



Solkikatu celebrates its anniversary

VTS
KODIT

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WE ENSURE THAT EVERYONE HAS A SAY



**I wish you all
a comfortable
and safe
autumn!**

IT HAS always been important to VTS-kodit for tenants to be involved at all levels, whether it be joint activities with neighbours or decision-making regarding rent rates. We are known as a pioneer of tenant democracy and tenant activities, and we will continue to invest heavily in both. The active engagement of tenants will help build the community and create a sense of unity, comfort and safety in our properties.

The most influential role in tenant democracy is to be a board member in the rental housing foundation or the Vilusen Rinne housing cooperative. Two tenant representatives sit on the board of both Tampereen Vuokratalosäätiö sr and Vilusen Rinne Oy as fully authorised members. The board is the highest decision-making body, which means that its members bear a great responsibility but are also empowered to influence things.

The election for the board's tenant members is organised by the tenants themselves, and the process is currently under way. The tenant committees have now presented their member proposals, and the residents of each building will make a final decision in the tenant meetings to be held in the autumn. Do not hesitate to get involved! The tenant committees will receive new instructions if the coronavirus situation prevents the meetings from being arranged.

The pandemic must also be considered in the planning of other events for the remainder of the year. It is truly unfortunate that we had to postpone the Särkänniemi Day and the 50th anniversary of VTS-kodit. We decided that we cannot take the risk of organising any large events at this time. After all, the situation with the virus can change at a moment's notice.

Fortunately, we are all well equipped to ensure our own continued health. To that end, observe safety distances whenever possible and wear a mask in other situations on the bus or at the grocery shop, for example. Wash your hands diligently, and cough into a tissue or sleeve. Stay home if you catch even a mild flu, and get tested for the coronavirus if necessary. Have you already downloaded the Koronavilkku application onto your phone?

You can always take care of your affairs with VTS-kodit safely, as most housing-related matters can be handled easily through our electronic services. You can also call us or send e-mail. Should you require a face-to-face meeting, the renovation of Asuntotori (Housing Market Place) on Puutarhakatu is now complete.

Satu Eskelinen
CEO, VTS-kodit



TENANTS CAN HANDLE MOST DAY-TO-DAY MATTERS THROUGH OUR WEBSITE

WE CAN STAY IN TOUCH ELECTRONICALLY!

VTS-KODIT has moved back to the stylishly renovated Asuntotori premises on Puutarhakatu 8. The office is open Mon–Thu 9 am to 3 pm, Fri 9 am to 1 pm. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, however, we only provide face-to-face services in matters that cannot be handled over the phone or online.

Visit our website

Many things related to housing and availability can be taken care of easily through our electronic services at www.vts.fi. Applica-

tions for available housing can be submitted via an electronic form, and VTS-kodit tenants can handle most day-to-day matters through our website.

Update your details

Among other things, you can update your details, ask about parking spaces, check your 'Pisteet kotiin' score, submit a fault notification and view your rent payment information. You can also fill in an arrival/departure notice and a mover's checklist.

You can also reach us by e-mail at palvelukeskus@vts.fi. Our website also includes a chat, through which we answer general questions on housing and availability.



Housing advisors Esko-Pekka Järvinen and Anne Putkonen have relocated to the newly-renovated Asuntotori office, where they serve customers by appointment.

HOUSING ADVISORS READY TO ASSIST

AT TIMES, life tends to throw unpleasant surprises in our faces – it happens to each and every one of us. For example, a sudden illness, divorce or unemployment may cause financial troubles. A variety of crises can also lead to tenants not being able to maintain their dwellings.

VTS-kodit provides its tenants with service guidance and advice for problematic situations related to housing. The resident housing advisors are Social Worker **Esko-Pekka Järvinen** and Social Instructor **Anne Putkonen** from the adult social services of the City of Tampere. They are ready to help all VTS-kodit tenants who do not have a designa-

ted social worker or instructor.

The housing advisors do not handle matters related to renting arrangements and instead focus their full attention on resolving personal concerns related to the tenants' finances and day-to-day living.

Fast service

In the event of imminent payment difficulties, it is important to move the rent invoice to the top of the pile and pay it on time. Negligence can lead to a rapid increase in outstanding rent and ultimately a writ that will dissolve the lease.

The housing advisors can help

tenants determine which types of financial support and services they are entitled to and work with them to consider new ways to retain their housing.

“We urge people to contact us as soon as possible, even before the first defaulted rent payment. The earlier we can get to the root of the matter, the more likely it is that we can prevent further problems,” Esko-Pekka Järvinen says.

“That being said, there are no lost causes in our book. You should never hesitate to contact us if your lease is still in effect, no matter how messy your situation seems. We will always do everything we can to

resolve the problems at hand," Anne Putkonen adds.

The housing advisors steer tenants to the services they need. If necessary, they can also examine each tenant's situation and work with them to find new ways to improve their life management skills. Appointments can be made on short notice.

Good results

Representatives of VTS-kodit and social services forward tenants to the housing advisors, but tenants can also contact the advisors directly. The threshold is very low.

"If you are unsure as to whether or not we could be of assistance in your situation, you can always call us to find out. A visit to the office may not even be necessary. We can sometimes advise tenants on how to proceed over the phone," Järvinen explains.

The housing advisors meet with tenants by appointment at the Asuntotori office on Puutarhakatu. From time to time, they also make house calls with property managers. This is done especially if the tenant in question has limited mobility or requires guidance on day-to-day living.

"We can instruct tenants on how

to maintain cleanliness in their homes or advise immigrants on how to use washing machines," Putkonen says, listing examples of house calls.

"We have received excellent feedback"

The tenants have praised the housing advisors for their focus on resolving the problems instead of laying guilt.

"We have received excellent feedback. The tenants have felt that we have been able to clarify their situations and help them," Esko-Pekka Järvinen says.



THE HOUSING ADVISORS
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SOLKIKATU CELEBRATES ITS ANNIVERSARY

IN THE Kaukajärvi district, neighbours got together to enjoy a warm summer evening in August. An event celebrating the 40th anniversary of the buildings and the 50th anniversary of VTS-kodit was held in the yard of the Solkikatu 11 property. All VTS-kodit tenants from Kaukajärvi and Annala were invited.

Top-level dancing

The discussion was lively and the participants enjoyed the catering, which included delicious döner kebabs by Los Pollos, with cake and coffee for dessert.

The children could barely contain themselves at the opportunity to ride a real pony in their very own yard. In addition to the pony ride, the inflatable castle and fishing game were popular among the younger participants.

The programming for the event



was organised by talented VTS-kodit tenants.

Wheelchair dancers **Zaida Launis** and **Leevi Ketola**, who live on Solkikatu, demonstrated their skills on the playing field in the yard. The couple has competed in Finland and abroad, achieving great success. This year, for exam-

le, they took part in the Finnish championships, winning gold in the Standard and Latin Dance categories and silver in Freestyle.

“We have never danced in our own yard area, but we sometimes train in the living room. This is a great place to live. It is peaceful and fairly accessible, which ensu-



res good mobility for us," Zaida and Leevi say in praise of their neighbourhood.

Music to ensure a festive atmosphere

The musical performance was provided with skill and feeling by trou-

badour **Harri Mäkinen**, a VTS-kodit tenant from Hallila.

"I have been singing professionally at corporate and private events for the past ten years, enjoying every second – I have had the opportunity to be involved in a lot of things. Today was my first time performing at a VTS-kodit event. It was amazing to play with 'a home advantage'!"

VTS-kodit will be organising more neighbourhood events once the coronavirus pandemic is no longer a threat.

During the summer, the coronavirus situation was stable, but the celebration on Solkikatu was naturally organised in accordance with strict safety requirements. For example, participants queued for the catering on labels placed on the asphalt to ensure sufficient safety distances.

We hope to see you soon again!



The Pehkusuonkatu tenant committee enjoying some well-earned coffee after the renovation. Pictured from the left Secretary and Financial Manager Jaana Roiha, Environmental Officer Mirkka Ottavainen, Safety Officer Sanna Tuominen, Deputy Chair Petri Jokinen and Chair Veijo Tuominen.

WOW, LOOK AT THAT RESIDENT LOUNGE!

Hallila district tenants renovated a cosy space for conferences, celebrations and recreational activities for themselves.

“IT’S LIKE we now have a new living room,” rejoiced Veijo Tuominen, chairman of the tenant committee, upon the completion of the resident lounge on Pehkusuonkatu in Hallila. Based on the smiles, the other committee members are also satisfied – and for good reason.

In fact, the tenants carried out the renovation themselves, stretching the budget to cover some nice furniture and decorations.

The elegant end result is pleasing to the eye but took a lot of work, as well. The large space had plenty of wall and floor area to paint, and the wall surface had

to be repaired with putty. Sound insulation panels were installed in the ceiling.

Strong mutual understanding

“Initially, there were some doubts as to whether or not the work would ever be done because there seemed to be so much of it. Then again, there was little to do in the spring with the coronavirus outbreak, so the extra tasks related to the project were welcome,” says **Mirkka Ottavainen**, environmental officer of the tenant committee.

The project was kicked off by a

property manager at VTS-kodit.

“He suggested that we set up a tenant committee for our building and renovate a resident lounge in the empty space in the lowest floor. VTS-kodit provided us with a budget, so we rolled up our sleeves and got to work. All decisions were made in mutual understanding, there were no disagreements between the tenants,” **Veijo Tuominen** assures.

He led the renovation efforts with Mirkka Ottavainen. Veijo has extensive experience in working at a woodshop, and Mirkka is a trained textile engineer. This ensured that the renovation and



The resident lounge ready for the birthday party of a young resident. Photo: Mirkka Ottavainen.

The walls and floor took days to paint.



interior decoration process went without a hitch. Naturally, those involved learned new things along the way and were assisted by other building tenants.

The three women on the tenant committee handled the furniture acquisitions. The men were more than happy to skip the shopping trip.

“The intention is to use the resident lounge for celebrations, too, so we picked the furniture with this in mind and matched them together. The selection process was fairly easy, it took about three hours at Ikea,” the women say.

Boardgame nights in the works

The Pehkusuonkatu property used to have a club room a long time

ago, and the plastic chairs acquired for it were in good enough condition to keep. There was also an existing ping pong table, but everything else was either purchased new or received as donations.

The resident lounge will be used at least for meetings, but less formal resident activities, such as boardgame nights, Christmas parties and other fun things, are also in the works. In addition to this, tenants can book the room for their own celebrations.

“Once the resident lounge was complete, we held a two-day open door event,” Mirkka says.

“We served coffee and played

ping pong and Uno. We also took the opportunity to ask about the tenants’ wishes on how the space should be used, which led to some good conversations.”