

KATU

Monthly Neighborhood Newsletter

Oct. 1st, 2023

KNOX AREA TENANT'S UNION



Happy October residents! On Sept. 19th, residents of Rant at Tillery and The Hammond Apartment Homes stood together to voice concerns regarding relations with Property Management and bring awareness to lack of affordable housing at all levels at the City Council Meeting. The organization formed by residents has officially been named "Knoxville Area Tenant's Union," AKA KATU.

UPCOMING DATES

Oct. 2nd - Community Strategy Meeting @7PM (Zoom)

Oct. 6th - Knox PRIDE Parade @5:30PM (World's Fair Park)

Oct. 10th - Knoxville Eviction Court @ 8AM (400 Main St)

Oct. 10th - Hammond Resident Community Meeting @6:30PM (Hammond Pool)

Oct. 21st - KATU Silent Auction & Trunk-n-Treat @6:30PM - 8PM (Location TBA)

Oct. 24th - Tillery Resident Community Meeting @6:30PM (Tanglwood Mailboxes)

Oct. 26th - Candidate Forum on Homelessness @6PM (600 S. Chestnut St)

Oct. 31st - Happy Halloween!

THE POWER OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZING: UNITING TENANTS FOR CHANGE

By Ellen Lucchesi

Community organizing empowers tenants, fostering change through unity and a common cause/goal. These are some of the benefits and power that come to mind when thinking of a tenant's union:

1. Amplifying Voices: United, we address housing, repairs, and fair rent policies, ensuring our concerns are fully heard by landlords and policymakers. It is hard to be the only one in the room asking for change, but having neighbors by your side makes it so much easier.

2. Solidarity: Organizing builds strong bonds and friendships, creating a supportive community where knowledge and resources are shared. I have made more friends and learned more about my rights and resources in these last few months than I have in the last few years.

3. Empowering Individuals: It develops skills, nurtures leaders, and boosts confidence, fostering personal growth and I have seen it. Everyone is playing into their strengths, even if we are all new to this, and I can already see the growth of each of my neighbors.

4. Collective Bargaining: Together, we can negotiate for fair treatment, improved living conditions, and stability. There is strength in numbers, and even if we are ignored once or twice or a hundred times, we have each other's backs to help us try again.

5. Lasting Change: Grassroots advocacy shapes policies, fights discrimination, and creates an equitable society, and it is how we started - grassroots has truly helped everyone see the humanity of us.

Together, we are making a difference, no matter if it is big or small.



TENANT TENSIONS: LABOR DAY SILENT PROTEST

By George Habeib

This pool party was a slap in the face, not a way to address the tenant's concerns being that it was held as a promotion for Xfinity. It's majorly insincere of them to juxtapose it with Labor Day. After an hour or so passed we made our way wearing the shirts that said in plain truth that Evictions are morally wrong, houses for need not greed and that Rand is putting veterans on the street. We were met with comments and nasty looks at first from the people at the office. Some accused us of slander but radio silence and no pleasantries to follow. Until the end the only people who spoke with us were the people from Xfinity. Property Management would not speak until I addressed them with a question. They don't take our concerns seriously and are actively working against us. They just sat there vaping and monitoring us.



ASSISSTANCE

Rent

CAC (2-1-1)

2247 Western Avenue
M-F Hours: 8AM-4:30PM
(865) 524 - 3345

Home Source of East TN

109 Winona St, Knoxville
M-F Hours: 8AM-4:30PM
(865) 637-1679

Volunteer Ministries

M-F Hours: 9:30AM-2:20PM
(865) 673 - 0235

Utilities

Ladies of Charity

120 W Baxter Ave
M-F Hours: 9AM-4PM
(865) 247 - 5790
*up to \$75

Compassion Coalition

M-F Hours: 9AM-5PM
(865) 251-1591

SEE FULL PANTRY LIST ONLINE AT:

[HTTPS://KNOXCOUNTY.ORG/
HEALTH/PDFS/FOOD/FOODR
ESOURCEGUIDEFLYER23.PDF](https://knoxcounty.org/health/pdfs/food/foodresourceguideflyer23.pdf)

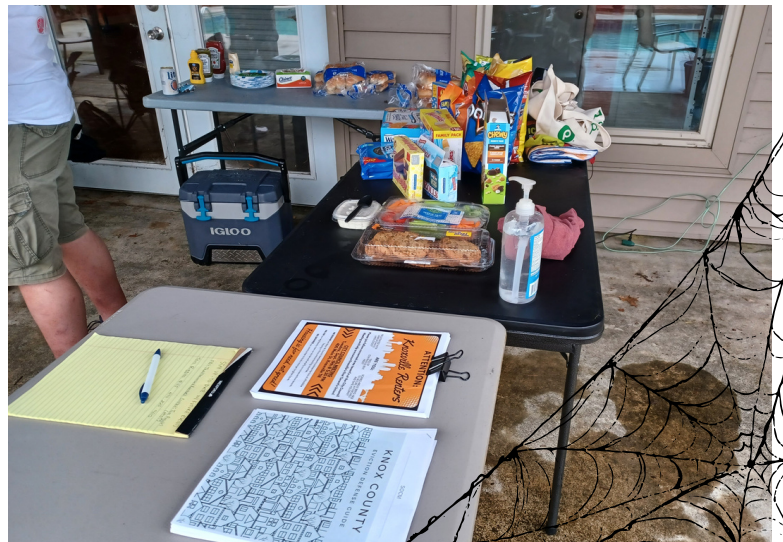


SEPTEMBER SNAPSHOTS

Sept. 9th, SOCM liaisons from KATU attended SOCM's Organizing 101 at Church of the Savior (Learn more at SOCM.org)



Sept. 16th, Hammond residents held a Community Tailgate to discuss the power of organizing



SEPTEMBER SNAPSHOTS



Sept. 19th, KATU stood in solidarity with neighbor at Eviction Court

Sept. 19th, KATU announced Union at Knoxville City Council & rallies for affordable housing



MAINTENANCE



Remember to thoroughly document any maintenance request, as well as any follow-ups, submitted to property management. If an issue has not been addressed within 14 days, tenants can call **(865) 215-2118** to file a complaint with Codes Enforcement.

STAY TUNED

KATU members will canvas on Oct. 9th between 6PM-7:30PM throughout Rand at Tillery and Hammond Apartment Homes. We look forward with meeting as many residents as possible to discuss how to get involved!



**Join KATU on
FaceBook to stay
updated on events**

"OUR MISSION IS TO UNIFY THE VOICES OF RAND RESIDENTS TO ADVOCATE, VOICE POLICY, AND ENSURE BETTERMENT OF OUR COMMUNITY; MOREOVER, OUR BELIEF IS HOUSING IS A HUMAN RIGHT, NOT A COMMODITY, AND THAT BASIC NEEDS ARE MORALLY NEUTRAL." —KATU