

OFFICE OF STATE TREASURER DENISE L. NAPPIER

NEWS

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Treasury Launches Effort to Return Millions in Unclaimed Funds

(HARTFORD) – The State Treasury will publish more than 45,000 names in newspapers throughout Connecticut tomorrow as part of its effort to return millions of dollars of unclaimed funds to state residents.

The 120-page newspaper insert, called the CT Big List, is one component of the treasury's outreach strategy. The agency also upgraded its computer system to make it easier for residents to find their name on the treasury's Web site, www.CTBigList.com, where new names are added weekly.

"Each year, the State Treasury receives millions of dollars in unclaimed funds because owners may have lost or inherited something of value," said State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier. "I encourage residents to look for their names in the newspaper tomorrow and to also search the treasury's Web site, where new names are added weekly."

Since taking office in 1999, the Nappier administration has returned more than \$120 million to approximately 115,000 individuals and businesses, triple the amount returned during the previous eight years. In fiscal year 2007, nearly 21,000 residents and businesses were reunited with \$25.3 million.

Assistant Deputy Treasurer Maria Greenslade said that the upswing in the number of claims filed is partly due to the treasury's computer upgrades. Greenslade, who heads the agency's Unclaimed Property Division and Second Injury Fund, said, "The treasury's user-friendly Web site has made it simpler and quicker for residents to find out whether the state is holding their money. By typing in their names, residents can learn in an instant whether they have unclaimed property."

Residents who have questions are directed to the treasury's Web site, www.CTBigList, or to its toll-free number, 1-800-833-7318, weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Unclaimed property may include dormant balances in savings and checking accounts, unreturned security deposits, uncashed checks for such things as insurance benefits, commissions or wages, and other financial assets that have been abandoned, generally for a period of three years. There is no time limit or fee for residents to file a claim.

Copies of CT Big List also will be distributed to libraries and town halls throughout the state.