

Treasurer Stacy Garrity Announces Return of More Than \$110,000 in Unclaimed Property to Northampton County

By Samantha Heckel

Northampton, PA — Pennsylvania Treasurer Stacy Garrity and Northampton County Executive Lamont G. McClure announced today that more than \$110,000 in unclaimed property has been returned to Northampton County.

"It's an exciting day to be making such a large return to Northampton County," Treasurer Garrity said. "Since taking office, I've had the chance to visit Easton and Bethlehem, and I know that the residents of Northampton County work hard and want to know that every taxpayer dollar is being used wisely. I'm glad to safeguard unclaimed property, but our goal is always to return it to the rightful owners."

"We are pleased that \$110,000 of unclaimed property is being returned to Northampton County residents," said Northampton County Executive Lamont G. McClure. "We wish to express our sincere gratitude."

The \$110,388.13 returned to Northampton County includes 217 individual properties ranging in value from \$0.01 to \$22,558.58. The oldest property dates back to 1986, while the most recent is from 2019. Properties returned include funds from accounts payable checks, uncashed checks, bank drafts, cashier's checks, claims payment checks, credit balances, and other forms of unclaimed property.

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Treasury is working to return more than \$4.5 billion in unclaimed property to its rightful owners. About one in ten Pennsylvanians is owed unclaimed property, and the average claim is worth about \$1,600.

Unclaimed property can include dormant bank accounts, uncashed checks, insurance policies, contents of forgotten safe deposit boxes and more. State law requires businesses to report unclaimed property to Treasury after three years of dormancy.

Treasury keeps tangible unclaimed property for about three years before it is auctioned. Auction proceeds are kept in perpetuity for owners to claim. Military decorations and memorabilia are never auctioned. To learn more about unclaimed property or to search Treasury's database, visit patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property. Media contacts:

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More Than \$30,000 Up for Grabs in Lehigh Valley's Biggest Event for Entrepreneurs

By Paul Muschick

LEHIGH VALLEY - Submissions are being accepted for the 5th Annual Startup Lehigh Valley pitch competition.

Lehigh University is teaming up with Factory LLC to put on this year's event, which will have a grand prize of \$20,000. The event will be held Oct. 25 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Factory LLC in Bethlehem. It will be televised and livestreamed by WFMZ.

The Shark Tank-style event is designed to highlight startup companies in the Lehigh Valley and throughout Pennsylvania. Ten finalists will pitch their products and businesses to a panel of judges.

"The StartUp Lehigh Valley pitch competition is designed to help grow and showcase the entrepreneurship that's already happening in the Valley and getting the community excited about supporting these local startups," said Richard Thompson, the Founder of Factory LLC, a business innovation center for food, beverage, and pet companies.

"We are thrilled to be partnering with Lehigh University and would like to thank them for providing vital resources to our local entrepreneurs year-round. We encourage all college and university students to participate along with residents and professionals living and working in the Lehigh Valley," Thompson said.

"Lehigh is proud to be a partner for this year's event. Richard Thompson and his team have created an exciting program, which we are proud to be able to support. The wide variety of entrepreneurs and products coming out of this program in the past have been innovative and interesting and we look forward to engaging with the contestants and the community," Lehigh Provost Nathan Urban said. "We are excited to see what new ideas will be a part of StartUp Lehigh Valley this year."

In addition to the grand prize, the top two runners up will receive prizes of \$3,000 and \$2,000, respectively. There is a \$5,000 Ben Franklin Award from Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Northeastern Pennsylvania, and three \$500 Penn State Lehigh Valley LaunchBox Boost Awards. The live and virtual audience will vote for the winner of a \$1,000 Audience Choice award.

All participants are connected with LaunchBox's resources for startup businesses, which include legal advice, marketing resources, mentors, and grant-funding opportunities.

The deadline to register is Sept. 22. Register here <https://www.factory-llc.com/startup-lehigh-valley-2023-application/>.

Entrepreneurism is a key component of the Lehigh Valley economy. Startup businesses drive innovation and can grow into larger companies with large workforces that develop critically needed products and services. Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corp. (LVEDC) encourages entrepreneurship such as Startup Lehigh Valley. LVEDC's Entr□

Thompson said his company considered dozens of cities for the location of their Factory LLC innovation and scaleup facility and found what they were looking for in the Lehigh Valley. Now Factory LLC is helping to provide a platform to continue that innovation.

"The Lehigh Valley has easy access to major airports and cities, a competitive talent pool, top-tier universities, and an exploding logistics industry. It's perfectly poised to become a hotbed for innovation, and this competition is all about building that entrepreneurial community. This event is helping to develop the startup ecosystem right here in the Lehigh Valley," he said.

Other sponsors of the 5th Annual Startup Lehigh Valley include JPMorgan Chase & Co., LVEDC, Lehigh Valley Health Network, Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce, HNL Lab Medicine, Adams Outdoor Advertising, City Center Allentown, B104, and J.G. Petrucci Co.

