

Thursday, October 14, 2021
To: New York Community Banks

FROM ICBA

Blog features factors in fintech-community bank success

With a key ICBA ThinkTECH Accelerator deadline arriving tomorrow, a new [Main Street Matters post](#) spotlights proven factors that lead fintech companies to successful community bank partnerships.

Details: Looking back on three ICBA ThinkTECH programs, ICBA Chief Innovation Officer Charles Potts identifies the need for fintechs to:

- Seek ways to better understand the industry.
- Connect for relationships and feedback.
- Evolve to meet changing needs.

Deadline: Fintechs have until tomorrow, Oct. 15, to apply for the [2022 ICBA ThinkTECH Accelerator](#) program, which will feature virtual and in-person visits to support community bank-fintech collaborations.

[READ MORE](#)

IRS reporting campaign continues as Congress considers tweaks

With Congress working to include a modified version of the IRS reporting proposal in its budget-reconciliation package, ICBA continues urging [community bankers](#) and [consumers](#) to speak out against the plan.

Latest: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) this week confirmed that Congress will continue working to advance the proposal, which policymakers are tweaking to deflect the significant consumer opposition it has generated.

Call Alert: ICBA is urging community bankers to speak out against the proposal by calling their lawmakers using an ICBA [call alert and customizable script](#)

ICBA Campaign: Meanwhile, community bankers can continue using customizable [email and social media content](#) to urge consumers to [contact Congress in opposition](#), with the campaign generating more than 700,000 consumer messages thus far.

Quarles ends term as Fed supervision vice chair

Federal Reserve Governor Randal Quarles ended his term as vice chair of supervision without a replacement to lead the agency's Committee on Supervision and Regulation.

Regulatory Outlook: According to multiple reports citing a Fed spokesperson, the committee of Quarles and Governors Lael Brainard and Michelle Bowman will meet as necessary without a chair, requiring a broad consensus to advance regulations.

Nominations: While Quarles' term as a Fed Board member runs until 2032, President Joe Biden will need to nominate a successor for vice chair of supervision. Biden also is expected to announce whether he will renominate Fed Chair Jerome Powell, whose term as head of the agency ends in February.

FHFA issues multifamily purchase caps

The Federal Housing Finance Agency [said](#) the 2021 multifamily loan purchase caps for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac will be \$78 billion for each enterprise.

Background: The caps, up from \$70 billion in 2021, are based on FHFA's projections of the overall growth of the multifamily originations market.

Affordability: The FHFA will require that at least 50% of the enterprises' multifamily business be mission-driven affordable housing.

CFPB announces leadership changes

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau announced the following leadership changes:

- Zixta Q. Martinez, deputy director overseeing the Operations Division.
- Karen Andre, associate director for consumer education and external affairs.
- Jan Singelmann, chief of staff.
- Erie Meyer, chief technologist.

Fed minutes: tapering could start next month

Federal Reserve officials discussed beginning the process of tapering asset purchases in November or December, according to [minutes](#) of the Federal Open Market Committee's September meeting.

Minutes: FOMC members discussed expectations of when the tapering process would start, its likely conclusion by mid-2022, and a proposed "illustrative path" to gradually reduce asset purchases.

Independent Banker CEO survey offers chance to win

Independent Banker is seeking responses to its annual [Community Bank CEO Outlook](#) survey, which takes the pulse of community bank chief executives and will be featured in the January 2022 issue. The survey takes five to seven minutes and offers a chance to win one of six \$100 Visa gift cards. [Take the survey.](#)

Social Security benefits rising 5.9% in '22

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits for roughly 70 million Americans will increase 5.9% in 2022, the Social Security Administration [announced](#). The cost-of-living adjustment, which is tied to the Consumer Price Index, will begin in January 2022.

Consumer prices rise 0.4% in September

The Consumer Price Index increased a seasonally adjusted 0.4% in September after rising 0.3% in August, the Labor Department [reported](#). The indexes for food and shelter contributed more than half of the monthly increase in the index, which is up 5.4% over the past 12 months.

FROM OTHER SOURCES

- For the first time in months, the U.S. is averaging fewer than 100,000 new COVID-19 cases per day, [Axios' Sam Baker writes](#). Nationwide, the U.S. is averaging 91,000 new cases per day — a 19% drop over the past two weeks. The U.S. may finally be close to containing the virus, which would save lives and make interventions like mask mandates less necessary. https://www.axios.com/newsletters/axios-vitals-99dea5cf-add9-499f-9d49-0d11b9d88f34.html?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter_axiosvitals&stream=top
- However, the virus is still killing over 1,900 Americans per day, on average. The virus' strongest foothold is in the West and upper Midwest. Areas with relatively high case rates and relatively low vaccination rates will remain at risk for localized outbreaks throughout the winter. [Share the map.](#) https://www.axios.com/newsletters/axios-vitals-99dea5cf-add9-499f-9d49-0d11b9d88f34.html?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter_axiosvitals&stream=top

- A highly anticipated study by the [National Institutes of Health](#) indicated if you got the Johnson & Johnson vaccine as your first COVID-19 shot, a booster dose of either the Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine apparently could produce a stronger immune response than a second dose of J&J's vaccine. It also noted if you started out with either Pfizer or Moderna, it probably doesn't matter that much as long as you get one of the two mRNA vaccines as a booster. Those who got the Moderna vaccine for both their original shots and their booster appear to have gotten the best immune response. https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2021/10/13/1045485935/study-of-covid-vaccine-boosters-suggests-moderna-or-pfizer-works-best?mkt_tok=ODUwLVRBQS01MTEAAAGAHddIX_ldQTLOKu-8Lg3wkQCslwlhOmsEHI4N2yO-lhLGOUG3PBd9TARYhdDN3ZG7NoW2y2O-yZs9-yEMxAxQxifkicwLsyR3HkUi9GraLVjI
- After 18 months of wondering when this pandemic will all be over, it's increasingly clear there will never be a moment of victory for vaccines against variants or humanity against the virus. Case counts remain stubbornly high even where just about everyone who wants a shot has had one. [Countries like Australia](#) and New Zealand that had sought [to keep out COVID-19](#) altogether are now learning to live with the virus. ([Go deeper \(2 min. read\)](#))
- The federal government is demanding Moderna provide enough vaccines to the global initiative COVAX, at not-for-profit prices, a top federal official said during an intense panel event today. https://www.axios.com/covid-vaccine-moderna-biden-global-supply-covax-ff74663f-8123-40e1-bc91-f91fdbb92f4c.html?mkt_tok=ODUwLVRBQS01MTEAAAGAHddIXydmg_vfu2PhfxG06JTocGX_zj65Gg0QVEfkyfECq166Iyd0RvzLklgpVrWTtE6TI0sU0c6gNlq3h4J_kHwvYCFOfpKl-L4E3zY13n4
- Federal Reserve officials at their Sept. 21-22 meeting said they are concerned that supply chain issues could lead to more enduring inflation, according to minutes of the meeting. The officials also discussed reducing monthly purchases of Treasury and mortgage securities by \$15 billion a month, and beginning the taper mid-November. [The Wall Street Journal](#)
- In remarks yesterday, Federal Reserve Governor Michelle Bowman warned of growing risks that supply-chain disruptions could keep inflation elevated for longer than forecasters have anticipated. While monthly inflation readings should decline from high rates observed in the spring, she noted: "I still see a material risk that supply-related pricing pressures could last longer than expected." https://www.wsj.com/articles/fed-official-sees-risks-of-more-persistent-inflation-11634169600?mkt_tok=ODUwLVRBQS01MTEAAAGAHbOkt0EF7ua6JH_BMIAIfGelUWMO5swn2kUPJCuxg1gxliYnlXYDKWI9URcVV-64YLhLmZgJ4Njd5TsCWiRRuu0I59ihNcxHNeiCHKidgPuT
- For many Americans, Covid lockdowns—with nowhere to go and nothing to do—were a time to save, but for almost 20% of U.S. households the pandemic wiped out their entire financial cushion, according to a new poll from NPR, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. That number jumped to 30% for those making less than \$50,000 a year. https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-10-13/almost-20-of-u-s-households-lost-entire-savings-during-covid?mkt_tok=ODUwLVRBQS01MTEAAAGAHbOkt2UejJWeM0Dq-eqZVsh-8nvrn_BAs12d0wi6IRJs77ewZUAPIPaUU8TcQo710AMgQIC7gDj8t44pi0qvMklfjZ-MqVkkLAQ-bP7RIm8
- When the federal moratorium on evictions ended in August, many feared that hundreds of thousands of tenants would soon be out on the streets. More than six weeks later, that hasn't happened. https://www.wsj.com/articles/mass-evictions-didnt-result-after-u-s-ban-ended-despite-fears-11634203800?mod=hp_lead_pos6&mkt_tok=ODUwLVRBQS01MTEAAAGAHbOkt6KyiN2O

[NH_2Zs2i9LNucgvuElin5gbxZXrvAQbp7heJcKlwyjXvVSZ4iL4v9HG1eSX2Hth64tE7R1YXGPyYmyiCym3GRXp_Lug7-y9Z](#)

- Saule Omarova, President Biden's choice to lead the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, told the Financial Times she's an "easy target" to "demonize and vilify" after some in Washington and on Wall Street have criticized her Soviet upbringing and academic arguments she's made, including one about a state-run bank account system. She said she thinks it's "true" that some criticism of her is racist. [Financial Times](#)
- Senate leaders are reportedly considering cutting the House Ways and Means Committee-approved funding for paid leave by 40 percent as part of a push to trim the price tag of the social spending reconciliation measure. [Politico](#)
- Democratic lawmakers and aides are also said to believe that the sweeping expansion of Medicare to cover dental, vision and hearing benefits is on the chopping block, though Senate Budget Committee Chairman Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and House progressives have signaled they're drawing a line in the sand on the issue. [Politico](#)
- Rising prices, product shortages and labor market tumult are making for a surprisingly rocky economic recovery, testing the political skills of the Biden White House little more than one year before the midterm congressional elections.
https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2021/10/13/september-inflation-cpi-fed/?mkt_tok=ODUwLVRBQS01MTEAAAGAHbQktzmXI-pdPQyOwUaJrrWPGH-hkvJqa4f6W7_yby1ZQTO2pfNRDoZe5VptnDbVat5DZz0IZ9XUUYi4Xgr5I1T47IkZJx4brP2HpSAyEdzx
- JPMorgan Chase & Co. CEO Jamie Dimon says the economy is healthy and he expects it to stay that way. The head of the nation's biggest bank, which posted higher profit on Wednesday, said people and businesses alike are showing signs they are eager to spend and borrow.
https://www.wsj.com/articles/jpmorgan-profit-jumps-on-reserve-release-11634123662?mkt_tok=ODUwLVRBQS01MTEAAAGAHbQkt8pV03LupHjyoCkotFRua_VSTzPJsm64RiUAqg0HRxzORhqxLIwSKFWPgvVPf3I2U8jEzPTNLzhL0K_OFpNHrEQWD1ZDo_kaORNTrz9y
- The Labor Department is pursuing rule changes to make it easier for retirement plans to add investment possibilities that take into account environmental, social and governance factors, and allow those to be the default setting when consumers enroll. The new rules, would reverse a Trump-era policy, and wouldn't allow those overseeing the funds to trade-off greater returns or to add risk when analyzing ESG investments. [The New York Times](#)

FROM NEW YORK

- It took longer than necessary, but the reopening of the U.S. border to Canadian visitors comes as a welcome development, and Canada should monitor how the program unfolds and consider relaxing some of its own cross-border requirements, [The Buffalo News writes](#).
- Gov. Hochul met for the first time with advocates who had loved ones die in nursing homes from COVID-19 during the height of the pandemic and did something her predecessor never did: Hochul apologized. [Read More](#)
- Gov. Hochul says New York will appeal a judge's ruling granting a preliminary injunction to health care workers claiming a religious exemption from the COVID-19 vaccine. [Read more](#).
- [Gov. Hochul says 3%](#) of health care workers in New York left their jobs over the COVID vaccination requirement.

- [Record-breaking 4.3 million Americans quit their jobs in August...](#)
- [The next time you receive a text message](#) from a number you're unfamiliar with, beware. A new scam targets unsuspecting New Yorkers by attempting to verify their COVID-19 vaccination status.
- Albany was named the best place to live in New York by U.S. News & World Report, a well-deserved distinction for a city that's rebounding with a new governor in office, [writes City & State Editor-in-Chief Ralph R. Ortega.](#)
- Emily's List, the fundraising juggernaut dedicated to electing women who back abortion rights, plans to throw its support behind Hochul's campaign for a full term as governor, which could prove valuable as an early stamp of approval for female activists, [the Times reports.](#)
- GOP gubernatorial candidate Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-L.I.) launched a search for a lieutenant governor candidate ahead of the expected June GOP primary, with a search panel to be led by Staten Island Rep. Nicole Malliotakis, [State of Politics reports.](#) The search comes months before Zeldin is expected to face primary competition in June. Republicans Rob Astorino, Andrew Giuliani, Derrick Gibson and Mike Carpinelli are also seeking the nomination.
<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/capital-region/ny-state-of-politics/2021/10/13/zeldin-launches-search-for-lieutenant-governor>

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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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