by his booth and say hello.

Loren considers hunting as his ministry. He enjoys sitting in God's creation which helps him focus on sharing his knowledge with others who are facing challenges.

Author: Jill Wilhelms



Finding Balance

**I Love
FDL**

Pantry Pieces: Week 1 Take It or Leave It

Take a minute to ponder which experiences shaped you to be who you are and to do what you do today. For B, her experiences in using local resources while growing up motivated her to create the Take It or Leave It - Community Pantry at 195 E. Cotton St. This pantry is a “greenhouse-style pantry that’s open to anyone who needs it. There are no eligibility requirements, no paperwork, and no questions asked.” Mostly offering non-perishable food & hygiene items, you can also occasionally find books, blankets, and sometimes clothing.

B’s personal experience, paired with inspiration from other popup pantries, led her to start the pantry in November 2025; “I know what it feels like to need that kind of help. Now that I’m in a position to give back, I wanted to create something so others wouldn’t feel turned away or without options. Everyone deserves access to basic essentials.” B stocks the pantry entirely through donations, indicating that the community she serves gives right back. There are times when donations slow, leaving the shelves more barren, and there are times when donations surge, overflowing the shelves; what doesn’t change is the level of need.

According to Fondy Food Pantry, ADVOCAP, The Salvation Army of FDL County, and similar resources, 35% of our community is below the ALICE threshold (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed), indicating that more than one third of our neighbors are struggling in some way. Whether that be finding a job or housing, paying rent, or affording food & other basic needs, with homelessness tripling since the opening of St. Katharine Drexel Shelter, it’s evident that there is a growing demand to help. Pantries like B’s provide necessary resources to our neighbors who need them; sometimes our neighbors live with these needs without a whisper. “Food & essentials insecurity don’t always look the way people expect. It can affect a family quietly and plenty of neighbors don’t qualify for traditional assistance. Having resources without barriers is so important,” says B.

B’s pantry isn’t just supplies coming from shelves; it’s connection coming from her heart. B states, “I wish people knew how much dignity matters. It’s not just about daily essentials - it’s about creating a space where people feel respected and not judged. [There’s] so much effort [that] goes on behind the scenes.”

Staying true to “I Love Fond Du Lac”, the donations received are entirely supported by the greater community, meaning no daily shipments or guaranteed restocks. As the temperatures rise, so do the needs for items from pantries and similar resources. B has “learned how generous this community can be when the need is understood”. Please consider donating to support B’s mission of maintaining the dignity of those living near us who are facing difficulties. You can contact B through her Facebook at “Queenß Reed” or through the pantry page at “Take It or Leave It - Community Pantry”.

Check in next week for the second feature in “Pantry Pieces”, highlighting local pantries serving our community, often from their own front yards.

Author: Marlee Trapp

Finding Balance

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Pantry Pieces: Week 1 Take It or Leave It - CONTINUE

Community Pantry List:

- "Take It or Leave It - Community Pantry : 195 E Cotton St.
- The Prayer Pantry: 1268 Martin Ave.
- Free Little Pantry: 474 Garfield St
- Hope On The Block: 19 W 1st St (located behind the Advocap building)
- Covenant Methodist Church Little Free Pantry: 20 N Marr St (west side of parking lot).
- Little Free Pantry: 204 S National Ave
- The Caring Cottage: 213 E 1st St
- American Legion Community Cabinet 500 Fond du Lac Ave (located in the foyer) Additional pantry available for veterans (ask for Jodie!) Open 7:30am-10pm

*All of these pantries are available to the public. Donations of shelf-stable food and hygiene products are always appreciated!"

Other helpful resources:

<https://solutionsfdl.org>

<https://www.advocap.org/>

<https://skdsfdl.org/>

<https://www.hffdl.org/warming-shelter/>

<https://newbeginningspregcare.org/>

<https://www.fdlco.wi.gov/departments/departments-f-m/health-department#!/>

<https://shpbeds.org/chapter/wi-fond-du-lac/>

<https://www.habitatfdl.org/>



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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- Pants, skirts & blouses
- Coats & outerwear

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- Perfect for office & professional wear

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- Blankets & quilts
- Table linens & drapes
- Banners & tablecloths

Uniform Services:

- Cleaning and repairs for company owned uniforms
- Shop rag rental

Specialty Care:

- Wedding gowns (cleaning & preservation)
- Leather & suede
- Rug rental programs

Convenient Services:

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- Residential pickup & delivery

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