

Blaze Bulletin

A Quarterly Publication for the Members of **Blaze Credit Union** | Fall 2024

core²⁴ & DIGITAL BANKING system conversions

Blaze will be finalizing our conversion to a new, upgraded core system and digital banking platform on October 7, 2024. This is an exciting milestone and Blaze associates have been working diligently behind the scenes to make the experience as seamless as possible for our members.

All Blaze branches and the Member Experience center will be closed on Saturday, October 5 and Monday, October 7.

Your current debit cards, credit cards, and checks will continue to work during and after the conversion. When your current card expires you will receive a new Blaze-branded card. Checks, no matter which institution is on them (Hiway, SPIRE, or Blaze), will continue to process as normal.

Informational systems conversion booklets were mailed to members in September. For complete details, please refer to your booklet or visit blazecu.com/core24. As always, thank you for choosing Blaze as your financial partner!

blazecu.com/core24

PLYMOUTH *Now Open!*

Blaze's 28th branch location at
10000 Rockford Road, Plymouth



Proudly Awarded Minnesota's Best

Blaze Credit Union has been voted Minnesota's Best in five categories in the Star Tribune Readers' Choice Awards! **Blaze earned Gold awards for Credit Union, Home Mortgage, Wealth Management, and Customer Service – Financial Services, and a Silver award for overall Customer Service.**

The Star Tribune Readers' Choice Award program recognizes the three best businesses in 375 categories. Over 7,300 businesses were nominated and 1,174,000 votes were cast. Businesses are nominated by owners, managers, customers, and/or fans.



Credit Union



Home Mortgage



Wealth
Management



Financial Services
Customer Service



Customer Service

Blaze Community Update

At Blaze, our core action to give back is central to everything we do. Our giving programs, along with the Blaze Foundation, support hundreds of Minnesota nonprofits and causes every year. Learn more at blazecu.com/community.

GIVING HIGHLIGHTS

Bucks for Babe

Blaze Credit Union was thrilled to once again partner with our friends at KS95 and The Bond Between to support the annual Bucks for Babe fundraiser this summer. **Blaze matched the first \$25,000 in listener donations, and this year's campaign raised more than \$70,000.**



Since its creation in 2022, Bucks for Babe has raised \$250,000 for animals in need, all in memory of KS95 Morning Show Host Crisco's beloved dog, Babe. This outpouring of love and support from Blaze members, KS95 listeners, and people from around the world has allowed The Bond Between to save thousands of pets.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Blaze Cancer Awareness Month

Cancer is something that impacts us all, whether it is our own diagnosis or that of a loved one. That is why Blaze's Give Back programs have always supported cancer research, patient support, and awareness.



October is Cancer Awareness Month at Blaze. **We will be matching all member donations** (up to \$5,000, limit \$500 per donation) made via NetGiver to cancer-related charities from October 1 to October 31. Read on for more details about NetGiver.

Blaze is a proud partner of the American Cancer Society (ACS), which works to improve the lives

of people with cancer and their families through advocacy, research, and patient support, to ensure everyone has an opportunity to prevent, detect, treat, and survive cancer. **Since 2015, Blaze and Blaze associates have contributed nearly \$50,000 to ACS to support this important work.** Learn more about ACS and find resources for patients, caregivers, survivors, and more at cancer.org.

Toy Drive

This holiday season, Blaze locations will give members the opportunity to make the season brighter for local children by donating a new toy to our toy drive. Watch our social channels and blazecu.com for details, including the starting date!



Year-End NetGiver Match

Blaze will be matching up to \$25,000 in donations made by Blaze members who use NetGiver to give to charities supporting housing and hunger services during the month of December. Blaze has chosen to focus on housing and hunger-related charities for this match period because everyone deserves to be safe, warm, and fed – always, but especially during the holiday season. NetGiver is a donation platform that allows credit union members to give to charitable causes with zero fees to organizations or donors. To qualify for the match, both the member donating and the non-profit must be registered with NetGiver. Registering is easy and completely free. The maximum match per donation is \$250.



FALL SHRED DAY

Saturday, October 19

9 a.m.–12 p.m.

**Vadnais Heights, Elk River
& Plymouth Branches**

*Limit 3 bags or boxes | Free for Blaze members

Wild Discount Ticket Offerings

As the Official Credit Union of the Minnesota Wild, we're excited to give members the opportunity to purchase discounted tickets to attend a Wild home game for the 2024-25 season.

Look for more details soon at blazecu.com/wild. Go Wild!



Online Shopping & Scams

With the holiday season fast approaching, consumers increase their spending not only in stores, but also online.

Shopping online is generally secure, but some less than honest “businesses” may use deceptive practices to lure you into buying something and/or getting your card information.

Here are a few tips to help protect you and your money when shopping online:

- **Research the company/seller before purchasing.** Searching their name and the word “reviews” or “scam” online may bring up information from other people who have purchased from them.



- **Be aware of fake websites.** Shop with companies who have good reputations and secure sites.
- **If the company requires you to pay with a Peer to Peer (P2P) app like Zelle, Venmo or Cash App – that’s a red flag.** These apps are meant to send money to people you know and trust, there are no protections for buying goods and services through P2P platforms.
- **If the deal is too good to be true, it likely is.**

Taking a few minutes to vet the company before you buy something online may save you from losing money. If it ends up being a scam, it’s harder to recoup your money when you authorized the transaction.

To learn more, please visit:
blazecu.com/about/fraud or ftc.gov

Starting a new job or retiring soon?

Discuss your 401(k) options with a trusted financial advisor.



BlazeSM
RETIREMENT + INVESTMENT

BlazeSM
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

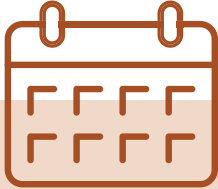
Schedule your complimentary financial review!

blazecu.com/investments

651.641.2298

*There is no assurance that investing through a financial professional will improve net results. | Investment and insurance products and services are offered through Osaic Institutions, Inc., Member FINRA/SIPC. Blaze Retirement & Investment Services and Blaze Wealth Management are trade names of Blaze Credit Union. Osaic Institutions and Blaze Credit Union are not affiliated. Products and services made available through Osaic Institutions are not insured by the NCUA or any other agency of the United States and are not deposits or obligations of nor guaranteed or insured by any credit union or credit union affiliate. These products are subject to investment risk, including the possible loss of value.

Individuals are financial professionals with Osaic Institutions.



Save the Date!

**Annual Meeting
and Member
Appreciation Day**

**Saturday,
February 22, 2025**

Grace Church, Eden Prairie

Registration and details will be posted in the coming months.

2025 Slate of Board Candidates

Lori Hodapp, Incumbent

Lee Brucker, Incumbent

Sophia Xiong-Yang, Incumbent

Pam Tschida, Incumbent

Lynn Kothe, Incumbent

Petition Notice

Nominations to the slate of candidates for the board of directors may be made only by the nominating committee or by a petition to the nominating committee. If you wish to be placed on the ballot by petition, you must deliver a petition signed by at least five percent of the total membership to the Nominating Committee c/o Mai Yang at Blaze by November 15, 2024.

Mai may be reached by calling 651.641.2141. Nomination petitions must include a certificate signed by the nominee stating agreement to the nomination and willingness to serve if elected. Nominees must meet the requirements of board members as specified in Blaze’s bylaws. All primary members over the age of 18 with \$10 or more in their Share Savings account are eligible to vote.

BLAZE LOCATIONS

Blaine

10 Northtown Drive NE
Blaine, MN 55434

Coon Rapids

3380 Northdale Boulevard NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55448

Eagan

1251 Town Centre Drive
Eagan, MN 55123

Eden Prairie

8577 Columbine Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Elk River

17035 Yale Court NW
Elk River, MN 55330

Golden Valley

6450 Wayzata Boulevard
Golden Valley, MN 55426

Isle

390 Isle Street W
Isle, MN 56342

Keewatin

112 East 3rd Avenue
Keewatin, MN 55753

Maple Grove

9580 Blackcoaks Lane N
Maple Grove, MN 55311

Milaca

400 3rd Avenue SW
Milaca, MN 56353

Minneapolis North

3117 University Avenue SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Minneapolis South

5025 E 54th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55417

Mora

112 South Lake Street
Mora, MN 55051

Ogilvie

200 West Highway 23
Ogilvie, MN 56358

Pine City

900 Main Street S
Pine City, MN 55063

Plymouth

NOW OPEN!
10000 Rockford Road
Plymouth, MN 55442

Princeton

501 South 2nd Street
Princeton, MN 55371

Roseville North

2465 Fairview Avenue N
Roseville, MN 55113

Roseville South

1880 Perimeter Drive
Roseville, MN 55113

St. Cloud

3951 Division Street
St. Cloud, MN 56301

St. Michael Cub

900 Central Avenue E
St. Michael, MN 55376

St. Paul

111 Empire Drive
St Paul, MN 55103

St. Paul West

NOW OPEN!
2700 W Territorial Road
St. Paul, MN 55114
Only available for HBI employees.

Stillwater Cub

NOW OPEN!
1801 Market Drive
Stillwater, MN 55082

Vadnais Heights

940 Co Road E East
Vadnais Heights, MN 55127

Waseca

105 15th Ave NE
Waseca, MN 56093

Woodbury East

195 Radio Drive
Woodbury, MN 55125

Woodbury West

1570 Woodlane Drive
Woodbury, MN 55125

Find more branch-specific information at blazecu.com/locations

All Blaze locations will be closed Monday, October 14 (Indigenous Peoples Day); Monday, November 11 (Veterans Day); Thursday, November 28 (Thanksgiving); Tuesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve, closed at 1 p.m.) and Wednesday, December 25 (Christmas Day).

blazecu.com

651.215.3500

888.347.7473

Please direct all correspondence and loan payments to:

P.O. Box 130670

Roseville, MN 55113



Insured
by NCUA

View the digital edition anytime at blazecu.com/bulletin. Blaze Credit Union is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

