



## Ken Field

Owner of Slate  
Belt Energy  
Services

*Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times*

### Conserve Energy and Save Money

At times like these when fuel costs are rising rapidly it can be a good opportunity to evaluate the behaviors that may cost you money. As a general rule if you do the same thing for 30 days in a row, it will become a habit. If it is a good habit, you will be better off for adopting it. Reducing the temperature inside your home can save hundreds of dollars a month and really is not an unhealthy thing to try. Unlike what many people think, kids don't need a 70° indoor temperature to stay healthy. Germs and viruses like the temperature of the human body so the colder you keep the house, the faster these germs will die on a surface. Kids are usually moving around and their circulatory system functions at 100% capacity so their breakfast is turned into heat and their heart sends that heat to their extremities. It's a really amazing system. Parents don't remember those days so they want to bundle the kids up even inside and when they disrobe, parents turn up the heat. I keep part of my house at 64° and I don't find it uncomfortable at all. Of course I wear pants and always have something on my feet. I go to homes for service where the heat is not working and observe how many people are dressed and it is like me in the summer. I don't judge but it can make fuel cost high and when fuel is expensive it can be a real burden on the budget.

Hopefully the cost of utilities will not continue to rise but we should all prepare for it. About 10 years ago I had several calls for energy audits every week but that has slowed, I think, because the cost of utilities subsided for a while. Calls for whole house energy retrofits is also less than it was but some forward thinking people are always trying to reduce their energy consumption to the lowest possible level. The hardest time to think about paying for energy upgrades is when you are already burdened by high utility cost. It would be advisable to reduce the thermostat now as far as possible and remember how uncomfortable it was so next summer you can make changes to your home that will allow you to be comfortable and also not spend a lot on utilities in the future. Money spent on energy repairs and upgrades is an investment unlike paying for utilities. So you can pay once and enjoy lower bills forever.

*Ken Field is the owner of Slate Belt Energy and Field's Service, Inc. As a certified energy rater and contractor, he is qualified to assess every aspect of energy usage and prescribe solutions to save energy. He can be reached at 610-759-6306 or email Ken@FieldsService.com*

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## Does Some of PA's More Than \$4 Billion in Unclaimed Property Belong to You?

By Rep. Joe Emrick (R-Northampton)

BANGOR - The Pennsylvania Treasury estimates one in every 10 Pennsylvanians is owed unclaimed property by the state. You can easily find out if you are one of those citizens by visiting Treasury's FREE unclaimed property database by visiting [www.patrea-sury.gov/unclaimed-property](http://www.patrea-sury.gov/unclaimed-property).

Unclaimed property can include dormant bank accounts, abandoned stocks, uncashed checks and



more. Property is always available for the rightful owner to claim. Tangible property may be auctioned after three years, but proceeds remain available to claim in perpetuity. Military decorations and memorabilia – often turned over to Treasury from abandoned or forgotten safe deposit boxes – are never auctioned and remain in the vault for safekeeping until a veteran or their family is found.

In 2021, Treasury returned more than \$135 million in unclaimed property, along with 229 military decorations and memorabilia to veterans or their families. If you are a veteran or family member of a veteran, visit [www.patreaury.gov/unclaimed-property/medals](http://www.patreaury.gov/unclaimed-property/medals) to check the database of unclaimed military items.

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