



KATU

KNOXVILLE AREA
TENANTS' UNION

Happy December KATU family! A lot transpired last month through resident negotiations with Rand Property Management. Evictions and non-renewals have been issued to several resident members participating in these efforts to meet with Rand management and enforce maintenance codes. KATU will continue to work diligently with residents to ensure their health and safety is priority, and in doing so, we will be updating everyone via our social media pages regarding recent events and further action needed from supporters. We hope everyone has a great month filled with chosen family to spend the holidays together!



NOV. 4TH: BUSTED TIRE

By George Habeib

On Nov 4th 2023, KATU hosted a trunk or treat where we gave out extra Halloween candy to people at Victor Ashe Park and also gave community members resources and literature to consult in Knoxville's boiling housing crisis. I was happy to help and use my car as a trunk for the cause. We had a good time hanging alongside our neighbors, handing out candy and flyers to lots of smiling faces. The low point of the evening was when we all left and immediately my tire blew out, there must've been glass or something sharp because I wasn't the only neighbor to have tire issues that night. Fortunately I was able to reach my neighbors and they met me where my car was stopped and sat with me until we could figure out how to get my spare tire on the car. I don't know what I would have done without my neighbors that night. I'm grateful that they stuck with me and helped figure things out.



MONTHLY UNION MEETING

By Hannah Freeman

On Nov. 16th, Knoxville Area Tenants' Union held our first, official monthly meeting at the CWA Union Hall, just off of Elm Street. It was amazing to meet new faces and being able to have a safe space for all our Rand neighbors to openly express concerns and questions with ongoing issues in our communities. Sudden, unexpected rent rises and continued maintenance concerns, such as black mold and open electric panels, being at the front of our discussions. KATU members have all agreed to help navigate these concerns, and we ended with the acknowledgement that any level of support is highly needed in efforts to fight for tenants' rights in Knoxville.

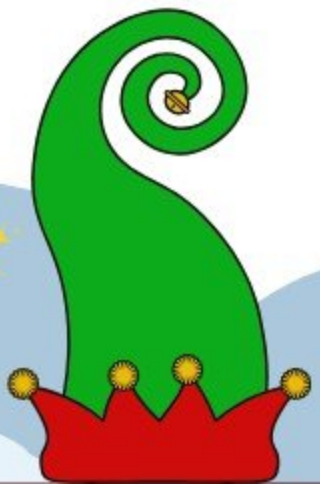




NOVEMBER SNAPSHOTS



Nov. 4th
Silent Auction Final
& Trunk-N-Treat at
Victor Ashe



NOVEMBER SNAPSHOTS



Nov. 14th
Speaking in favor of
affordable housing
resolutions at
Knoxville City
Council

Nov. 18th
Resident to
resident
Thanksgiving food
donations, helping
3 families in our
Rand at Tillery
complex



Congrats to Ellen and Adam!
Former Tanglewood neighbors and
KATU members, Ellen and Adam,
closed on their first home this
month. We're wishing them all the
happiness that comes with the
freedom of homeownership, and
hoping for years of a peaceful
getaway from a busy life.

MAINTENANCE



Residents entrusted other residents, and KATU leadership, with resubmitting maintenance requests, as a group attempt to draw our office's attention to several serious maintenance concerns at Rand at Tillery. KATU led representation also discussed the ongoing disruptive tree cutting and renovations with management. Most of the resubmitted maintenance requests have been reviewed and miscellaneous work orders started. KATU is still finding opportunities to lift the concerns of residents at other Rand properties. Several Hammond Apartment residents also reported serious upkeep related issues. An email for resident-led negotiations with Rand was resent to Rand leadership on Dec. 1st. Our expectation is to have a meeting date set no later than Dec. 8th. We outlined that the meeting with Rand will serve as an outlet for residents to communicate health and safety concerns within our communities. Likewise to our Aug. 16th meeting request, we have yet to hear back from Rand leadership.

HOW TO HELP

1. Call Rand office & encourage resident led meeting to discuss health and safety concerns
2. Write into Rand office management to request resident led negotiation before Dec. 14th, 2023
3. Email Jennifer Outland, Rand COO, to express need for resident meeting at Rand at Tillery

Call Rand at Tillery: (865) 689-411
Fill out Contact Form at:
randpropertymanagement.com
Email Rands' COO at:
jennifer@randpropertymanagement.com





NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT

This month, KATU would like to recognize George Habeib for his resilience and dedication towards helping our Tanglewood community and outward Knoxville neighbors, despite hardships. George always speaks from his heart and personal experiences, and continues to be a voice for all renters at Knoxville City Council meetings. After a wreck that left him without a vehicle and having to navigate without transportation, he also addressed concerns to Council regarding KAT bus practices. Missed stops, unsafe residential crossings, and unreliable wait times were all reported by several KAT bus users. Then, when George managed to purchase another vehicle for himself, he selflessly continues to offer others rides to grocery stores and shuttles to events. George is the neighbor that everyone hopes to have, and we're grateful to have him fight alongside KATU for housing justice.



Photo by Lee S.

STAY UPDATED

knoxvilleareatenantsunion.com

FaceBook Group (KATU - Knoxville Area Tenants Union)

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