



Connected to Community Banking!

CBAI E-Newsletter, sponsored by SHAZAM

Edition: July 10, 2024

IN THE NEWS

Early-Bird Deadline Extended for CBAI's 50th Anniversary Convention & Expo!

Early-bird pricing for CBAI's 50th Annual Convention & Exposition, scheduled for September 19 – 21, at the Crowne Plaza, Springfield, has been extended to July 19, 2024. CBAI is excited to celebrate this incredible milestone in community banking history. Don't wait! Register today for early-bird pricing and receive a significant discount to attend CBAI's showcase event! You won't want to miss it!

Watch for the full convention brochure coming the week of July 22!

[Register Here »](#)

Five CBAI Members Recognized by ICBA's Independent Banker Magazine as Top Lenders of 2024

This month's Independent Banker magazine recognized the top lenders of 2024 – the top community bank loan producers based on 2023 FDIC data. This year's list features agricultural, commercial, and consumer/mortgage lenders across three asset classes—less than \$300 million in assets, \$300 million to \$1 billion, and more than \$1 billion. Among the top lenders in the agriculture category were **Longview Bank, Ogden, and Citizens State Bank, Lena. Grand Rivers Community Bank, Grand Chain, and West Town Bank & Trust, North Riverside**, were honored in the commercial lending category. Recognized as a top consumer/mortgage lender was **The Fisher National Bank**.

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CBAI's Legislative Roundtable and Clay Shoot Tomorrow

You're invited to join Southern Illinois lawmakers, the CBAI governmental relations team, and fellow community bankers for a legislative roundtable on Thursday, July 11, at the World Shooting Complex in Sparta, IL. This is an opportunity to meet directly with lawmakers and discuss key issues affecting the community banking profession. Following the meeting, those interested are invited to join us for an afternoon on the sporting clay course. The roundtable/shoot will be held at the sporting clays course at the World Shooting Complex in Sparta. If you and others from your bank would like to attend this legislative roundtable, please email [Jessie](#) to register.

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KASASA

Episode Four: *Why I Did It* Podcast Featuring Mike Estes

Mike Estes, chairman of The Fisher National Bank, explains how his bank has used the CBAI 401k Multiple Employer Plan (MEP) to help his bank's current and prospective small business customers comply with the state's Secure Choice Plan retirement mandate.

[View Episode Four »](#)

[View Other Episodes »](#)

Deadline is July 15 for CBAI Foundation's "Talent Search!"

CBAI's Foundation for Community Banking is conducting a "Talent Search" to find karaoke teams to perform on Friday night at CBAI's 50th Annual Convention & Expo! Five years ago, we held a "Be a Rockstar for the Foundation" karaoke fundraising event at our annual convention and now it is back by popular demand! But this time, we are searching for teams who are itching to take the stage! To join the karaoke competition, your team must raise a minimum of \$500 for the Foundation by the **team entry deadline of July 15, 2024**.

[Learn More, Download Entry Form and View Song List »](#)

Donate to CBAI's Community BancPac Live and Silent Auctions

The Community BancPac live and silent auctions will be held Thursday, September 19, 2024, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield, Illinois. This event kicks off the opening night of CBAI's 50th Anniversary Convention. We are kindly asking you to consider donating an item or cash donation to help make this auction the best ever! Do you have sporting event or concert tickets? Condo/vacations? Half a cow or pig? Experiences? We also encourage you to think locally when deciding what items you will donate to the cause. What about customers that are great craftsmen, artists and retailers in your communities? The Community BancPac auction is a great way to support your customers and local businesses while showcasing the amazing products in your community. You can also make a cash donation that will allow CBAI staff to purchase popular items for the auction and credit your financial institution for the item donation.

[Donate Today »](#)

Senate Hearing Tomorrow on FDIC Chair Nomination

The Senate Banking Committee holds a 10 a.m. hearing on the nominations of Christy Goldsmith Romero as FDIC chair, Caroline Crenshaw as a member of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Kristin Johnson as assistant secretary of the Treasury, and Gordon Ito as a member of the Financial Stability Oversight Council.

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CBAI's Community BancPac Is Holding a Golden Ticket Raffle!

Community BancPac is offering a golden ticket raffle in conjunction with this year's annual live at silent auction at CBAI's 50th Annual Convention & Expo. Don't miss your chance to purchase a golden ticket for \$50 each! The lucky winner can select any live auction item from the BancPac auction at CBAI's convention to take home for free before the bidding begins! You must be present to win! Buy your tickets early and get entered into the early-bird drawing on August 15, 2024, for a chance to win one of the finished ends from CBAI's 50th anniversary bourbon barrels and a bottle of CBAI's 50th Anniversary Bourbon. (You do not need to be present to win the early-bird drawing.) Contact [Jessie](#) for more information!

Don't Miss CBAI's Annual FedPac Baseball Game!

The annual CBAI FedPac baseball game, scheduled for Thursday, August 22, at Busch Stadium, is an afternoon match-up between the St. Louis Cardinals and the Milwaukee Brewers. Bankers can purchase tickets for \$150 - **(personal CBAI FedPac contributions)**. The cost of admission includes entry into the skybox, food and drink. Don't come alone - bring along a rookie or veteran player from your bank. **Tickets are limited and on a first come, first serve basis. ACT NOW** and contact [Jessie](#) for your ticket(s) today!

CBAI FedPac was created to enhance the impact of Illinois community banks in Washington, D.C. It helps us support the candidates who believe in our mission to serve our communities and customers. In addition, associate members and CBAI member banks can help underwrite this event with their generous contributions. [David](#) (847) 909-8341 will be in the dugout to answer any questions regarding sponsorships. We hope to see you at the old ball game!



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CBAI Foundation Announces a “50 for 50” Anniversary Fundraiser

In honor of CBAI's golden anniversary, the Foundation for Community Banking is spearheading a special “50 for 50” Campaign. There are several different ways you can choose to participate. You can make a bank donation in honor of the 50th anniversary, such as \$500 or \$5,000, or any \$50 increment you wish. Another option is to encourage your staff members and/or board members to make a \$50 donation to the Foundation in honor of CBAI. Banks can also choose to offer to match staff donations up to \$500, \$5,000 or any amount they choose. You can also increase your bank's current accumulated donation to the \$5,000 mark, which is the silver donation level, or celebrate CBAI's golden anniversary by becoming a gold-level sponsor.

Contributions in any amount are greatly appreciated! All banks, associate members and individuals donating to this campaign will be recognized in Banknotes magazine. Banks and associate members reaching the \$5,000 Silver level or \$10,000 Gold level during CBAI's golden anniversary year will also be recognized on social media, with a news release, and at CBAI's annual convention. **All donations are 100% tax deductible!**

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Deadline to Submit Nominations for CBAI Foundation Scholarships for Children and Grandchildren of Community Bankers is August 15

The CBAI Foundation for Community Banking is proud to present three annual \$4,000 scholarships endowed by: SHAZAM®, Kasasa and Community BancService Corporation. Eligible students are children and grandchildren of community bankers and students who work at our members' community banks. (These students are not eligible for the original Foundation essay contest scholarships). Your community bank can be eligible for all three with a tax-deductible contribution/pledge of at least \$2,500 to the Foundation. The presentation of these scholarships will be held at the Annual Recognition Program during CBAI's 50th Annual Convention in Springfield. If you would like to know how your bank can become eligible for these scholarships, please view the form below or contact [Valerie](#). Nominations must be received by Thursday, August 15, 2024.

[Download Form »](#)

Now Open: 2024 Community First® Accelerate Grants for Small Business

The FHLBank Chicago is accepting applications for their Community First Accelerate Grants for Small Business! To meet increased market demand for small business support, the FHLBank Chicago is making \$19.5 million available to fund up to 1,300 grants across Illinois and Wisconsin. The grants support a variety of purposes, including purchase or improvement of property, equipment, workforce development and technology. Eligible small businesses must have a business relationship with an FHLBank Chicago member who submits the grant application on their behalf. Funding may be awarded either as a single grant of \$30,000 to one business or as two separate grants of \$15,000 to two different businesses. The grant round is open June 3-September 30, 2024. Through this advance, FHLBank Chicago member financial institutions provide significantly below-market rate loans to business owners in low- and moderate-income communities.

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Amplify Your Impact With Our Community Impact Advance – Available This July

The Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago (FHLBC) is excited to announce the Community Impact Advance pilot program launching this July, their latest solution designed to amplify community impact. With an allocation of \$50 million in interest rate subsidies, this program aims to empower FHLBC members and associate institutions to increase housing initiatives, drive economic growth, and foster community development.

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FHLBank Chicago Publishes 2023 Impact Report

We are pleased to share your success stories in our 2023 report, which highlights the foundational role we play together in driving economic growth, homeownership, and small business support in your communities.

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Auditing Advertising July 25, 2024 Virtual E-Learning Seminar



Fed's Bowman Cites Concerns with Credit Union Bank Acquisitions

Federal Reserve Governor Michelle Bowman raised concerns with credit union acquisitions of banks, noting the tax-exempt financial firms are exempt from the Community Reinvestment Act. In remarks in Stevenson, Wash., on increasingly stringent merger-and-acquisition policy, Bowman raised questions about how credit union bank acquisitions could affect the availability of certain products and services as well as incentives for serving all consumers in a particular community.

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IRS Finalizes Reporting Rules for Digital Asset Brokers

The Treasury Department and IRS released a final rule establishing reporting requirements for brokers of digital assets with ICBA-advocated provisions to promote a level playing field. The rule is designed to align digital asset brokers' reporting requirements with longstanding reporting requirements for traditional financial services.

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Community Bank Innovation: ICBA Impact

The financial landscape continues to evolve at breakneck speed, and community banks have been at the center of this change and growth. Read about how ICBA is leading the charge for community bank innovation.

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Chicago Region Division of Depositor and Consumer Protection Newsletter Released for Second Quarter

The Chicago Region's Division of Depositor and Consumer Protection newsletter for the second quarter of 2024 was recently released. This issue discusses the FDIC's updated Economic Inclusion Strategic Plan, Fair Credit Reporting Act consumer alerts, valuation discrimination and bias in residential lending, and the new small business lending data collection rule. The newsletter also announces the release of the Consumer Compliance Supervisory Highlights and Third-Party Risk Management – A Guide for Community Banks publications, as well as some upcoming Community Affairs events in the Chicago Region.

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ICBA Payments Looks Back on First Year of FedNow Service

On the anniversary of the launch of the FedNow Service, ICBA Payments looked back on the year and provided predictions on the future of instant payments. In a recent blog post, ICBA Payments' Nick Denning said there are approximately 800 financial institutions now participating in FedNow, an impressive take-up for just one year.

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Relationship Selling Begins with Asking the Right Questions

According to the newly released 2024 JD Power Retail Banking report, only 42% of bank customers are aware that their bank provides financial advice. In today's inflationary environment, customers need financial advice as less than half of retail bank customers in the US are deemed financially healthy. These numbers show a huge opportunity for banks if their frontline people are adept at asking the right questions at the right time. In fact, this same report also found that 76% of customers who received financial advice actually acted upon it. Bankers must focus on relationship selling, asking probing, sometimes assertive questions without coming across to customers as sales-driven. But it takes skill and yes, some courage too.

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NEWS FROM SERVICES

Wolters Kluwer: Podcast Series Sheds Light on Corporate Transparency Act Compliance

CBSC Preferred Provider Wolters Kluwer has launched a podcasts series to provide greater clarity to businesses subject to new Corporate Transparency Act beneficial ownership information reporting. The **podcasts** explore, via a question-and-answer format with experts, some of the more complex elements of beneficial ownership information filing requirements to help promote better understanding and compliance. As part of the CTA, beneficial ownership reporting presents a major compliance challenge for many U.S. companies.

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Ncontracts: Best Practices for Exam Management at Financial Institutions

Examiners don't like surprises. That's why proper exam management is critical. When a financial institution is fully prepared for an exam, understands how to engage with examiners, and has plans to follow up on exam findings, it not only makes an examiner's job easier, it helps your institution avoid unnecessarily stressful exams and unwelcome regulatory findings. Find out a few exam management tips to help your institution confidently navigate its next exam.

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CBIS: Alarming Rise in Check Fraud

Despite a large decrease in recent years in the volume of paper checks processed by US financial institutions, there has been an alarming rise in fraud involving paper checks. The U.S. Department of the Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (*FinCEN*) has indicated that the incidents of reported check fraud have risen exponentially in recent years: 299,020 from March 2020 to February 2021, 350,000 during 2021, and 680,000 during 2022. As just one example, in 2022, law enforcement identified a check fraud ring in Southern California involving nearly 60 people who committed more than \$5 million in check fraud against 750 people. This alert will explore the methods that criminals use in committing check fraud, propose methods for combating check fraud, and identify insurance coverages available for financial institutions to potentially cover check fraud losses.

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MORE UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Community Bankers School Graduation - Live Stream Information

Back by popular demand, The Community Bankers School Graduation will be livestreamed from Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington on Friday, July 19, starting at 11:30 a.m. The luncheon will begin at that time with the actual ceremony starting around 11:50 a.m. Bank president/CEOs are welcome to attend in person (just please email [Melinda McClelland](mailto:Melinda.McClelland) to confirm attendance) or you can watch the live stream by going to the CBAI Homepage at www.cbai.com to watch the ceremony at the bank or share with friends and family of the graduate so all can watch this achievement. No login or password is required. Thirty-five community bankers are graduating this year. Congrats to all participants!

Assistance Needed with Email Deliverability for Webinars

Community Bankers Association of Illinois (CBAI) partners with the Community Bankers Webinar Network (CBWN) <https://financialedinc.com> to produce a comprehensive range of webinar-based training topics each year. Currently, there are over 200 webinars available.

Due to recent changes in email deliverability metrics, we ask that CBWN's domains, [@e.financialedinc.com](https://www.e.financialedinc.com) and [@financialedinc.com](https://www.financialedinc.com), are marked as safe senders and that this message is relayed to your bank's IT department.

CBC 4th Quarter "Compliance for Commercial Loans" offered in Springfield & Naperville

CBAI is pleased to offer the fourth quarter of the Community Bankers for Compliance Program (CBC) covering "Compliance for Commercial Loans." This quarter will be held Tuesday, July 30, 2024, at the Crowne Plaza, Springfield and Wednesday, July 31, 2024, at the Chicago Marriott Naperville. This quarter is also available as an on-demand recorded session. Every compliance officer hears that "compliance does not impact commercial loans." Of course, that is not true. While there is much less compliance regulation for this type of credit, there are plenty of ways to create a compliance problem. This seminar focuses on the portions of the compliance regulations that apply to non-consumer purpose credit. At the top of the list is Regulation B, the relevant topics in Regulation B that relate to non-consumer credit are discussed. However, many other regulations impact this bank department. The agenda provides a complete list of the areas and regulations that are discussed in detail during the seminar. This seminar benefits anyone with compliance or non-consumer purpose credit responsibilities, which may include compliance officers, commercial lending supervisors and lenders, management, auditors, and any other interested parties.

[Register Now »](#)

CBAI's 2024 Ag Lenders' School to be held July 30 – August 1 in Springfield

CBAI is pleased to offer "CBAI's 2024 Ag Lenders School" July 30 – August 1, 2024, at the CBAI Headquarters in Springfield. The Agricultural Lenders School was designed to train early to mid-career lenders specializing in financial agriculture. The school's three-day curriculum was developed to meet the training needs of agricultural lending institutions. Sessions use practical examples to demonstrate concepts focused on issues critical to successful agricultural lending. Speakers use a balance of presentations, exercises, case studies and a simulation to provide a quality learning experience. Ag lenders, chief lending officers and credit analysts would all benefit from attending this seminar. Leading this school is Freddie L. Barnard, professor emeritus of Agricultural Economics at Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.

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CBAI Educational Calendar

