

This week's Economic Update will be short as the usual publication is on hiatus until after the 1st, but I wanted to make sure to reach out before the end of the year with a couple of updates.

The markets fell last week as the stimulus bill stalled between Congress and the White House. The S&P 500 dropped 0.49% according to Morningstar. However, the President signed the bill late Sunday¹ sending the markets higher on Monday². As we head into the final trading days of the year, we are beginning to see the "Santa rally" take shape. Traditionally, the last 5 market days of the year along with the first 2 of the New Year, are considered the "Santa rally"³. No one is sure why these 7 days perform as they do but speculation includes thin trading, holiday retail sales, and year-end optimism. I can see the optimism this year considering what we went through in 2020 and the vaccines starting to dispense. Hopefully, we'll see a continued bounce that will take us through 2021.



Speaking of 2021, *Happy New Year* and Good Riddance to 2020! I am optimistic we will soon be able to put this year behind us and get back to some sort of normalcy. I would certainly like to hold my new granddaughter without having to wear a mask (will she recognize us without it?) and see the rest of the family at holidays without zoom. We will be in touch soon to setup a time to review portfolios and plans in January. I look forward to working with you in the upcoming year.

---Chuck

This Week's Inspiration/Activity:

***Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it.
Henry David Thoreau (1817 - 1862)***

Your activity for this week is to get busy on any plans you have been putting off.

This Week in History –

December 31, 1999 -- The United States, in accordance with the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, officially hands over control of the Panama Canal, putting the strategic waterway into Panamanian hands for the first time⁴.

¹ <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/12/28/trump-signs-covid-relief-and-government-funding-bill-days-after-suggesting-hed-block-it.html>

² <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/dow-futures-up-more-than-100-points-after-trump-signs-stimulus-package-11609156827>

³ <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/santa-claus-rally-anyone-why-few-7-day-periods-are-better-for-the-stock-market-11608749107>

⁴ <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/panama-canal-turned-over-to-panama>