



HARVEST FROM THE HOME YARD

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THE KÄRÄJÄTÖRMÄ GARDEN WAS MANAGED
BY TUOMAS AND MERI WAS IN CHARGE OF
THE SUMMER ACTIVITIES.

VTS
KODIT

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TENANT ACTIVITIES AND STRATEGY WORK TO START



THE three-year VTS-kodit strategy period ends at the turn of the year. Over these years, we have moved towards 'a solid foundation for a good life' and achieved a great deal. We have e.g. established neighbourhood gyms and performed comfort renovations at our properties. VTS-kodit has also received a fresh visual look and our opening hours have been extended. Furthermore, we have invested in our electronic services, meaning that almost all housing-related matters can now be handled easily online.

We have also been engaged in development work that is not visible to the residents directly – or at least not straight away. We have commissioned a responsibility report and are reducing our carbon footprint in many ways. We also tendered out our maintenance and cleaning services with a new responsible model that emphasises quality. We have also enhanced the entire VTS-kodit operations by developing our internal processes and management system.

This autumn, we will begin planning for our next strategic period and again engage our residents to have their say. Working on our strategy, we think of ways to further develop VTS-kodit in accordance with the rules of the foundation.

Currently and over the coming years, we are kept busy by the VTS-kodit extensive modernisation programme. This year and the next, we will be spending a total of EUR 100 million on new construction and renovation projects, and the fast pace of repairs will continue beyond this period. In the modernisations, old buildings will become as good as new and the comfort of living will equal current standards. We will of course continuously monitor the price trends of construction and reassess our plans should the sector become overheated. We will not overpay for construction.

It would finally appear as though the coronavirus pandemic is easing off, thanks to the positive vaccination rate. This means that it is time to engage in tenant activities and come up with fun things to do at your home building. Throw around ideas and develop them into shared activities together with your neighbours in this autumn's tenant meetings.

Wishing you
an energetic autumn!

Satu Eskelinen
CEO, VTS-kodit

END IN SIGHT FOR THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC!

HAPPY early autumn, dear Asukasviesti readers! Finally, the end is in sight for the coronavirus pandemic. Luckily, we were able to arrange the Resident Day in Särkänniemi in August, and the weather was also on our side. I was there to welcome you at the gates and saw many happy and expectant faces, young and old. I hope your expectations were met and I want to thank every one of the more than 4,000 participants!

The sudden passing of VTS-kodit Board member Peter Löfberg shocked us all. Furthermore, our Deputy Chair Jouni Markkanen was selected to the Tampere City Board, leaving a large gap in the dynamics of our activities. Huge thanks to Jouni for the fine cooperation and good luck with the challenging new post. The City has already named new members to replace the above-mentioned, and we will achieve full working capacity gradually during the autumn.

According to the City strategy, Tampere will become carbon neutral by 2030. Accordingly, all operators in the Tampere City Group have received shared carbon neutrality targets and a personalised roadmap. In addition to the roadmap towards low-carbon rental housing, the VTS-kodit environmental programme includes other environmental obligations. The extensive programme

was presented to the Board in the August meeting. I believe it will make it clear to all of us how we can contribute to achieving a cleaner future.

In the previous Asukasviesti issue, I reported that the Board was just about to visit the wooden apartment buildings under construction in Rautalepänkatu, Vuores. Outwardly, the houses look like traditional apartment buildings, but inside we could discern the difference between a wooden structure and one made out of concrete. Future residents will receive spectacular homes, as the quality of the work is truly top-notch.

VTS-kodit has been able to acquire excellent new plots where we will build comfortable and reasonably-priced housing. On this front, the future is secure. The foundation's modernisation and partial renovation programme has had some setbacks due to the pandemic, but I believe we can continue repairing our old properties at full speed by the end of the year.

Pekka Anttila
Chair of the Board



**LUCKILY,
WE WERE ABLE
TO ARRANGE
THE RESIDENT DAY
IN SÄRKÄNNIEMI"**



Sirkka Piironen (left) and Eila Nieminen have lived in Käräjätörmä for 50 years.



The gardening boxes offered a variety of treats: cucumber, tomato, basil, chard, oregano... The harvest was collected all through the summer and some was also preserved together.

HARVEST FROM THE HOME YARD



The railway workers' band Rautatieläisten soittokunta offered an impressive musical greeting at the opening.



Tuomas appointed the watering schedule for the first week, and residents eager to care for the shared garden were easy to find.



Käräjätörmä's intergenerational community village developer Riitta Birk improvised the Käräjätörmä song together with the residents.

OVER the summer, Käräjätörmä was home to two community gardens. One was located in the courtyard of VTS-kodit Käräjätörmä 6-8 and the other next door on the yard of the Kotipiritti residential care facility. All Käräjätörmä residents were able to care for the plants and collect harvest all summer long.

"First and foremost, the gardens act as meeting places for residents. It is fun to take care of plants together and get to know the neigh-

bours at the same time. People can also just come and check out what is happening without taking part in the gardening. The purpose is to create good community spirit on these yards," **Tuomas Ilander** spoke at the grand opening of the garden. He has taken care of the garden throughout the summer.

He represents the new Hiedanranta-based company Blokgarden that brought gardening boxes and plants to the yard at the start of

the summer and takes them away when autumn comes. The objective is to make urban gardening something easy and fun.

50 years of friendship

Every Wednesday, Tuomas would visit Käräjätörmä and instruct residents in plant care. An afternoon of events was organised in the garden once a month. The season en-

ded with a harvest feast.

VTS-kodit residents **Sirkka Piironen** and **Eila Nieminen**, who have lived in Käräjätörmä for 50 years, were delighted with the box garden that appeared on their yard.

"It is a wonderful thing to have such a fine garden here," Sirkka Piironen says admiringly.

Eila Nieminen takes Sirkka into her arms and says that their friendship has endured as long as the

buildings in Käräjätörmä.

"Sirkka has been my friend for as long as we have lived here."

Originally, both women moved to Käräjätörmä 6-8 with their families, but once she was alone, Eila Nieminen told VTS-kodit that she would like to have a smaller apartment in a building equipped with a lift.

"I did not want to leave Käräjätörmä because of the excellent neighbours here. I was then offered a

great apartment in the next house, number 4, when it was completed 30 years ago. That is some good service."

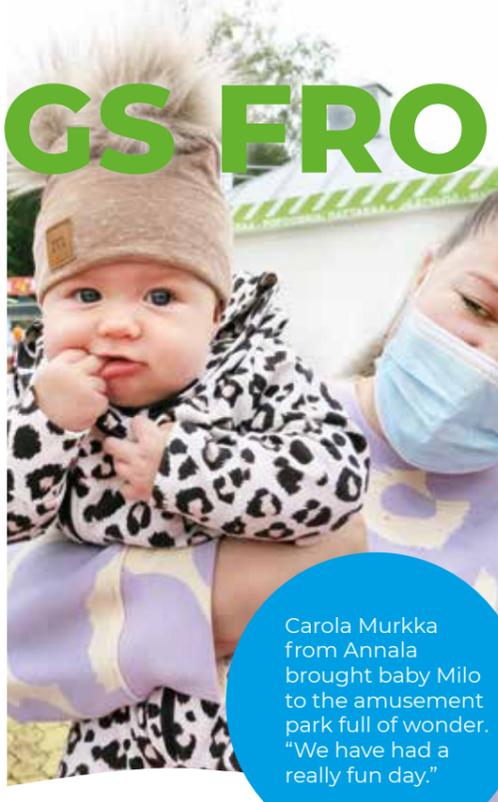
Käräjätörmä has great neighbour relationships across the various buildings.

"We know a lot of people here and have friends with whom we play bingo and Skip-Bo cards. This is a lovely and peaceful place to live," Eila and Sirkku praise.

GREETINGS FROM SÄRKÄNNIEMI!



Matilda from Niemenranta sat behind the wheel and the smile says it all.



Carola Murkka from Annala brought baby Milo to the amusement park full of wonder. "We have had a really fun day."



Kendrick shared the Särkänniemi day with his aunt Heidi who lives in Niemenranta.



Elias and Leevi, brothers from Tohloppi, and their friend Jere tested one ride after another; here they are on the Coffee Cups.



THE TRADITIONAL VTS-KODIT RESIDENT DAY IN SÄRKÄNNIEMI TOOK PLACE IN AUGUST IN A CHEERFUL ATMOSPHERE. MANY THANKS TO ALL PARTICIPANTS AND SEE YOU AGAIN NEXT YEAR!



Marjo and Aija from Linnainmaa were in Särkänniemi on grandma duty. "We have an entourage of four adults and four children here. It has been fun, although we have stayed clear of the rides. We have enough to do looking after the grandchildren," the women having a snack happily comment.

The Linnainmaa-based family had a successful day of amusement at Särkänniemi, as all children down to the youngest brother got to go on their favourite rides. Among the merry-making, Max and Minka also found time to feast on cotton candy.



Daniel and Nanna from Kalkku posed for a photo with the Doghill characters with Amanda in the middle who came to Särkänniemi together with her godmother who lives in Atala.



After a day at the amusement park, Sebila, Mariam, Zelim, Sofia and Arsan had time to pop into Doghill Fairytale Farm before returning home to Kaukajärvi. "We have had fun!"



WELCOME TO COMMUNITY COACHING!



WHEN PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT CULTURES LIVE UNDER THE SAME ROOF, EVERY RESIDENT CAN HAVE AN IMPACT ON PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE. THIS AUTUMN'S COMMUNITY COACHING PROVIDES FURTHER HELP.

ALL native Finns and immigrants living in VTS-kodit housing in Hervanta are welcome to join. The coaching is free of charge.

The community coaching is organised by the Kotoa Koollekutsujaksi – From Home to Host(ess) project. The KoKo project is active in multicultural neighbourhoods where people live close to each other but are often separated by different cultures.

KoKo helps Hervanta's residents strengthen discussions and a positive atmosphere of doing things together. This builds dialogue and networks between different language and culture groups.

"Participation does not require any superpowers, just ordinary skills of ordinary people. We hope to attract residents of different ages from different cultures. You can sign up by phone or email. I am happy to tell more and answer

any questions you may have," KoKo Project Coordinator **Antti Vanhala** promises.

Coffee, friends and discussion

The CABLE community coaching aims to find ways for residents to have an impact on their living environment – their own well-being and that of their community. The meetings involve discussion, coffee and simple exercises that each participant can also implement in their own home building.

"As an added bonus, you get to influence the development of your residential area together with the ever-growing group of Hervanta CABLE coaching participants. The group offers a number of potential friends with whom you can continue coming up with ideas and implementing them after

the coaching ends," Antti Vanhala explains.

The VTS-kodit group will meet five times

The coaching for VTS-kodit residents in Hervanta starts on Saturday 30 October at 12.30 pm in the common room at Opiskelijankatu 23.

The group will meet five times: Saturday 30 October 12.30–4 pm, Thursday 4 November 4.30–8 pm, Saturday 13 November 12.30–4 pm, Thursday 18 November 4.30–8 pm and Saturday 27 November 12.30–4 pm. Please sign up in advance.

The CABLE community coaching events for all Hervanta residents are organised until next summer. So if you are unable to join this VTS-kodit group, you can also join later. You can follow the project communications on Facebook and

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the project website or contact Antti Vanhala directly.

Events for residents and guests for tenant meetings

Over the autumn, the KoKo project will organise discussion events on housing and employment.

"The next *Asumisilta* evening event is held on 13 October 5–7 pm at the common room of Opiskelijankatu 23. We will discuss the diversity of residential norms and the different ways of living our everyday lives in a neighbourhood. Events focusing on emplo-

yment issues are coming up in October and November," Antti Vanhala explains.

Furthermore, meetings are arranged at VTS-kodit properties.

"KoKo project employees will visit the VTS-kodit tenant meetings in October and November discussing the residents' experiences. Tenant committees and individual residents can invite project employees to talk about communal living in Hervanta."

A shared project

The two-year KoKo project began last year with support from the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF). The project is coordinated by the diaconal work and social responsibility unit of the Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Parishes in Tampere.

The cooperation partners include VTS-kodit, the City of Tampere social and employment services and regional NGOs, such as Community Mediation Centre, Pirkanmaan somaliyhdistys, Yhdessä selviytymisen tuki YSTi ry and Lähi-Idän naisten yhdistys.

KoKo

Kotoa Koollekutsujaksi
From Home to Host(ess)

KOKO PROJECT:

- ▶ Active in multicultural neighbourhoods.
- ▶ Builds interaction and networks, creates communal activities and supports two-way integration.
- ▶ Strengthens the dialogue between residential communities, the third sector and employment, social work, property management and community mediation operators.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION:

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MAKING MONEY FOR A MOPED

THE summer jobs offered by VTS-kodit and Lännen Viherpalvelu once again employed a number of young VTS-kodit residents. This year, the summer jobs were intended for residents born in 2005 and 2006.

The young employees were divided into three groups that, for two weeks each, went around caring for the green areas at VTS-kodit properties. The work mainly involved weeding and pruning shrubs, but the first group also got to plant summer flowers.

Working around the city

The extremely hot interview day offered a sweatier task, eradicating the weeds growing under the rose bushes at Ollinojankatu 25.

"It's hard work weeding under this thorny bush," admits **Onni Viinikainen** from Peltolampi and takes a sip from a water bottle.

"I'd rather be working in a garage, but no such job was available

right now. But it's okay to do this for the money, I'm going to get a moped licence next summer."

Laura Kylliö, working beneath another rose bush, had a short trip to work at Ollinojankatu, since she also lives in Lielähti. The next day's worksite will be at some other VTS-kodit property.

"We received a job introduction at the Lännen office on our first day at work, and have since worked at different properties doing various outdoor jobs. Planting flowers was fun, unlike this weeding in the rose bushes," Laura Kylliö says.

However, an important goal kept work motivation high even during the weeding days: Laura intended to use the summer's earnings to buy a moped.

In addition to the pay, the young employees received valuable work experience. Two instructors worked alongside them, taking the groups from one property to the next and providing advice as required.

Valuable lessons learned

One thing that the summer employees learned through experience was that outdoor work needs to be done regardless of the weather. They now know to take enough water along on hot days and add the rain clothes to the backpack when required. The repetitious work could also become a little boring at times, providing a lesson on perseverance.

Even so, the two weeks went by fast, and the first pay in the bank account felt good. As an added bonus, the summer job could also mean new friends.

"This summer job period and the daily hours are suitably long, we work for two weeks from nine to three," Laura Kylliö explains.

Thank you for your hard and tidy work to all VTS-kodit summer employees!

Onni Viinikainen pruning the rose bushes at Ollinojankatu 25.



SMOKE ALARM WITH BONUS POINTS

Did you know that you can get a smoke alarm, fire blanket and foam fire extinguisher with your Pisteet kotiin bonus points? A smoke alarm or fire blanket is available for 100 points, while an extinguisher requires 1,000 points.

Check your point balance and place an order: www.vts.fi/asukkaalle/inenglish/



ENJOY AUTUMN SAFELY

THE darkening and rainy autumn nights invite us to cook delicious food and enjoy the comfortable candlelit atmosphere at home. You can enjoy your autumn without worries, just remember to keep an eye on the stove and candles – and ensure some small details related to the smoke alarm.

A cheap life saver

A smoke alarm is an extremely efficient and cheap life saver. The device quickly detects smoke and gives you time to put out a starting fire – or at least rescue yourself.

Every apartment must be equipped with a smoke alarm

by law, and the acquisition and maintenance of the device is the responsibility of the resident.

VTS-kodit is only responsible for the smoke alarm maintenance in buildings where the devices are integrated into the power network.

Please note that an apartment of 60 square metres or more must have at least two smoke alarms. A home with two floors must have a smoke alarm on each floor.

Only a functioning alarm can save you

The tenant must test the operation of the smoke alarm once a month and change its battery once a year.

If you have trouble remembering these tasks, set a monthly or yearly reminder on your phone or mark it in your wall calendar.

The smoke alarm performance deteriorates over the years. It may no longer detect smoke, even though the test sound still works. The device should therefore be replaced every 5 to 10 years. Newer devices should include a recommended replacement date in the bottom.

Take a discarded device to the electrical and electronic waste collection. Larger stores also provide collection points for small electrical devices.