

I Love FDL

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

April 19th 2026



Fondly "Six Pack" Weekly SERIES

I LOVE FDL

Weekly news, inspiration, updates and happenings

The Fondy Frontline

Hopper's has been a cornerstone of Fond du Lac since 1978, offering in-house screen printing, embroidery, and a wide range of custom apparel and promotional products. With decades of experience and a commitment to quality, they continue to help individuals and businesses bring their ideas to life.

Creative Corner

StoryWalk at Lakeside and Hamilton Park turns a simple walk into an interactive reading experience, with pages of children's books posted along the path for families to enjoy together. With rotating stories each month, it's an easy and fun way to get outside, stay active, and make reading part of the adventure.

Faces Of Our Future

Little Lights Closet, founded by local foster mom Hailey, is helping ensure children entering foster care receive essential items that provide comfort, dignity, and a sense of belonging. With growing community support, the mission continues to expand as Hailey works toward creating a dedicated space to better serve foster families in times of need.

Finding Balance

Walk & Connect is a new community initiative in Fond du Lac that brings people together for casual walks and real conversations—no pressure, no formal networking. It's a simple, free way to meet others, get active, and build genuine connections while exploring different areas of the city.



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THE FONDY FRONTLINE

Hopper's Screen Printing & Embroidery

Hoppers in Fond du Lac has been a staple in our community since 1978. They are the largest screen printing and embroidery store in our area. Hopper's will imprint on premium apparel, or anything you just want to bring to life. They are located at 77 N Main Street in the heart of downtown Fond du Lac after spending three decades on Wisconsin Avenue in North Fond du Lac. Did you know in the 80's Hopper's printed numbers on the NFL jerseys.

Hopper's offers screen printing using five 4-head manual presses and one 8-head, 10-pallet auto press. All screen printing is done in house! They also have signs, decals, banners, magnets, vehicle lettering, trophies and plaques. If you don't want screen printing, they have laser engraving, embroidery, graphic design and sublimated apparel to fit your needs. Love our local businesses here in town, and want some apparel for them? With business approval, you can turn your favorite business logo into apparel and more!



Do you work at Mercury Marine? Did you know they have a Dockstore? They offer 20% off for employees and retirees? It's a great way to grab some Mercury Marine apparel ready to go at your convenience.

Hoppers is open Monday through Friday from 9am-5pm. Stop in today to order some custom apparel that will fit your needs. Check out their website at hopperwear.com to see what they all have!



LOCAL FOSTER MOM TURNS COMPASSION INTO COMMUNITY MOVEMENT WITH “LITTLE LIGHTS CLOSET”

In homes across the region, foster families are quietly stepping up to provide stability, care, and love to children during some of the most uncertain moments of their lives. But behind every placement is a reality many don't see: children often arrive with little to nothing of their own.

That's where Hailey, a local foster mom, is making a powerful difference.

Through her grassroots effort, Little Lights Closet, Hailey is working to ensure that every child entering foster care has something that is theirs—something that offers comfort, dignity, and a sense of belonging from the very start.

“At Little Lights, we believe every child deserves to feel seen, valued, and loved, especially in moments of transition,” Hailey shares. “We provide clothing, essentials, and comfort items to foster children and the families who welcome them.”

What began as a simple act of care has quickly grown into a community-supported mission. Donations have poured in—from clothing and diapers to toiletries and wipes—filling Hailey's home beyond capacity. While the overwhelming generosity speaks volumes about the community's heart, it has also revealed a growing need for space and organization.

“When you get a call, sometimes in the middle of the night, you don't have time to prepare,” Hailey explains. “Having small bags ready with essentials means a child has what they need for the morning. It's one less thing to worry about in a really hard moment.”

Today, Little Lights Closet is in a pivotal stage of growth. Hailey is seeking donations of small bags for children, as well as storage totes to better organize supplies. But her vision reaches even further.

She hopes to establish a dedicated location where foster families can come and access items directly—creating a welcoming, dignified space where they can find what they need, when they need it, without delay.

The need for foster care resources continues to rise, both locally and nationwide. As more children enter the system, the demand for foster families—and the support systems around them—becomes increasingly urgent. Organizations and individuals like Hailey are helping bridge that gap, ensuring that children are met not only with shelter, but with compassion and care.

The response from the community has already been remarkable. Each donation, each shared post, and each act of support has helped bring this vision to life.

Author: Kristin Santini

I *Love* FDL Faces of our future

LOCAL FOSTER MOM TURNS COMPASSION INTO COMMUNITY MOVEMENT WITH “LITTLE LIGHTS CLOSET” - CONTINUE

Hailey remains humbled and inspired.

“Everyone has been so helpful,” she says. “As this grows, my heart is full—and so are the possibilities.”

Through Little Lights Closet, a simple idea continues to expand into something deeply impactful: a network of care built on kindness, readiness, and the belief that every child deserves to feel safe and supported.

As Hailey looks toward the future, her mission remains clear—finding a permanent space to continue growing, organizing, and serving foster families with love, dignity, and speed.

Together, this community is building something truly meaningful—one child, one family, and one act of generosity at a time.

To learn more or support the mission, visit [Little Lights Closet on Facebook](#).

ABOUT LITTLE LIGHTS CLOSET

We deliver essential clothing, shoes, and comfort items directly to foster families—within the first 24 hours of placement whenever possible.



Everything is provided free of charge, thanks to generous community donations.

Together, we're lighting the way.





StoryWalk Season Is Back at Lakeside and Hamilton Park.

If you walk Lakeside Park as much as I do, you've probably seen these and maybe didn't even realize what they were at first. I remember going on one of my normal walks and noticing pages of a kids book posted along the path. At first I thought it was just some random display, but then I realized... it's actually a full story, just spread out as you walk. It's called StoryWalk, and honestly it's a really fun idea.

They've got it set up at Lakeside Park (by the Deneveu Shelter) and also over at Hamilton Park. As you walk, each sign is the next page of the book, so kids (and let's be honest, adults too) can follow along as they move through the park. It turns a regular walk into something a little more interactive, especially if you've got kids with you.

Right now they're switching things up with new books for the season. Over at Hamilton you'll find "Chickens on the Loose," and at Lakeside they've got "All at Once Upon a Time" and "That's Not Stella." They rotate these out each month, which is cool because it gives people a reason to keep coming back.

I like stuff like this because it's just easy. It gets people outside, gets kids moving, and sneaks in some reading without it feeling forced. It's also one of those small things that makes Fond du Lac feel like there's always something going on, even if it's not a big event. So next time you're out walking Lakeside, actually take a minute to follow along with the story. It's worth it.

Author: Shane Michael



Finding Balance

**I Love
FDL**

Walk & Connect: Just Show Up, Walk, and Meet People

Kristin Santini and I are starting something new in Fond du Lac called Walk & Connect. Honestly, it's exactly what it sounds like. We're getting people together to walk around the city and just talk. No formal networking, no name tags, no weird pressure. Just real conversations while getting some steps in. I feel like a lot of people want to meet others or grow their network, but don't love the typical "networking event" vibe... so this is our version of it.

We're going to switch up the starting spot each time so we can hit different areas around Fondy. The first one is at 2nd and Macy at 4:30pm. You show up, we hang out for a minute, and then we start walking. That's it. Walk at your pace, talk to whoever's around you, and just let it happen naturally. If you're someone who already walks a lot, it's an easy add. If you don't, this is a good reason to start.

At the end of the day, this is just about getting people out of the house and connecting. Business owners, people working jobs, anyone trying to meet more people in the area... it's for all of you. No cost, no catch. Just show up and walk with us.

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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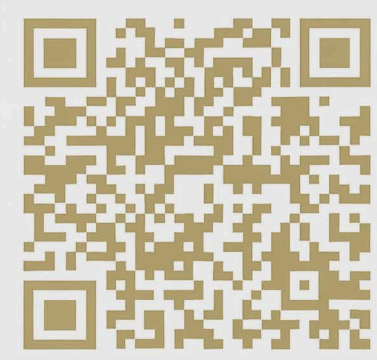
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