

KATU

Monthly Neighborhood Newsletter

Nov. 1st, 2023



TIME FOR THANKS

Happy November residents! This month is a time of reflection towards everything we have to be thankful for as a community. Even though we've had a rough few months, we have been able to persevere as neighbors to connect with, assist, and strengthen each other in the face of adversity. The type of resilience and kinship that's been shown in our community gives so many others across the state hope, so thank you to every member that has participated and supported our efforts.



UPCOMING DATES

Nov. 4th - FREE Trunk-N-Treat
@6PM - 8PM (Victor Ashe Park)

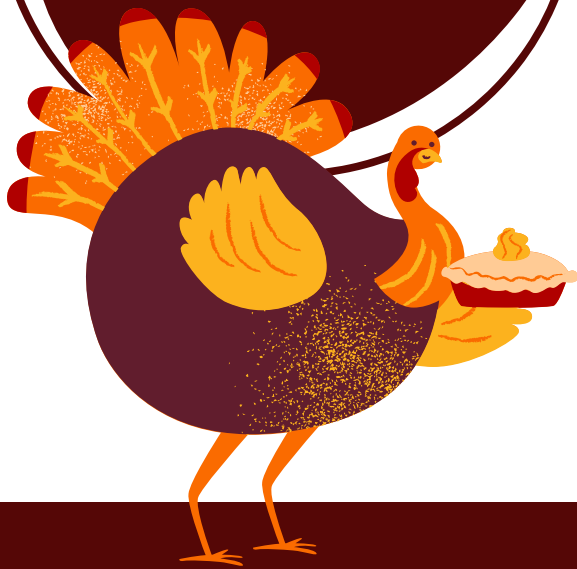
Nov. 14th - City Council Meeting
@6PM (400 Main St, Knoxville, TN)

Nov. 16th - KATU Monthly Meeting @6PM
- 8PM (1415 Elm St, Knoxville, TN)

Nov. 23rd - Happy Thanksgiving!

Nov. 28th - City Council Meeting
@6PM (400 Main St, Knoxville, TN)

ALL MEMBERS
WELCOME TO OUR
1ST UNION-WIDE
MEETING!





HAMMOND TESTIMONY

By Thomas Ruggles

Pests, mold, leaks, water outages, electrical issues, regular furnace/AC issues. When you live in a building that is nearly 50 years old you wouldn't expect it to be perfect, but issues like these, that myself and others have faced, should not be a normal part of day-to-day life. Especially, for a complex where rents are slowly approaching so-called 'market rate'. There's a disconnect between those new units with modern amenities, where 'market rate' value is being derived, and our units, which contain a certain level of dilapidation from many years of patchwork and Band-Aid fixes rather than complete remodels and overhauls.

As we get into the winter season, it is even more critical to hold Rand accountable for providing prompt and quality fixes as even temporary electrical or furnace outages can become dangerous to us and our pets. Don't hesitate to submit maintenance requests if something doesn't seem quite right, and if it seems like Rand is not listening, the Union is here to make your voice heard!

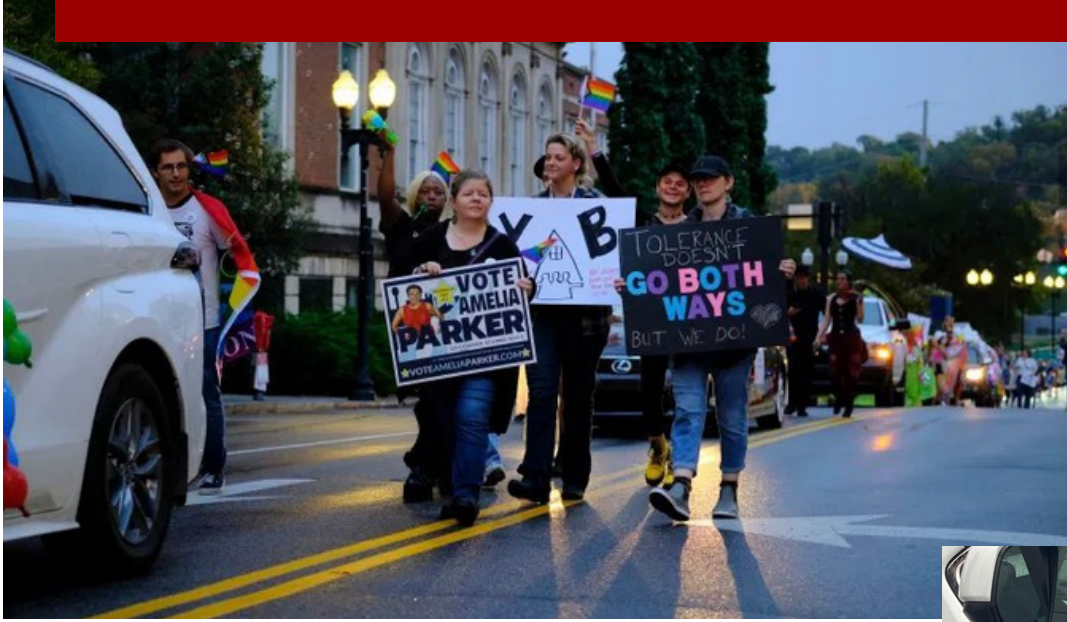
TANGLEWOOD TESTIMONY

By Sarah Marlow Henderson

Living at Tanglewood apartments can sometimes feel like an ongoing battle with construction chaos and ever-present maintenance intrusions. The never-ending projects have become an unwanted roommate, disrupting our peace and quiet. The incessant noise, dust, and frequent rearranging of our daily routine to accommodate the ongoing construction. It's hard to relax when you're constantly reminded of the unfinished business around you. It's hard to find peace when the neighbors you have grown to call friends are moving far and wide at the hands of Rand. While we appreciate the efforts to improve our community, the struggle of living amidst this construction zone and upheaval is undeniable. We long for the day when we can enjoy our sanctuary without the constant disruption and displacement. Until then, we persevere, hoping for the promise of a better living environment in the future.



OCTOBER SNAPSHOTS



Oct. 6th -
KATU, VMC,
SOCM, and
Knoxville/Knox
County Homeless
Coalition joined
to march in the
Knox PRIDE
Parade.



OCTOBER SNAPSHOTS

Oct. 21st -
Launched online
campaign efforts

Mission Statement

Our mission is to unify the voices of Rand residents and Knoxville tenants 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 Officers

Goals

1. Establish **fair negotiation** with Rand.
2. Advocate to organize within high density residential complexes for tenant's rights & affordable housing.
3. Voice need for a local housing emergency budget.



TRUNK OR TREAT & ONLINE SILENT AUCTION

AUCTION:
OCT 21
TO NOV 4

SCAN ME
TO SHOP



TRUNK OR TREAT

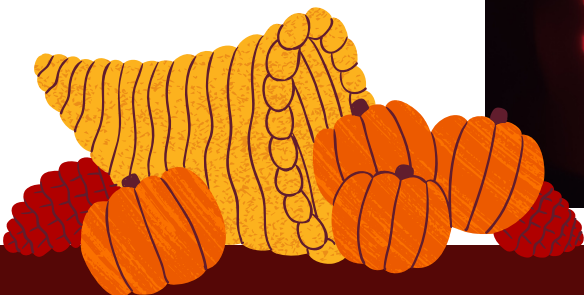
NOVEMBER 4TH | 6-8 PM
VICTOR ASHE PARK
4901 BRADSHAW RD



KNOXVILLEAREATENANTSUNION.COM



Oct. 31st -
Halloween around
the neighborhood





MAINTENANCE

Maintenance concerns have been an ongoing battle with tenants living within Rand Property Management communities. While we work to develop better strategies in securing our negotiations, please 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, and/or contact a Union representative for support.



ASSISTANCE

KNOX CO FOOD PANTRIES:

[HTTPS://KNOXCOUNTY.ORG/HEALTH/PDFS/FOOD/FOODRESOURCEGUIDEFLYER23.PDF](https://knoxcounty.org/health/pdfs/food/foodresourceguideflyer23.pdf)

EVICTION DEFENSE GUIDE:

[HTTPS://WWW.SOCM.ORG/PROJECTS](https://www.socm.org/projects)

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





NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT



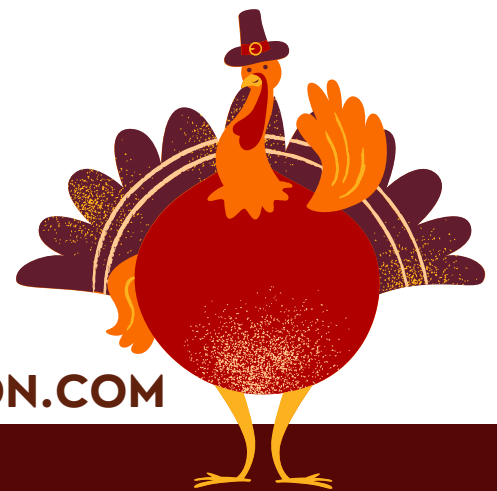
KATU would like to recognize Nikki Lynn for her outstanding efforts in support of our community at Tanglewood. Nikki talks the talk, and walks the walk in being a true ally in tenant and homelessness advocacy. Nikki works for a non-profit organization at the Tennessee Valley Coalition for the Homeless (<https://tvchomeless.org>), which leads efforts in homelessness prevention and case management services in all of Knox's surrounding counties. Tenant advocacy groups and homelessness prevention organizations are not being funded properly and cost-burden, hardworking families are unheard by Knoxville's Mayor and City Council Members, but Nikki finds time to show up for Knoxville tenants every other Tuesday evening at Knoxville City Council Meetings, and finally, we're seeing much needed affordable housing resolutions being brought to the City. Nikki is an embodiment of our mission.

STAY TUNED IN

Please reach out to have your voice heard about tenants' rights in TN, or any general questions or concerns. For now, our email and website are the most effective means of communication. In efforts to provide accommodations to those who may not have access, we will be door-knocking to update our Rand Property neighbors on scheduled events this month as well.

Email

knoxvilleareatenantsunion@gmail.com



KNOXVILLEAREATENANTSUNION.COM

RESIDENT EMERGENCY FUND

Just three short months ago, as Knoxville renters, our world was turned upside down by notification that our rent would double with our new property managers. We banded together from this tragic news to form Knoxville's first Tenants Union to support each of our neighbors as we endured the shared trauma and economic hardship. Since the start of Knoxville Area Tenants Union (KATU), we have provided a wide range of support for our neighbors and members, such as care and case management for elderly neighbors, translation support during lease negotiations for a single dad with 2 kids, support at eviction court for a veteran neighbor, phone banking for services for a single mother fleeing domestic violence, and food donations and utility assistance for a single mother.

Our union has been financially supported only by members' donations to provide wellness aid. However, with rising rent costs and other necessities, we need more support to sustain these efforts. We are looking to our wider community, friends, family, and businesses to aid in our efforts to ensure none of our neighbors will have to experience homelessness.

To provide this necessary service to our members, we are organizing a fundraising event on October 21st to raise funds for our union wellness fund. This event will be a community Trunk or Treat with an online silent auction. To make this event a true triumph and bring the aid needed to our community, we would like your help.

Donate to KATU at:

<https://givebutter.com/c/katufallauction2023>

Online Silent Auction at:

<https://givebutter.com/c/katufallauction2023/auction>