**August 16, 2023**

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**Bankers Come Together for Informative Bank Security Roundtable in Albany**

Hosted by the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce, bankers, experts and law enforcement personnel came together earlier this week to discuss security issues impacting institutions, merchants and citizens. Attendees heard from a number of experts on best practices to mitigate fraud and theft; and efforts to educate and prosecute.

“Grateful for the exceptional leadership of [Bárbara Rivera Holmes](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ACoAAAD3-1sBAnK0CIgQaYuK6dfTpnw5oTqyjgg), [Perry Revell](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ACoAAC1btzABFhTkVP3PGGwD8csbGBTYu_WGGA8) and all from the [Albany Area Chamber of Commerce](https://www.linkedin.com/company/albany-area-chamber-of-commerce/) for assembling a panel of industry stakeholders to discuss check fraud in south GA. This is a significant problem that has doubled in size YoY,” stated **John McNair,** President & CEO, **Community Bankers Association of Georgia.** “I was honored serve on the panel representing [CBA of Georgia](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cbaofgeorgia/) along with [Joe Brannen](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ACoAAACLLBgBy32hruN-X4ArshHX0S0D2_BgiRI) from [Georgia Bankers Association](https://www.linkedin.com/company/georgia-bankers-association/). We had great local banker support as well! Education, collaboration, and potentially tougher laws regarding sentencing are all needed.”

**ATDC & CBA present Run it by the Bankers August 29th**

Run it by the Bankers bring together community banks and early/growth-stage FinTech companies at ATDC to focus on key industry issues, opportunities, and challenges. This event aims to encourage collaboration between community banks and promising fintech companies building innovative products, solutions, and services.

Join bankers from CBA’s Innovation Committee at the event which will be followed by a reception. Thank you to reception sponsors **Wipfli** and **Troutman Pepper**. [Click for more information and to RSVP.](https://mailchi.mp/2aa3eaa89660/atdc-cba-presents-run-it-by-the-bankers-reception-5421401?e=27ea5bddc6)

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| **ICBA-CISA exercise returns next month** |

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| ICBA and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency are scheduled to host another tabletop exercise to support community bank cybersecurity next month. The [**CISA-ICBA Cyber Tabletop Exercise**](https://www.icba.org/solutions/operational-risk/cyber-and-data-security/exercises?utm_campaign=NewsWatch%20Today&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=270288886&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-_Y-Vi2Bwq-7A9vPWyAb_w_ywJKNnlLZomX69_j1ePJpYcrjj62EJp-b949VMrVschT5w77KSPP5B0YYGfvh5NCaxp3AQ#upcoming)—scheduled for September 7 and 13 and again December 6 and 13—will cover identifying, mitigating, responding to, and recovering from cyber incidents. [**Learn more and register.**](https://www.icba.org/solutions/operational-risk/cyber-and-data-security/exercises?utm_campaign=NewsWatch%20Today&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=270288886&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-_Y-Vi2Bwq-7A9vPWyAb_w_ywJKNnlLZomX69_j1ePJpYcrjj62EJp-b949VMrVschT5w77KSPP5B0YYGfvh5NCaxp3AQ#upcoming)  |

**Looking for Solutions? Look to CBA First!**

When Georgia’s community bankers are looking to do business, they look to CBA Associate Members first. Members have been approved by CBA’s Board of Directors and these companies offer competitive products and services designed to help community banks succeed.

What’s more, CBA Associate Members support the association with their sponsorships, advertising, informative articles, and participation in CBA programs. We salute this group of professionals and offer our sincere gratitude! See the full listing of CBA Associate Members in the [latest issue of Georgia Communities First Magazine.](https://issuu.com/cbaofgeorgia/docs/gcfm_summer_2023/42) Search anytime using [CBA’s directory.](https://www.cbaofga.com/member-directory?MemberTypeIDs=2407)

**Member Spotlight:**

**Judy Blackston** has joined **Queensborough National Bank & Trust Company, Savannah,** as a Financial Benefits Coordinator and Insurance Agent, at the bank’s Oglethorpe Mall location.  [*Read more.*](https://www.qnbtrust.bank/Resources/Learning-Center/Blog/judy-blackston-joins-queensborough-as-financial-benefits-coordinator-and-insurance-agent) .

**Mechell Culpepper** has joined **Craft Bank, Atlanta,** as CFO.

**Jason Morris,** Regional President**, Colony Bank, Tifton,** was recently named to the 2023 University of Georgia Alumni Association Board.

**Danise Fields** has joined **Capital City Home Loans, Blue Ridge,** as a Mortgage Consultant.

**Kaleigh Wiggins** and **Scott Niblett** have joined the team at **Century Bank & Trust, Milledgeville.**

**Bill Easterlin**, President, **Queensborough National Bank & Trust Company, Louisville,** received the James Collier Award from the Georgia Bar Foundation, the charitable arm of the Supreme Court of Georgia, at the Foundation’s annual grants meeting last week. The award was presented to Mr. Easterlin in recognition of his significant contributions to the Foundation since joining its Board in 2004. [Read more.](https://www.qnbtrust.bank/Resources/Learning-Center/Blog/queensborough-president-receives-james-collier-award-from-the-georgia-bar-foundation)

**Sympathy**

CBA extends our condolences to the friends, family and associates of **Henry Leverett,** At Work Banking and Financial Literacy Program Manager at **Queensborough National Bank & Trust Company, Augusta.** Read more in a tribute from the bank and [obituary.](https://www.careidsrmfh.com/obituaries/henry-leverett)

CBA offers our condolences to **Scott** and **Brandi Curry, First State Bank of Randolph County, Cuthbert,** on the passing of Brandi’s father, [**Tom Friddell.**](https://www.mathewsfuneralhome.com/obituaries/thomas-tom-friddell)

**Peachy Posts**

**Southeastern Bank, St. Marys**, donated $100,000 to **Southeast Georgia Health System Camden Campus** through the 2023 Georgia HEART Hospital Program. L-R: Southeastern Bank Senior Vice President Jim Lomis and President and CEO Jay Torbert, Southeast Georgia Health System Vice President and Camden Campus Administrator Glenn Gann and President and CEO Scott Raynes. Read more. (link to press release)

Employees at **Georgia First Bank, Soperton,** served 1200 chicken biscuits and 50 large pizzas at 17 schools in four counties with one big message: Thank You Educators!

**Banking News - Links:**

[QwickAnalytics Community Bank Index Georgia Performance Trends Q2 2023](https://www.qwickrate.com/qrweb/documents/qcbi/GeorgiaStatePerformanceReport.pdf)

[Federal Reserve Hosting Virtual Town Hall Talk August 31, 2023](https://www.frbservices.org/campaigns/083123-fednow-town-hall-webinar-form?utm_campaign=NewsWatch%20Today&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=269873198&_hsenc=p2ANqtz--11BEqWUAsCXK08TxUBCDyyiD0tGQwtySUxOOu6xDLQGAevor27-VOohEUJ-EP8NR4P0WiSdyMTJWR0sDAwDrvwwomaQ&utm_content=269872172&utm_source=hs_email)

[SSA fee for SSN verification service increasing in October](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/08/10/2023-17146/notice-of-verification-transaction-fee-increase-for-consent-based-social-security-number)