



POINTS of INTEREST

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President's Corner

It has been an interesting year so far. Long-term rates have skyrocketed, inflation isn't going away, the conflict in the Ukraine continues, and the supply chain is still way behind. At the same time, housing prices remain high, the supply of available houses has not increased and building material prices are up substantially. So why is everyone still spending money?

The best answer is found in all of the money issued by the Federal Government to address the COVID situation. Through PPP loans and surplus unemployment checks, the government paid out a trillion dollars. According to an economic study, 40% of these funds are still sitting in deposit accounts in Banks and other financial institutions. While prices are going up, people still have money to spend.

To curb inflation, the Fed has proposed to raise short-term interest rates by 2% to 3%. This will be reflected in the Prime Rate. It is possible, this will create a recession, as this is not a quick solution. However, runaway inflation would be much worse.

At times like these, individuals and businesses need good financial partners that will work with them to get through these interesting times. At BLC, we stand ready to assist with whatever needs you have, even if it's just to discuss your situation. We will get through this, and I expect we will come out stronger on the other side.

I almost forgot... sorry about the parking lot. The addition is moving along smoothly and the drives and lot will be fixed soon.

Steve



A Gift for All Reasons

Are you looking for the perfect gift? We can help solve your gift-giving dilemma with a Visa Gift Card from BLC. Grads and newlyweds (and anyone else on your gift list) will be able to make purchases from thousands of merchants worldwide, with a pre-funded Visa Gift Card.

Gift cards are also an excellent item to pack when sending your child off to college or to a new job in another city. They always come in handy for gas, food, books and other expenses.

Senior Scholarship Awards

BLC was proud to present two \$1,000 scholarships for these very deserving Little Chute High School seniors, Trevor DeBruin and Katie Mlodzik.

Outstanding Math Student: Trevor will attend the University of Wisconsin Steven's Point and major in kinesiology and exercise science. He has taken many relevant math classes including Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus and AP Statistics. This student has also participated in sports throughout his high school career including football, baseball, and wrestling and has contributed to his community by volunteering in numerous activities. This student exudes hard work, community pride and academic excellence.

Outstanding Senior Student: Katie plans to attend either Marian University or St. Norbert College to pursue a career in healthcare. Her purpose is to help as many people as she can and her mission is to be a hard-working, loving, and an unforgettable person. She supports her community by serving in a leadership position as the Blood Drive Coordinator at her school. This student not only achieves academic excellence in her studies but also displays exceptional leadership skills in everything she does.

Summer Fun for Free

Summers can still be magical and fun without spending a ton of money. It only takes a little planning and knowing what is going on in your community. Here are a few ideas and resources to keep the fun on a budget:

50 ON THE FOX - Get rewarded for completing 50 miles using the trails in & around the Fox River and Heart of the Valley! It's FREE to sign up and everyone who completes 50 miles will receive a Shop Local Coupon Book full of DEALS to support your favorite LOCAL businesses!

PUBLIC LIBRARY - We have several great public libraries in our system that offer family friendly activities throughout the summer. Check out their social media pages for details on upcoming events.

CHECK OUT YOUR CHAMBER - Your Local Chamber of Commerce is another great resource for finding free entertainment in the area. Also check out the Fox Cities Visitors Bureau for events and activities.

BLC in the Community

SHREDFEST

We shredded almost 16,000 lbs of paper, and were so grateful for all the food donations you brought to help us donate to the local St. John Food Pantry.



CENTER FOR SUICIDE AWARENESS

Our Q1 Fundraising organized food days, jean days, and other fun activities to raise nearly \$1,300 for this local organization!



VILLAGE OF LITTLE CHUTE

BLC braved both ends of the Wisconsin weather to help clean at the Windmill and in some green spaces around the village.



TEACH CHILDREN TO SAVE

We were excited to be able to return to the classroom this year to share savings lessons with the 1st Grade classes at Little Chute Elementary and St. John's Elementary schools!



Follow us on social media for more photos and updates!



Congratulations Graduating Class of 2022



Take a piece of home with you to college! With BLC's Online and Mobile Banking, we are always there for you, no matter where you go! Our Carefree Checking account requires only a \$25 minimum deposit to open with no monthly service charge and no minimum balance requirement. Plus you can deposit checks with a couple quick pictures in our mobile app. Whether you are starting your career or going off to school, we're eager to help with all your financial needs.

Questions about opening an account or setting up online or mobile banking? Visit www.blccb.com.

BLC Team Updates

SHARON GLOUDEMANS joined us last May as a part-time Receptionist and Administrative Assistant. She has been an energetic and valuable member of our team, but will be leaving to join her husband for a new opportunity in Nebraska. This move takes her closer to family and we're very excited for her!



JEN MILLER recently accepted our new Retail Administrative Associate position. She joined BLC as a loan processor, but brings a wealth of retail experience and knowledge from her previous financial institutions. Join us in congratulating her and wishing her the best in this new role!



As we continue to grow we're looking to fill a few positions.

If you know someone with a positive attitude who would be a great fit for BLC, ask them to visit www.blccb.com/careers!

PROPERTY TAX COLLECTIONS

BLC Community Bank will be accepting property tax payments for Outagamie County. If you have a 2nd Installment due in July, we will be happy to process it for you.

SHAZAM REWARDS WINNER

Congrats to Shannon P., our "Rock the Rewards" winner! Every time a BLC customer used their debit card from January 1 - March 31, 2022, they were entered in a drawing to receive \$25.

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

SAFE MONEY TIP: Our Visa TravelMoney Card keeps your debit card safe during summer travel. It's a prepaid card (\$100 to \$5,000) that can be reloaded and used at ATMs or anywhere VISA debit cards are accepted. This way your cards and accounts stay safe.



Technology Tips & Takeaways

IS IT DANGEROUS TO BE TOO SMART?

Smart homes, smart phones, smart assistants and other smart devices have become common place in today's world. These devices track our personal preferences and habits to make our lives easier. While these conveniences are helpful, they also make protecting your privacy that much more complicated.

Everyday we each leave a digital trail of information about ourselves. Some of that data is willingly and knowingly shared, while other data collection is less readily apparent.

For example, posting photos of grandchildren or congratulating a coworker for a promotion on social media are activities that are willingly done and knowingly shared. On the other hand, the location services on your phone and mapping apps that pinpoint your location at all times are less apparent.

Have you ever wondered how, after searching for a new pair of shoes online, ads begin popping up in subsequent days across a variety of sites for the shoes you were looking at?

The things we do throughout the course of a day give continuous information about us. Who our friends are, what interests we have and the activities we enjoy. Some media platforms use this data to deliver targeted ads, provide location related information such as the weather or display advertisements for nearby stores. Others might sell or share that information.

Laptops, tablets, smartwatches, cars and homes all have information about us. You can find suggestions for privacy on apps, online and for children at: consumer.ftc.gov/features/protecting-your-privacy-online. This site also includes helpful guidance for securing voice assistant applications as well as proving tips on data privacy steps to take when selling your car or selling a "smart" home.

By making a few changes to your smart devices you can limit the use of your personal information, improve your privacy and still enjoy the conveniences those devices offer.

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