

Subject: Newsletter: Money-Saving Smart Home Devices, Plus How to Find Money Owed to You

Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 8:22:31 AM Pacific Daylight Time

From: Greenleaf Financial Group

To: info@greenleaf-fg.com

**Hello Greenleaf:
Welcome to Our Client Newsletter**

In the March Issue:

- **Smart Home Devices that Reduce Your Home Insurance Costs**
- **Where Can I Search for Money that's Owed to Me?**
- **Market News: Good Results in Many Areas in March**

**Smart Home Devices
that Reduce Your
Home Insurance
Costs**

Digital devices known as "smart home" technology are proliferating every year. The devices that alert you to problems before extensive damage can occur may also help you save on home insurance costs. Why? Because their early warnings reduce the likelihood of expensive insurance claims.

Although you should ask

Question:

**Besides My State's
Unclaimed Assets
Website, Where
Should I Look to Find
Money Owed to Me?**

Answer:

Most unclaimed money is held by state governments. This money typically comes from financial accounts that have been inactive for at least three years. Bank accounts, CDs, and safe

**Market News:
Good Results in Many
Areas in March**

March's Federal Reserve meeting was the major event for investors recently. Although the Fed did not cut interest rates, Fed Chair Jerome Powell indicated that they still expect to start a rate-cutting cycle later this year. About 70% of market predictors expect a 25 basis-point cut in June.

Markets welcomed the Fed's message, resulting in new

Although you should ask your home insurer about their specific incentives, the smart home devices most recommended by insurance companies are the ones that alert you to water leaks, to fires and electrical problems, and that help keep your home more secure.

Some insurance companies will discount your insurance policy costs, whereas others provide savings on smart home device purchases.

Typically, smart home devices are connected to your home internet and they send alerts to your phone. Consequently, you can take fast action even if you aren't at home.

Water Damage Prevention

Water damage claims are common because pipes break, hot water heaters fail, washers leak, and sump pumps don't always operate as they should. Repairing a water-damaged finished basement -- where most of these items are located -- is particularly costly.

A smart leak detector can alert you to a leak or to changes in humidity levels. This [article](#) recommends 3 inexpensive, easy-to-install, and easy-to-use detectors.

Fire Damage Prevention

While traditional smoke

deposit boxes, often for deceased individuals, are common unclaimed assets.

In addition, escrow accounts, insurance policy payments, employers wages, dividends from direct-held stocks, or refunds from state agencies can also be found on states' "unclaimed" websites.

Therefore, as you've done, check **each** state you've lived or worked in every 3 to 5 years. You can find each state's site at

[Unclaimed.org/search](https://www.unclaimed.org/search).

Simply scroll down to the map of the United States.

After that, you may be able to find additional unclaimed funds held by the government through other databases. Try any of the following that pertain to you. If you are the legal heir of a deceased person, you may wish to search on that person's name as well.

Savings Bonds

Use [TreasuryHunt.gov](https://www.treasuryhunt.gov) to find matured savings bonds that have stopped earning interest. Currently, there is more than \$39 billion in matured, unredeemed savings bonds.

Pensions

Pensions you earned from former private-sector employers who lost track of

message, resulting in new highs for the U.S. stock market along with improved prices in the bond market.

Although tech stocks had been in the lead this year, the more cyclical parts of the market, including small companies and sectors such as industrials and financials, had better results in March. Rate-sensitive utilities and real estate have come back to life, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average (the Dow) is now only about 1% away from breaking the 40,000 mark for the first time ever.

As Powell noted during the meeting's press conference, "The economy is strong, the labor market is strong, and inflation has come way down." Other central banks have reached the same conclusion with the European Central Bank, the Bank of Canada, and the Bank of England all likely heading toward rate cuts this year.

While investing is never a straight path forever, we may get to enjoy a period of lower volatility and less tech-stock dominance. The artificial intelligence boom has been strong, but the current economic data supports broad economic growth.

Our approach is always informed by a desire to

detectors are still useful, a smart home fire detector can modernize your fire and smoke protection. These devices will send a notification to your smartphone earlier than the warning emitted by a smoke alarm.

Also, you needn't be home to catch a fire early. If you travel frequently, these devices are better than relying on neighbors to notice a fire from lightning or an electrical issue. Some even call the fire department for you. Others also detect carbon monoxide. A review of highly rated options is [here](#).

Home Security

Home security options include video-monitored doorbells (doorbell cameras), surveillance cameras, sensors for windows and doors, motion detectors, smart locks, and more.

In this category, therefore, decide first what would provide you with a safer home. Lower insurance rates are a benefit, but the goal is peace of mind and technology that you can easily use.

More complex systems often come with professional installation services. Start your research with this [article](#).

Tradeoffs

Smart home devices are technology products and therefore require a well-functioning high-speed home wireless network. In addition, like many smart devices, they may be vulnerable to hacking if your

you can be found at the [Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation's website](#).

Please note that the PBGC only holds benefits for pension plans that ended. For active pension plans, contact your former employers' HR department

VA Life Insurance

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has a database for unclaimed life insurance. This money includes death awards, dividend checks and premium refunds that were mailed to policyholders, but returned to the VA as undeliverable. Some of these payments have been held for years. Search at [insurance.va.gov](#).

Closed Banks or Closed Credit Unions

Search the [FDIC database](#) for unclaimed funds from closed banks. Find unclaimed deposits from closed credit unions [here](#).

Bankruptcy Debts

If you are owed money from a person or business that declared bankruptcy, you may be able to find your claim money [here](#).

Past Wages

Does a previous employer owe you money? The Workers Owed Wages (WOW) database represents money collected by the Department of Labor over labor law violations. Search their database [here](#).

lessen the risks of investing, while positioning you for good returns. We welcome your questions about your investment strategy -- and we appreciate your business!

home's wireless network is not correctly password-protected.

Finally, be wary of products that charge monthly or annual fees. These recurring fees can quickly outpace any savings from your home insurer.

California

Jennifer Hartman, CFP
jhartman@greenleaf-fg.com
323-395-8801
1239 S. Rimpau Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90019



GREENLEAF FINANCIAL GROUP
PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS | PERSONAL ADVICE | PROGRESSIVE IDEAS

Indiana

Kathleen Hartman, CFP, CFA
khartman@greenleaf-fg.com
317-993-3384
13295 Illinois St., Suite 322
Carmel, IN 46032

www.greenleaf-fg.com

Greenleaf Financial Group | 13295 Illinois Street, Suite 322, Carmel, IN 46032

[Unsubscribe info@greenleaf-fg.com](mailto:info@greenleaf-fg.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by khartman@greenleaf-fg.ccsend.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!