

News and Update November 2022
Annual MVUT General Membership Meeting
Tuesday Nov 29 @ 7:00PM
MVUT OFFICE, 2 Gramatan Avenue – Suite 304

It's been a while since we've mailed to everyone, but it's not because of a lack of activity on our part. Things in fact have been quite busy on various fronts.

Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP)

Our **HPP** has been working overtime to keep people in their homes and out of the costly emergency shelter system. We continue to fight eviction cases and we are still processing loads of **Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)** applications. In the last few months we've stopped over 35 evictions; processed over 70 **ERAP** applications and worked with the City of Mt. Vernon processing potential recipients in the City's "**Level Up**" Program, whereby some lucky families will be receiving \$6,000.00 over a year to help them really stabilize their housing. This had a short window to propose potential recipients, who will ultimately be drawn via a lottery. **MVUT** assisted in processing 18 potential recipients.

Tenant Action Project (TAP)

This is our building organization campaign. For the last few years as a result of the pandemic, there had been very little building organizing as tenants, as most everyone, were reluctant to participate in meetings with others. This put a real stop in MVUT holding tenant building organizing meetings. Things are starting to open up a bit and we're beginning organizing campaigns or following up with already established tenant associations in the following buildings:

- 229 So. 7th Avenue - 150 So. Fifth Avenue - 138 So. Fifth Avenue - 21 West Sanford Blvd - 20 East Third St.
- The Plaza Buildings (40 E. Sidney Avenue, 30 Park Avenue, 33 North Third Avenue and 111 North Third Avenue)

Tenants' Rights Workshops

With the City of Mt. Vernon (both the **Department of Planning and** and the **Department of Buildings**) we'll be organizing **Tenants' Rights Workshops** in English on Thursday, November 17 at the Doles Center, and in Spanish on Sunday, November 20 after mass at St. Mary's Church on South Terrace Avenue (see two (2) sided flyer enclosed.) Mark your calendars now!

(over)

Statewide Right to Counsel (RTC)

A few of us will drive to Albany on Monday, November 21 for the "Statewide Kick-off" of the 2023 campaign to pass a "Right to Counsel" Bill (see enclosed flyer on reverse side of Annual Meeting Notice). If you'd like to join us, call MVUT (914) 699-1114

Furniture Sharehouse

During the pandemic, Furniture Sharehouse eliminated client visits to the Sharehouse so that tenants could not directly pick out their own furniture. They were able to view things remotely, but it was not the same as the actual shopping experience that so many of MVUT's members had become accustomed to. Great News!! Furniture Sharehouse has re-established direct personal client visits! Yeah!! MVUT has just recently brought three (3) separate clients to the Sharehouse and we're looking forward to bringing many more in the upcoming months. If you or someone you know needs good quality, gently used furniture, please call the MVUT office. While the furniture is free there a couple of costs involved. Interested parties have to pay MVUT a \$25 referral fee as we are charged that by the Furniture Sharehouse. We drive the client up to the Furniture Sharehouse at the Westchester County Airport where a Furniture Sharehouse volunteer assists the client in selecting the furniture. For the delivery of the furniture from the Sharehouse, there are three options:

If the client has their own truck or access to a truck, they would just bring it to the Sharehouse on the date of their visit. Most tenants do not have a truck, nor access to a truck. They would then have two options:

- 1.) Pay \$75 for "curbside delivery" at their home Or
- 2.) Pay \$150 for "Full Delivery" where the drivers from Furniture Sharehouse bring the furniture directly into the client's apartment

To get furniture from the Furniture Sharehouse you must go through a "member organization" such as MVUT. If you're interested call MVUT at (914) 699-1114

MVUT Annual Meeting

MVUT normally holds its Annual Meeting on the first Tuesday of October. However that date conflicted with the annual conference for the Neighborhood Preservation Program (NPP) which is MVUT's biggest funding source. Further, Dennis developed Covid-19 the first week of October and had been out of the office for a couple of weeks. Accordingly we'll be holding the Annual Meeting on Tuesday November 29 (see copy of flyer enclosed). Feel free to copy and encourage tenants in your building to attend. We're doing a lot for tenants, we will do even more!

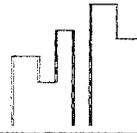
To help us to do even more, your financial contribution is essential. Please make a generous donation now!

Yes, I want to help MVUT BECOME EVEN STRONGER. Enclosed find my contribution of

_____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$200 _____ Other

Name: _____ Telephone _____

Address: _____ Email _____



TENANTS' RIGHTS WORKSHOP

When: Thursday November 17 6:00pm

Where: Doles Center 250 South 6th Ave.

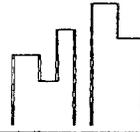
Mt. Vernon United Tenants (MVUT) is sponsoring two (2) workshops along with the City of Mt. Vernon Department of Planning and the Mt. Vernon Department of Buildings (DOB)

Come to the Workshop and find out about the State Rent Laws; about filing complaints with the City's Building Department; about forming a Tenants' Association; about rent withholding; about fighting discrimination; about applying for rent assistance; and more.

Representatives from Legal Services of the Hudson Valley (LSHV), Westchester Residential Opportunities (WRO), Catholic Charities (CC), and Hudson Valley Justice Center (HVJC) will also be attendance.

Call (914) 699-1114 for more information

(See over for Spanish)



TALLER DE LOS DERECHOS DE INQUILINOS

Cuando:

Sabado 20 de Noviembre a las 11:00am

**Donde: Iglesia de St. Mary – Our Lady of
Mt. Carmel, 23 South High St.**

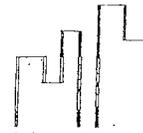
Inquilinos Unidos de Mount Vernon (MVUT) patrocinara dos talleres junto con el Departamento de Planificacion de la Ciudad de Mt. Vernon y el Departamento de Edificios de la Ciudad de Mt. Vernon (DOB).

Ven a Taller a informate de las Leyes de Rentas des Estado; sobre la presentacion de quejas con el Departamento de Edificios de la Ciudad; sobre la formacion de una Asociacion de Inquilinos; sobre la retencion de alquiler; sobre la lucha contra la discriminacion; sobre como aplicar para asistencia de renta; y mas.

Representantes de Legal Services of the Hudson Valley (LSHV), Westchester Residential Opportunities (WRO), Catholic Charities (CC), Y Hudson Valley Justice Center (HVJC). Tambien asistirán.

Llame al (914) 699-1114 para obtener mas informacion

(Volte para Ingles)



Mail: P. O. Box 2107 ~ Office: 2 Gramatan Avenue - Suite 304 ~ Mt. Vernon, N. Y. 10551
Phone (914) 699-1114 ~ Fax (914) 699-7449
Email: mvut@evos.com - Website: www.mvut.org

MVUT ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY November 29 @ 7:00pm

MVUT OFFICE

2 Gramatan Avenue, Suite 304

Normally our annual meeting is held on the first Tuesday of October. However that conflicted with the Annual conference of our largest funding source, The Neighborhood Preservation Coalition of New York State (NPC/NYS.) Further, Dennis suffered from Covid shortly thereafter and was out of the office for over a week.

At our annual meeting we will be electing three (3) members to our Board of Directors. MVUT has a nine (9) member Board and three (3) seats come up for election every year. Members serve a three (3) year term. All paid members of MVUT are eligible to vote.

If you are interested in serving on our Board give Dennis Hanratty, the Executive Director a call at (914) 699-1114, ext. 303

We will review lots of exciting news:

- Eviction Prevention successes
- Building Organizing News
- Updates on Policy Campaigns
- Plans for the upcoming years' Campaigns

____ Yes, I want to help MVUT win even more victories. I'm enclosing my contribution of \$20 for my basic annual membership. I want to do even more, enclosed is my contribution of:

_____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$200 _____ Other

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Refreshments served afterwards.

Please call 914) 699-1114 for further information

(see over)

SAVE THE DATE!

Monday, November 21st

**STATEWIDE RIGHT TO COUNSEL
TOWN HALL, MARCH & RALLY**

**12pm-2:30pm: Town Hall & Community Meal
at Westminster Presbyterian Church
(85 Chestnut St in Albany)**

2:30-3:30pm: March & Rally at Albany Civil Court

ALL POWER TO THE TENANTS! Join the Right to Counsel Coalition and our statewide partners to kick-off our 2023 campaign to pass and fully fund Statewide Right to Counsel legislation (A7570/S6678) in next year's state budget. Food, Spanish interpretation & transportation will be provided.

RSVP HERE:

bit.ly/TownHallNov21RSVP

