

Tuesday, September 21, 2021
To: New York Community Banks

Good morning,

- We are happy to inform you that a **special discount is available for the Barret Leadership Academy: "Strategic Planning and Talent Development" program via Zoom this Wednesday, September 22** from 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM EDT, with a 1 hour lunch break). The usual registration fee is \$295, but through IBANYS' relationship with Barret is available at \$95. This program is designed to provide bank executives, department heads, and people responsible for leadership development, tangible takeaways as they build talent recruitment, development, and management strategies. **Topics include:**
 - The Connection Between Strategy & Talent Development
 - Creating a Talent Inventory
 - Using Scorecards
 - Do I Have the Right Mix of Talent

To register: <https://barretbanking.org/landings/strategic-planning-talent-development-with-mike-synk/>

- EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT has partnered with IBANYS to announce the COVID -19 Small Business Recovery Grant Program. Please distribute the information (Link below) to your small business clients so they can take advantage of the \$800MM in grants from NYS. www.nysmallbusinessrecovery.com

FROM ICBA

State treasurers join opposition to IRS reporting plan

ICBA's campaign opposing proposed IRS reporting requirements continued making headlines while a coalition of state treasurers joined in.

Headlines: New reports from [American Banker](#) and [Reuters](#) detail ICBA's opposition to the proposal, which would require banks to report customer account information to the IRS.

State Treasurers: Meanwhile, state treasurers from 22 states issued a [joint letter](#) to the Biden administration calling the proposal "one of the largest infringements of data privacy" in U.S. history.

ICBA Campaign: ICBA is calling on community bankers to use its customizable [email text and social media content](#) to urge consumers to [contact Congress in opposition](#) to the plan.

Call Alert: Meanwhile, community bankers can call their members of Congress using a new ICBA [call alert and customizable script](#) on the proposal.

More: A [recent blog post](#) from Romero Rainey details ICBA's consumer-facing campaign against the proposal, which has resulted in nearly 370,000 messages from consumers.

CUSTOM RESOURCES

Washington must act on credit union acquisitions: ICBA chairman

The time has come for policymakers to examine the credit union tax exemption's role in surging credit union-bank acquisitions, ICBA Chairman Robert Fisher writes in a [new LinkedIn article](#).

Article: The president and CEO of Tioga State Bank in Spencer, N.Y., writes that these acquisitions decrease consumer access to local financial services while diminishing tax revenues.

Hearing: ICBA is urging the House Financial Services Committee to use an upcoming [subcommittee hearing](#) on the future of banking to examine the role of credit unions on banking industry consolidation.

Letter: In a [letter to the committee](#) last week, ICBA said credit union acquisitions of taxpaying community banks are a product of the tax exemption and lax National Credit Union Administration oversight.

Grassroots: Community bankers can continue urging Congress to hold hearings on credit union acquisitions via a customizable message to lawmakers on ICBA's [Wake Up page](#) and its [Wake Up Messaging Playbook](#).

ICBA urges agencies to extend CBLR flexibility

ICBA called on federal banking regulators to extend Community Bank Leverage Ratio flexibility given the impact of COVID-19 relief efforts on community bank capital levels.

Details: ICBA asked the banking agencies to extend the 8.5% CBLR requirement through the end of 2022 to accommodate elevated deposit levels caused by emergency stimulus payments and to avoid reducing community bank small business lending.

More: In [its letter](#), ICBA also urged the agencies to:

- Consider allowing community banks to exclude from the CBLR denominator any cash or cash equivalent overnight investments during periods of unprecedented deposit inflows to support continued operations.
- Provide examiner flexibility in considering the effect of pandemic relief efforts on community bank deposits and regulatory capital levels.

Background: As required by the CARES Act, the agencies lowered the CBLR to 8% in 2020 and 8.5% in 2021, with a 9% rate scheduled to resume next year. [Read more.](#)

FinCEN issues online child sexual exploitation notice

The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network [issued a notice](#) on increasing online child sexual exploitation. The notice provides financial institutions with specific suspicious activity report filing instructions and highlights trends, including a 147% increase in related SAR filings between 2017 and 2020.

House hearing today on financial data access

The House Financial Services Committee's Task Force on Financial Technology is scheduled to meet at 10 a.m. (Eastern time) today, Sept. 21, for a [hearing](#) on preserving the right of consumers to access personal financial data.

Senate: Also today, the Senate Banking Committee will hold a [hearing](#) on Commerce and Treasury department nominations.

More: On Thursday, the House Financial Services Subcommittee on National Security has a hearing scheduled on the Federal Reserve's emergency lending powers during the pandemic.

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Builder confidence edges up in September

Builder confidence improved slightly in September on lower lumber prices and strong housing demand, the National Association of Home Builders reported. NAHB's [index](#) edged up one point to 76—snapping a three-month decline—despite building material supply chain issues and labor challenges.

FROM OTHER SOURCES

- COVID-19 has now killed about as many Americans as the 1918-19 Spanish flu pandemic did — approximately 675,000. Like the flu, the coronavirus may never entirely disappear. Scientists hope it becomes a mild seasonal bug as human immunity strengthens through vaccination and repeated infection. That could take time. For now, the pandemic still has the United States and other parts of the world firmly in its jaws. https://apnews.com/article/science-health-pandemics-united-states-coronavirus-pandemic-c15d5c6dd7ece88d0832993f11279fbb?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=MorningWire_Sept21&utm_term=Morning%20Wire%20Subscribers
- While the delta-fueled surge in infections may have peaked, U.S. deaths are running at over 1,900 a day on average, the highest level since early March. Winter may bring a new surge, with some projections that an additional 100,000 or so Americans will die of COVID-19 by Jan. 1, which would bring the overall U.S. toll to 776,000. https://apnews.com/article/science-health-pandemics-united-states-coronavirus-pandemic-c15d5c6dd7ece88d0832993f11279fbb?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=MorningWire_Sept21&utm_term=Morning%20Wire%20Subscribers
- Johnson & Johnson said Tuesday a second shot of its COVID-19 vaccine given about two months after the first increased its effectiveness to 94% in the United States against moderate to severe forms of the disease. https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/jj-says-second-shot-boosts-protection-moderate-severe-covid-19-94-2021-09-21/?mkt_tok=ODUwLVRBQS01MTEAAAF_p0xOBadTEDbG9hDuwcd-frecFh_05lhyGgng2Mg0zmZhWzXM6Fghg--xyxP_lkq2Mq97PsxkBXe3kQCO5IjNj0QD5Dm46uj7n3MekghkLfGR
- Six rules that will define our second pandemic winter. [The Atlantic](#)
- President Biden will convene world leaders Wednesday to push them to do more to end the pandemic, [Axios' David Lawler writes](#). The White House hopes this virtual gathering will ultimately help spur action to achieve a 70% global vaccination rate by next year. The U.S. is reportedly seeking to buy another [500 million Pfizer](#) doses for donation ahead of the summit, which would bring the total doses pledged by the U.S. to over 1 billion. President Biden is also about to launch a campaign to provide a third dose to millions of Americans.
- The Biden administration is set to end a pandemic-related ban on U.S. entry for nationals from 33 countries, including China and members of the European Union, who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The new policy goes into effect in November and marks an "olive branch" to America's allies in Europe, who have grown frustrated with the execution of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan and a diplomatic feud with France. [The New York Times](#)
- Emergency unemployment benefits in the U.S. expired two weeks ago. Federal programs that had offered an extra \$300 per week for jobless Americans, provided extended benefits for the long-term unemployed and gave special aid for the self-employed expired Sept. 6, but employers who expected an increase in job applications are still largely waiting for them to roll in. https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-09-20/employers-are-baffled-as-u-s-benefits-end-and-jobs-go-begging?mkt_tok=ODUwLVRBQS01MTEAAAF_pzi3yPi5NtvE1N4l_V98aPZ4JW1FX-S2KpSCKJWMJfROKJhu1WqUcWwiNavtW8v13DReYKtjkyjWYqTxMDEbIwnk8eDD5nDKRfDoq6UXH7qw
- Fed officials will soon reveal how soon and how often they think the economy will need interest rates rises over the next three years when they release new forecasts at their policy meeting tomorrow, with investors on alert for a faster pace of tightening. The so-called "dot plot," released

quarterly, charts policymakers projections, on an anonymous basis, for economic growth, employment and inflation, as well as the timing of interest rate rises.

https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/fed-reveal-new-projections-with-investors-alert-rate-liftoff-timing-2021-09-20/?mkt_tok=ODUwLVRBQS01MTEAAAF_pzj3ys1LnMp-kBWA_sy_NMvfpJjHtmRV-NFZRgl09L_8SFVfGvQbq9Modgd_Go_asu68r5yFLdkBlzDqQsYYmGXY0HPGB3Dcq7PGHg_ezhAfH

- Internal Democratic discord has wounded President Joe Biden's massive social spending plan, raising the prospect that the package could stall out, shrink dramatically - or even fail altogether. https://www.politico.com/news/2021/09/21/democrats-biden-domestic-agenda-implode-513218?mkt_tok=ODUwLVRBQS01MTEAAAF_p0xOBS7HdXMox81yMtyfsrgiaQoXOraKR1loAlaY-QzQ3IbJFBkeckeYhCQmTN_CRO58fIju3xDoXIqr1aWoQQw4mzbJZHaDeZjoB3-0gVo1
- Fannie Mae will return to selling pieces of its credit exposure to private investors during the last three months of the year, but is still evaluating its strategy for 2022. The move will restore to full capacity a market that has been running at half speed, but the new issuance isn't likely to make up for ground that was lost since the agency suspended such transactions in March 2020. https://www.americanbanker.com/news/fannie-mae-to-resume-credit-risk-transfers-in-october?mkt_tok=ODUwLVRBQS01MTEAAAF_pzj3ylC3T6ky2vReXyXL94Uyz7BkmsTggJ9gOFkLDFGbfC0jgRkKcemuZiV035qhnTwPdJXGmxSQHoQjo3mF73DXap5FhOaJ2aQTT3Y3Z2cO

FROM NEW YORK

- There are growing concerns among landlords the emergency rental aid program will soon be out of money. An analysis by the landlord advocacy group Community Housing Improvement Program found the multi-billion dollar pot of money could be emptied by as soon as next Monday, but billions of dollars are still in need of distribution. The group is calling on elected leaders to add more funding. [Read more here.](#)
- Expanding federal rental vouchers to all who are eligible would bring 300,000 New York City residents out of poverty, lower eviction rates and reduce chronic homelessness, according to a new study by the New York Housing Conference and HR&A Advisors. <https://www.politico.com/states/new-york/city-hall/story/2021/09/20/study-expansion-of-federal-rental-assistance-would-bring-significant-drop-in-poverty-homelessness-1391218?nname=new-york-playbook&nid=0000014f-1646-d88f-a1cf-5f46b74f0000&nrid=00000152-f737-dcf0-a7d7-f73fb7700001&nlid=630317>
- Thousands of nurses and other medical professionals across New York could lose their jobs next week when a state mandate requiring them to be vaccinated for coronavirus is scheduled to be enforced. If that happens, it would compound a staffing crisis already afflicting many hospitals and long-term care facilities — including group homes for disabled individuals, where some nurses are being forced to work 24-hour shifts. <https://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:swCHT93IprwJ:https://www.timesunion.com/state/article/Nurses-forced-to-work-24-hour-shifts-as-staffing-16473488.php+&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us>
- Nearly one in five nursing home staffers are still refusing to get the COVID-19 vaccine despite a state mandate to get a first shot by Sept. 27 in facilities that house elderly residents who are the most vulnerable to the deadly disease, [the Post reports.](#)
- Longer commute times and crowded apartments came with higher rates of COVID-19 transmission at the height of the pandemic in New York City, according to a recent study from Cornell University, [Gothamist reports.](#)
- The decision to extend the closure of the Canadian border to non-essential travel continued to stir outrage among Republican and Democratic officials alike in the state's North Country, which relies heavily on summer and fall tourism dollars. [Read More](#)

- Since March 2020, schools in New York have had to brace themselves for uncertainty. They've struggled with remote learning, with COVID-19 testing and mask wearing. And now, as students and teachers return to classrooms across the state, challenges are cropping up. [Read more.](#)
- Onondaga County has released data showing who the fully vaccinated hospitalized are. People hospitalized for [Covid-19](#) even after being fully vaccinated tend to be the same people who have ended up in hospital beds since the coronavirus pandemic began: older adults with serious underlying conditions. More than 80% admitted from Aug. 1 to Sept. 9 were over 60 years old, with the biggest share over 80.
<https://www.syracuse.com/coronavirus/2021/09/which-vaccinated-people-are-ending-up-in-cny-hospitals-onondaga-county-releases-details.html>
- New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio announced that starting on Sept. 27, students and staff at city public schools will be tested every week, rather than once every two weeks – a day after the United Federation of Teachers' demand ramped up testing frequency, [the Post reports.](#)
- [New York City handed out 3,200 warnings](#) last week to businesses that failed to ask patrons to show proof of vaccination, Mayor Bill de Blasio's office said Monday.
- Tourism officials in New York City welcomed the news that restrictions on travel to the United States by those fully vaccinated against the coronavirus would be eased in November, paving the way for the return of international tourists, [The New York Times reports.](#)
- [Pfizer and BioNTech announced Monday](#) that their COVID-19 vaccine is safe and generated "robust neutralizing antibody responses" in children ages 5-11 in a Phase 2/3 trial, a major step toward authorization for that key age group.
- [Nurses have been forced to work](#) 24 hour shifts amid a staffing crisis.

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IBANYS will continue to provide updates as additional information becomes available. Thank you all for your continued participation and support.

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