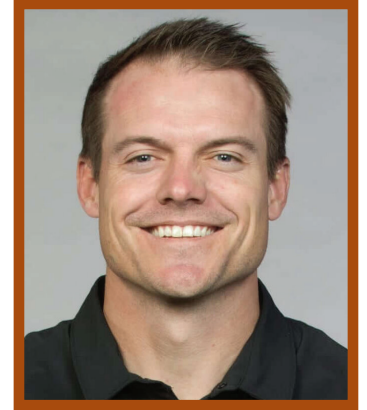


# Blaze Bulletin

A Quarterly Publication for the Members of **Blaze Credit Union** | Summer 2026

## KEVIN O'CONNELL JOINS TEAM BLAZE



Blaze Credit Union is proud to announce a partnership rooted in leadership and community connection across Minnesota with Kevin O'Connell, a former NFL quarterback, now a NFL Head Coach.

"We chose to partner with O'Connell because of his character and reputation. He is a genuine person who knows what it takes to lead both on and off the field. He treats every individual with sincerity and respect which aligns with Blaze to the core," said Dan Stoltz, Blaze CEO/President.

O'Connell started his professional career as a NFL quarterback; he was Patriots' head coach Bill Belichick's earliest quarterback selection in any NFL draft. Shortly into his first season O'Connell recognized his innate desire to coach. Since then, O'Connell has gone on to be named the 2024 Associated Press Coach of the Year, and finished with the second-most season wins in Minnesota franchise history.

Kevin and his wife Leah are parents of four: two sons, Kaden and Kolten, and two daughters, Quinn and Callie. O'Connell is also a proud advocate for the fight against childhood cancer. For the past three consecutive seasons, he has worn custom-painted shoes for the NFL's My Cause My Cleats initiative to highlight nonprofits that support children battling cancer and fundraise for pediatric cancer research.

O'Connell will appear in Blaze advertising campaigns and collaborate with Blaze on community-focused giveback initiatives. "I'm excited to partner with Blaze Credit Union, an organization that is truly invested in making a difference," said O'Connell. "Together, we have an opportunity to positively impact people's lives—not just through football, but by supporting their financial futures and community involvement."



### July 20-26, 2026 | TPC Twin Cities - Blaine

The 3M Open is an official PGA TOUR stop and part of the FedEx Cup series. Known as "Golf that Matters," the 3M Open brings the world's best golfers to the Twin Cities while benefiting our local communities through the 3M Open Fund. See greats take to the course in Minnesota's only PGA TOUR event!

Since 2005, Blaze has partnered with the 3M Open to better lives in communities where we live, work, and learn. We are proud to support golf that matters. Don't miss Blaze Championship Sunday on July 26, with special Blaze branding throughout the course, and photo opportunities with Archie. Enjoy the competition from the Blaze Retirement + Investment Grandstand on the 18th hole!

Enjoy discounted tickets as a Blaze member.  
Visit [blazecu.com/3MOpen](http://blazecu.com/3MOpen) for details.



~~I wish I had started sooner.~~

# I'm glad I did.

RETIREMENT PLANNING.  
SMART INVESTING.  
A CLEAR PATH FORWARD.



Financial regret is more common than people realize — **but staying stuck doesn't have to be.**

# Blaze

RETIREMENT + INVESTMENTS



**Schedule your financial review today!**  
[blazecu.com/investments](https://blazecu.com/investments)

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The Star Tribune Readers' Choice Award program awards one gold, silver, and bronze winner per category decided by popular online vote. Published July 2020. Visit <https://www.minnesotasbest.com/about-minnesotas-best.html> for more information.

# BLAZE FOUNDATION

## \$200,000 in Foundation Scholarships Awarded

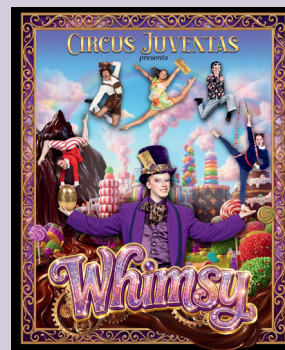
The Blaze Foundation believes in the power of education to transform lives and communities. In support of this belief, the Foundation has awarded 80 scholarships, for a total of \$200,000, to scholars pursuing their educational aspirations.

Congratulations to the recipients and best of luck in your future endeavors! For more information on the Blaze Foundation, visit [blazecu.com/foundation](https://blazecu.com/foundation)

*Experience Circus Juventas' all-new summer spectacular under the Big Top!*

## Whimsy

July 24-August 9, 2026



Step into a magical chocolate-filled world of imagination, breathtaking circus artistry, and sweet surprises.

Blaze is proud to be the Official Credit Union of Circus Juventas. As a thank you to Blaze for their continued support, members can **save \$5 on tickets with promo code BLAZE26.** For tickets, visit [cjshows.org/whimsy](https://cjshows.org/whimsy).



## Upcoming Events

### WEDNESDAYS

Summertime by George, St. Cloud:  
Wednesday evenings through August 12.

### JULY 4

Keewatin & Nashwauk Parades

### JULY 8

Music in Plymouth

### JULY 8

Blaze Night at Summertime by George

### JULY 11

Isle Days Parade

### JULY 11

Mendota Parade

### JULY 19

Stillwater Lumberjack Days Parade

### JULY 20-26

3M Open

### JULY 21

Blaze Night at the Saints

### JULY 23

Starlight Cinema

### JULY 25

Mora Parade

### JULY 27

Blaze Night at the Rox

### JULY 29

Blaze Night at Concert in the Commons

### AUGUST 1

MNUFC Lawn Layover

### AUGUST 1

Ogilvie Parade

### AUGUST 1

Pine City Parade

### AUGUST 6

Starlight Cinema

### AUGUST 7-9

Twin Cities Irish Fest

### AUGUST 15

Pepper Fest Parade

### AUGUST 19

MNUFC Lawn Layover

# Recent Recognitions - *We are Honored*

At Blaze, we don't set out to win awards. We are focused on delivering exceptional service to our members and supporting our communities. We work to be Minnesota's best financial institution every day, and it's an honor to have that commitment recognized. Recently, Blaze has received the following accolades:

## Blaze Honored with a 2026 Excellence Award from Q2

Q2 Holdings, Inc., a leading provider of digital transformation solutions for financial services and Blaze's digital banking provider, announced Blaze as one of the 2026 Q2 Excellence Award recipients. The annual award program recognizes banks and credit unions driving significant business outcomes and strengthening the communities they serve, ranking them among the industry's best financial institutions.



Blaze Digital Banking Team

"The Q2 Excellence Award winners demonstrate the many ways banks and credit unions are redefining innovation across financial services," said Q2 Chief Business Officer Kirk Coleman. "We are proud to recognize organizations that are delivering meaningful results for their businesses, account holders, and communities."

The Q2 Excellence Award for Digital Transformation recognizes Blaze for modernizing its digital ecosystem to deliver measurable improvements in adoption, performance, efficiency, and member experiences. Following its merger and Q2 migration, Blaze increased enrollment of digital banking users by 163%, grew digital transactions by 195%, reduced average transaction time by 81.5%, and eliminated an estimated 1,000 hours of annual manual work.



## Star Tribune Reader's Choice Award Program — FIVE GOLDS!

Blaze was recognized by the Star Tribune Readers' Choice Award program as Minnesota's Best in five categories for 2026. Blaze earned gold in Credit Union, Home Mortgage, Wealth Management, Financial Services Customer Service, and overall Customer Service.



## Newsweek America's Best Regional Banks & Credit Unions

In 2026, Blaze was acknowledged by *Newsweek* and Plant-A Insights for the second consecutive year as one of America's Best Regional Banks & Credit Unions.



## Mpls.St.Paul Magazine Reader's Best of the Twin Cities

Blaze was named a 2026 Best of the Twin Cities Silver Winner in the Credit Union category, as part of *Mpls.St.Paul Magazine's* annual Readers' Best of the Twin Cities poll.



## Twin Cities Business Best of Business

Blaze's commitment to excellence, leadership, and exceptional service throughout the Minnesota business community was honored with a Silver award in the Credit Union category by *Twin Cities Business (TCB) Magazine's* 2026 Best of Business Awards.



## Minnesota Credit Union Network Outstanding Service & Impact Award

Blaze was honored to receive the Outstanding Service & Impact Award recognizing the Blaze Cares and Shares program.



## America's Credit Unions Diamond Award

Blaze received a 2026 Diamond Award for Complete Campaign from America's Credit Unions acknowledging the University of Minnesota Alumni Association partnership efforts.

*Now Open!*

**BLAZE ROCHESTER**  
Blaze's 29th branch location at  
**975 34th Avenue NW, Rochester**

**BLAZE WOODBURY WEST**  
Newly remodeled and upgraded  
**1570 Woodlane Drive, Woodbury**



Blaze will be acquiring Luminate Bank®'s branch in Claremont, Minnesota. Located 29 miles west of Rochester and 28 miles east of Waseca on U.S. Highway 14, the branch will increase access for members and potential members in southeast Minnesota.

Luminate Bank's Claremont branch customers will become Blaze Credit Union members/owners. Both organizations were founded in Minnesota and are deeply committed to the communities they serve. This acquisition preserves the in-person experience Claremont bank customers value at this location while providing expanded service offerings and access to Blaze's 30 locations.

The acquisition/transfer of the Claremont location is expected to occur on or before October 9, 2026, following regulatory approval. Blaze members will see no disruption in service and will be able to use the Claremont branch beginning October 13, 2026. For additional information, visit [blazecu.com/luminateclaremont](http://blazecu.com/luminateclaremont).

Please note: This transition is limited to Luminate Bank's Claremont branch location. It does not impact Luminate Bank's Minneapolis location or the company's national digital presence, which will continue to operate as normal.

## Call for Candidates

Blaze Credit Union is a member-owned financial cooperative, governed by a volunteer board of directors. **As a member of Blaze, you can become a candidate for the board of directors and be part of Blaze's leadership.**

What does it take to be on the board? An interest in Blaze's activities, the ability to volunteer five-plus hours per month, familiarity with income and balance sheet figures, and dedication to Blaze members. More information on board qualifications can be found at [blazecu.com/board](http://blazecu.com/board). If you don't have access to the Internet, please contact Mai Yang at 651.641.2141 for a printed copy. If you would like to exercise your right as a member of Blaze to seek a position with the board of directors, please contact Mai at the phone number above, or send an email to [mai.yang@blazecu.com](mailto:mai.yang@blazecu.com), to express your interest by Friday, July 31, 2026.

# BLAZE LOCATIONS

Find more branch-specific information at [blazecu.com/locations](http://blazecu.com/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 Blackoaks 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

10000 Rockford Road  
Plymouth, MN 55442

### Princeton

602 Tiger Boulevard  
Princeton, MN 55371

### Rochester

975 34th Avenue NW  
Rochester, MN 55901

### 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

2700 W Territorial Road  
St. Paul, MN 55114

*Only available for HBI employees.*

### Stillwater Cub

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



All Blaze locations will be closed **Saturday, July 4 (Independence Day)**  
and **Monday, September 7 (Labor Day)**.



[blazecu.com](http://blazecu.com)

651.215.3500

888.347.7473

Please direct all correspondence  
and loan payments to:

P.O. Box 130670

Roseville, MN 55113



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