



CLUB ROOM RENOVATED WITH VOLUNTEER WORK

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VTS
KODIT

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MORE WITH LESS



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WHEN ENOUGH PEOPLE ACT TOGETHER, EVEN SMALL ACTIONS HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT.

VTS-KODIT have provided Tampere residents with affordable housing for more than 50 years. There is plenty of demand for affordable rental housing also today. The utilisation rate of VTS-kodit is 98.5%, and we received a record-breaking number of applications in July 2023.

We want to offer apartments for many different life situations, which is why the housing stock of VTS-kodit is very diverse. We have studio apartments, one-bedroom apartments and also larger family apartments all across Tampere. We are also building new rental housing to meet the needs of the growing population in Tampere.

Several new locations will be completed in 2023 and 2024. The Nuijatie 31 site in Viiala and the Heittoniitynkujat 2 location in Hervantajärvi will be completed in autumn 2023, and Rollikankatu 2 in Härmälänranta and Juurikatu 15/26 in Lamminpää will be finished in 2024. The renovation and infill development at Perkiönkatu 73-75 will also be completed soon.

"More with less" is a slogan which means that in addition to an affordable rent, our tenants receive many additional advantages. We want to offer a solid basis for a good life to our tenants. Depending on the location, our tenants have access to a laundry room, a sauna, a club room and even a gym for the

city block. We support active tenant operations and offer many services and advantages that make daily life easier for our tenants, such as occasional free-of-charge childcare (Lapsiparkki) and the Pisteet Kotiin tenant bonus system. The annual Särkänniemi and Doghill Fairytale Farm days and other events also add joy to our tenants' day-to-day life.

Inflation and the rising cost of living are putting a strain on the finances of many Finns, and a frugal way of life is now important to us all. Last year, VTS-kodit took part in the 'A degree lower' campaign for saving energy, and with the help of our tenants we were able to save energy in our buildings.

This year, too, saving electricity is important both in households and at VTS-kodit. When enough people act together, even small actions have a major impact. Saving energy and using it sparingly benefits both you and our shared environment.

Satu Eskelinen
CEO, VTS-kodit

SHARED ACTIONS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

HAPPY early autumn, Asukasviesti readers!

The global situation remains unstable and this is also reflected on us Finns. Luckily, inflation has slowed down somewhat and the money market is now calmer, but we are still far away from the financial situation of only a few years back.

The economic balancing actions by the new Finnish government also create some uncertainty for many VTS-kodit tenants. It remains to be seen how the cuts to housing allowance, for example, will affect low-income households in the coming years. I'm hoping for the state government to keep a cool head with all the cuts and savings.

However, thanks to the high utilisation rate, the financial situation of our rental housing foundation is on a good level. In July 2023, we received a total of 2,760 applications, which is a new record for VTS-kodit.

The autumn is a beginning of a new era to the foundation, as the role of the Chief Financial Officer is transferred from **Isto Jortikka** to **Juha Nuutinen**. Previously, Juha has worked as the CFO of Alma Media and the University Properties of Finland Ltd, bringing in solid experience and a new perspective for managing the finances of VTS-kodit.

Juha will start in his new role in November 2023. I want to warmly welcome Juha to our team and also thank Isto for the excellent

collaboration for the benefit of the foundation.

Reducing housing costs and carbon footprint are the key words of housing today. VTS-kodit is also striving to do its part in this, and a sustainability programme was compiled for the foundation in 2022. In addition to a healthy environment and balanced finances, the programme includes happy tenants and an inspiring working environment.

As we all know, our own actions have a major impact on reducing living costs. How we use water, electricity and heat, how we sort our waste – it all matters. Therefore I'm hoping that we will all take part in implementing the sustainability programme of VTS-kodit.

Wishing sunny autumn days for you all!

Pekka Anttila
Chair of the Board



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REDUCING HOUSING COSTS AND CARBON FOOTPRINT ARE THE KEY WORDS OF HOUSING TODAY.



The renewed Possilankatu club room is comfortable and well-suited to many different purposes.

CLUB ROOM ON POSSILANKATU RENOVATED WITH VOLUNTEER WORK

THE shared facilities at Possilankatu 2–4 went through a major transformation in spring 2023. The club room received a fresh new interior decor and colour palette. The walls and ceilings of the entrance room, toilet and drying room connected to the club room were also painted. Additionally, a lovely terrace was built outside.

The chairperson of the Possilankatu tenant committee, **Lilli Kivekäs**, and the committee's secretary, **Malla Honkanen**, did most of the renovation work. They washed the walls, ceilings and pipes and painted the walls and ceilings. The duo also had no problems putting together the new furniture.

"We like to keep busy," Malla says with a laugh.

External help was only needed for electrical works, the power washing of the floor and installing the shelves and pictures on the walls.

The terrace was put together during the tenants' spring volunteering day.

Comfort and flexibility

VTS-kodit provided the funding for the Possilankatu club room. Thanks to Lilli's and Malla's volunteer contribution, there was enough money left over in the budget to build the terrace.

"When you are willing to put in the work yourself, you can get a lot more," Lilli says.

Interior designer **Tuija Pallas** created the club room's new look. The tenant committee had a wish for a lighter and more comfortable space, and the fresh look has added a new sense of space and light to the room.

"The club room has no windows, so the lack of natural light was a challenge. But now that the room



The kitchen cupboards of the club room are the original ones. However, washing the doors and adding new handles enhanced the appearance of the entire kitchenette.



Malla Honkanen and Lilli Kivekäs enjoy the new club room terrace. "This actually turned out pretty amazing," Lilli says and laughs.

has been renovated, you don't even miss the windows anymore," Lilli says, praising the interior decorator's work.

In addition to the space being comfortable, having a multipurpose room was important to the Possilankatu tenants. The tenants can rent the club room for their own purposes, and many like to use the space for accommodating guests that have travelled from further away to celebrate a graduation, for example.

"The table in the club room can be extended, and the sofa doubles as a pull-out bed. We have thought about the space from many different perspectives to make sure it fills as many purposes as possible."

Contributing pays off

Malla and Lilli worked on the club room renovations on their free time. The club room renovations took about a month and a half in total, and the terrace was built during just one Saturday.

"This was no Sagrada Familia. When we start something, we see it through," Malla says.

"We wanted to have the club room in use quickly so that the tenants can start enjoying it," Lilli says.

Malla and Lilli encourage other tenant committees to get involved and contribute their own time in the name of common interest.

"Tenant operations need people who are ready to invest their own time to improve comfort and promote communality. No special skills are needed for this. I, for example, have never before painted ceilings – but now I have!" Lilly states.

Tenant operations need people who are ready to invest their own time to improve comfort and promote communality.

Corrections to sorting instructions in Asukasviesti 2/2023

IN the article 'Let's sort with care' in Asukasviesti issue 2/2023, it was incorrectly stated that potting soil should not be put in biowaste. However, according to the instructions of the Pirkanmaan Jätehuolto waste management company, small amounts of packaged soil can be sorted in biowaste, such as the potting soil from a small flowerpot.

The article also incorrectly stated that the metal waste collection is only for metal packages. In actuality, old pots and pans, for example, can also be sorted in metal waste.

The editorial staff of Asukasviesti apologises for the mistake. Please remember to always check the up-to-date sorting instructions at Pirkanmaan Jätehuolto's website: <https://pjhoy.fi/lajitteluhaku/>



Oiva and Saimi admired the animals of the Doghill Fairytale Farm. The Doghill Fairytale Farm donkey sought shelter from the sunshine under a lean-to.



SÄRKÄNNIEMI DAY TURNS 10 YEARS OLD

The popular Särkänniemi amusement park day of VTS-kodit was now organised for the tenth time in June 2023. To celebrate the anniversary, we reserved the entire Särkänniemi as a private park for VTS-kodit tenants.

The Särkänniemi Day happened on a nice and sunny summer Saturday. The amusement park was filled with people and joy, as more than 4,000 visitors arrived at the park.

JUHA and his son **Jesse** took a break on a bench between all the fun.

"We were on our way to the Truck Race, but we decided to take a creative break," Juha says.

Särkänniemi Day is one of the annual summer traditions of father and son. The Whirling Worm is a favourite ride for them both, as Jesse is not allowed on the bigger rides quite yet.



"We have come here every year since Jesse has been old enough to stand," Juha says, laughing.

Saimi and **Oiva** admired the Doghill Fairytale Farm with their mother **Jenny** and grandmother **Jatta Sallinen**. The children are more interested in watching the animals while the adults love the fairytale feeling of the farm.

"I love the Doghill Fairytale Farm.

It is very well kept and suits people of many different ages," Jatta says.

The family came to see the Doghill Fairytale Farm first and planned to head to the amusement park afterwards. And what are the kids' favourite rides?

"Troika!" says Saimi.

"Piggy Train," states Oiva.



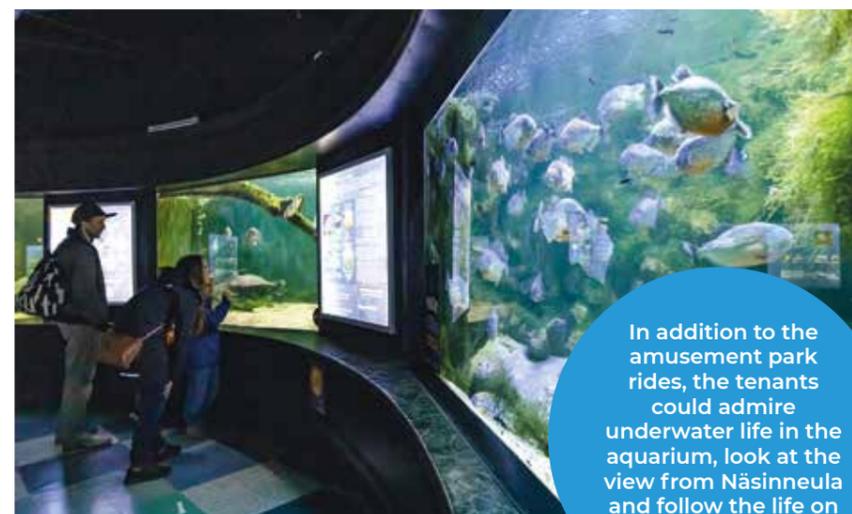
Särkänniemi Day offered fun activities for people of all ages.



The sunny day was perfect for enjoying the Särkänniemi rides.



After a small break, Juha and Jesse planned to try the Truck Race.



In addition to the amusement park rides, the tenants could admire underwater life in the aquarium, look at the view from Näsinneula and follow the life on Doghill Fairytale Farm.

Lapsiparkki childcare services of VTS-kodit will start again in September!

IN some of its locations, VTS-kodit provides free-of-charge childcare help for 1–8-year-old children every second Saturday. The service is available between 16 September and 16 December 2023, provided by Tampere-based childcare service Peikkolampi, which comes highly recommended.

In the turn of August and September, a child-specific service card entitling to a certain number of care days was sent to families with children with the right to the service. The places will be filled in the order of registration.

If you are part of the target group but have not received your service card, please send an email to asiakaspalvelu@vts.fi.

The Lapsiparkki service will be available based on the following schedule:

• **Annala, Kaukajärvi, Levonmäki**

30 September–16 December 2023, on Saturdays of odd weeks, from 11 am to 3 pm.

• **Käräjätörmä, Tohloppi, Lammipää, Ikuri, Virontörmä and Etelä-Hervanta**

30 September–16 December 2023, on Saturdays of odd weeks, from 1 pm to 5 pm.

• **Haukiluoma and Pohjois-Hervanta**

23 September–16 December 2023, on Saturdays of even weeks, from 1 pm to 5 pm.

(Please note! The childcare service will not be available on All Saints' Day, 4 November.)

WHY IS BIODIVERSITY SO IMPORTANT?

Maintaining biodiversity supports the well-being of the Earth. Each organism has its own important role in the ecosystem, maintaining the basic requirements of life on earth.

Bees pollinate the fields, for example, while plants produce oxygen, insects help decompose dead organisms, and so forth.

If any organism goes extinct, the future of many different lifeforms is also endangered.



According to Elina Santos, biodiversity has been a topic of discussion in the landscaping field for years.

DIVERSITY TO COMMUNAL YARD THROUGH THE LUMO PROGRAMME

Protecting nature can start from your own yard! Since autumn 2022, VTS-kodit have followed the LUMO programme that makes yard maintenance greener.

“LUMO comes from the Finnish words ‘luonnon monimuotoisuus’, meaning biodiversity. The purpose of the programme is to increase biodiversity in the buildings’ yards through small, practical actions. Additionally, it makes the yards easier to maintain, increases comfort and supports sustainable development,” says site supervisor **Elina Santos** from Lännen Viherpalvelut.

The LUMO programme of VTS-kodit was compiled by Natural Resources student **Mari Ylikauppi-la** as her thesis work. The programme was piloted at Riipuksenkatu 5, Nikinväylä 10 and Osmonraitti 6.

“The tenants of Osmonraitti have been especially interested in the project. A hedgehog is nesting in their yard, so we have diverted the pathways to avoid bothering the animal. We have also left some piles of leaves in the yard as hiding spots for the hedgehog,” says Elina Santos.



The branch fence blends in well with the trees at Männikönkatu 7.

Fertiliser from sticks and leaves

The LUMO programme includes experimenting with meadows, for example, where a certain lawn area is allowed to grow freely during the summer before being cut down in the autumn. The meadow gives pollinators a place to work and provides hiding spots for animals and birds.

Fences built with sticks and branches are another example of the practical actions taken. Branches from the plot are built into a fence, where they will gradually decay and turn into soil. The fence will also benefit birds, insects and hedgehogs, among other critters.

“This kind of a branch fence is not suitable to all locations, but if the plot is next to a small forest, for example, it fits in well with the landscape. If the site has tenant gardens, the tenants can also add their own branches in the fence,” Elina explains.

In autumn 2022, we also experimented with shredding the fallen leaves instead of taking them to the landfill in bin bags. If the leaves are shredded and left in the yard, they decompose faster, providing the lawn with fertiliser.

“Tenants can also try shredding the leaves in their own gardens with a lawnmower, for example, instead of raking them up,” Elina says.



Doghill Christmas in Särkänniemi Theme Park for VTS-kodit tenants

1.12.2023

from 4 p.m to 7 p.m

Ticket sale starts on 3rd November on our website

VTS KODIT