



POINTS of INTEREST

President's Corner	Small Business Saturday
Harvest a Healthy Credit Score	BLC Team Updates
Financial Planning for the Holidays	Shazam Rewards Winner
BLC in the Community	Tech Tips & Takeaways: Vacation Mode



President's Corner

As summer ends and we prepare for fall, there are many factors on the horizon. The upcoming election is just around the corner, and as always, it brings a mix of excitement and uncertainty that can impact the economy and how people feel about spending.

The economy is showing signs of change. While inflation has significantly declined, the job market is beginning to show signs of potential weakness. Fed Chair Jerome Powell recently stated, "The time has come for policy to adjust." This suggests that a reduction in interest rates may be on the horizon. This change should provide relief to those looking to purchase a home or make more affordable home improvements with a Home Equity Line of Credit. Businesses that have been holding off on additional purchases or expansion may also want to reconsider, as both pricing and borrowing costs are leveling off. BLC has a strong lending team, and we are eager to help in any way we can. Even if you're not ready to make any major changes right now—whether personally or for your business—please don't hesitate to reach out with any home mortgage or commercial questions you may have.

Even with the potential reduction in interest rates, deposit rates will continue to be very competitive and well above the levels we've seen over the last 10-15 years. Now is a great time to lock in a CD or set aside funds in a Money Market account.

As always, please reach out anytime if there is anything we can help with, and Go Pack Go!

Adam Lange



Harvest a Healthy Credit Score

By law, you're entitled to receive a free credit report from each of the three major credit reporting agencies—TransUnion, Experian, and Equifax—once every year. Make sure to take advantage of these free reports to check for errors and safeguard against identity theft. Look out for any inaccuracies like incorrect late payments or unfamiliar new accounts. To stay on top of any changes, consider ordering one report now and the others later in the year, so you can monitor your credit throughout. To order visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call (877) 322-8228.

Financial Planning for the Holidays

As the holiday season nears, it's easy to get caught up in the excitement and festivities. By taking a proactive approach to your holiday expenses, you can enjoy the celebrations without worrying about your finances.

Set a Budget: Determining your spending limit is crucial to avoid financial strain during the holidays. Allocate funds to different categories such as gifts, travel, food, and decorations to ensure you stay within your budget.

Start Early: Begin saving money well before the holiday season to reduce financial stress. Shopping early allows you to take advantage of sales and avoid the last-minute rush.

Make a List: Create a list of people you need to buy gifts for and prioritize them based on your budget. Sticking to this list helps prevent impulse purchases and keeps your spending in check.

Consider Homemade Gifts: Homemade gifts can be more meaningful and cost-effective. Explore DIY projects that require minimal expense but add a personal touch to your gifts.

Plan for Travel Expenses: If you plan to travel, booking tickets and accommodations early can secure the best rates. Look for travel deals and consider alternative travel dates to save money.

Avoid Debt: Using cash or debit cards can help you avoid accumulating credit card debt. If you do use credit cards, aim to pay off the balance as soon as possible to avoid interest charges.

Track Your Spending: Monitoring your expenses ensures you stay within your budget. Be flexible and adjust your budget if necessary to avoid overspending.

Plan for Next Year: After the holidays, review your spending to identify areas for improvement. Start saving early with a Christmas Club account for the next holiday season to make financial planning even easier.

UPCOMING FEDERAL HOLIDAY HOURS

The bank will be closed to observe the following:

OCT 14 - Columbus Day

NOV 28 - Thanksgiving

NOV 11 - Veterans Day

DEC 25 - Christmas Day

BLC in the Community

JAKE'S NETWORK OF HOPE

Together, our Q2 team raised \$1,053 for Jake's Network of Hope. A heartfelt thank you to our team for representing our bank's mission through their generosity and commitment to community impact.



ROCK CANCER

#TeamBLC returned to Rock Cancer presented by Spierings Cancer Foundation to help serve drinks in the beer stand for this rockin' cause.



FRAUD AWARENESS

Thanks to all who came out to learn how to protect yourself and your loved ones from fraud! This was our first time presenting and it won't be our last!



Follow us on social media for more photos and updates!



Celebrate Small Business Saturday

This holiday season, let's show our support for the local businesses that make our community special. On Small Business Saturday, we can help keep our community thriving. Let's make a difference by shopping small on November 30th and supporting our neighbors.

WHY IT MATTERS & HOW YOU CAN HELP

Local businesses create jobs, support community events, and keep our economy strong. When you shop at a local store, more of your money stays in the community, helping to build a vibrant local economy.

- **Shop Local:** Find unique gifts and quality products right here in our neighborhood.
- **Spread the Word:** Share your favorite local spots on social media and write positive reviews.
- **Gift Local:** Give gift cards from local businesses to friends and family.

BLC Team Updates



CONGRATULATIONS TO LUKE on being promoted to CFO! Since joining us in 2015 as a Senior Credit Analyst, Luke has shown exceptional leadership and dedication. His progression from Senior Credit Analyst to Chief Credit Officer and now CFO highlights his invaluable contributions to our team.

WELCOME HEATHER! We are thrilled to welcome Heather Van Hoof to our team. She brings a wealth of experience from her 25-year career in insurance, where she specialized in customer service, managed insurance claims, and handled all administrative duties. Heather briefly served as a Teller before her joining BLC and is eager to dive back into this role.



Holiday fun is easy when you send money with Zelle®

It's a fast, safe and easy way to send and receive money with friends, family and others you know and trust.¹

Learn more at blccb.com/zelle

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SHAZAM REWARDS WINNER

Congrats to Scott Jensen, our "Sky High" Shazam rewards winner! Every time a BLC customer used their debit card from April 1 - June 30, they were entered in a drawing to receive \$25.

Visit www.blccb.com/shazam to learn more about the current campaign, prizes and rules.



Technology Tips & Takeaways

VACATION MODE

Whether you're headed to the beach or mountains, traveling by car or plane, staying local, or going abroad for an extended holiday or a weekend getaway - here are some tips to keep in mind during your travels.

TAP-TO-PAY RISKS: Tap-to-pay is a newer technology that your organization may deploy on your cards. In addition to physical cards, mobile devices have evolved to allow customers to utilize tap-to-pay on their various devices. While convenient for payments, it is also easy for scammers to pickpocket digitally. Here are some tips to check before embarking on your travels and to keep in mind when you return:

- Ensure your wallet, purse, or bag has RFID protection to limit the ability for someone to tap your tech to process a tap-to-pay transaction quickly.
- Ensure your devices require a passcode or biometric authentication (FaceID/Fingerprint) before processing a tap-to-pay transaction. Many mobile devices require this.
- Disable the feature if you do not use tap-to-pay on your devices. Even if you do not have a card loaded on the device, many devices have tap-to-pay features for other transactions.

DEVICES SECURITY: Mobile devices, from phones to tablets, are daily companions for us, especially while traveling. These devices contain more personal and financial information than ever before. Here are important to consider when using devices traveling:

- **Free Wi-Fi Isn't Always Free:** Many free connections are unmanaged and unsecured. While the provider of the connection may not be malicious, other users on the network might be. Instead, use your data or personal hotspot.
- **Juice Jacking/Free Charging:** Public charging stations in airports and other common waiting areas can be used by bad actors to transmit malware or access your device data. Bring your own power bank and consider carrying "charging only" cables when possible.
- **Stay Up to Date:** Bad actors often exploit the latest vulnerabilities in devices. Before traveling, take a few minutes to check for and install any available updates on your devices.