With Afghanistan and the rising Delta variant dominating the news, PULSE continues to keep its eye on the national and regional economy.

Another important note is that from Main Street to Wall Street all eyes will turn to this week’s annual meeting of the Federal Reserve, which influences the overall state of the economy. Fed Chairman, Jerome Powell, will outline the approaches of his "tool box" to assist in managing the national economy. The diagram below offers some of the many issues that he faces in determining the interest rate and how much to purchase in federal bonds. You may ask, "Why is this so important?" Just take a look at what the interest rate for buying a home or purchasing a car is. Will new jobs be created? Will businesses stay stable? Will inflation continue to rise effecting prices on everything from groceries to lumber?

Stay tuned.

**STOCK MARKET DOW JONES**

- **34,961** AUGUST 18 CLOSING NUMBER
- **35,421** AUGUST 25 CLOSING NUMBER

**COVID THE LATEST COUNT**

- **U.S. Numbers**
  - Total Reported: **38.1M+**
  - 14-Day Change: +28%
  - Deaths: **631,050**
  - +84%

- **Hudson Valley Total Reported**: **308,596**

**WEEKLY ECONOMIC INDEX (WEI)**

The WEI is an index of ten daily and weekly indicators of real economic activity scaled to align with the four-quarter GDP growth rate.

Source: Authors calculations based on data from Haver Analytics, Redbook Research, Rasmussen Reports, The American Association Railroads and Booth Financial Consulting

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**FEDERAL RESERVE TO MEET FRIDAY- HERE’S WHAT COULD BE DISCUSSED?**

- Uncertain Labor Market
- Inflation Concerns
- Help Wanted Signs Everywhere
- Jobs that Never Returned Post-Pandemic
- Supply Chain Disruption Continues
- Borrowing Rates Remain Low
- Rising Delta Variant

Source: Created by Pattern for Progress