



PINEHURST TENANTS UNION

WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER



Activities Planning

On Thursday 15 May 2025, at 6:30p.m. Pinehurst Tenants Union will be meeting in Unit 6736 B to share ideas of events we would like to put on this year. Last year we organized a community clean-up, an ice-cream social and a neighborhood trick-or-treat.

There were other ideas suggested last year that we simply did not have a chance to pull off. We want to hear from everyone. Really take a few minutes and think about what might bring people out to interact with each other. Maximum participation is what we want, so activities that are suitable for adults and children.



Also consider ideas that could address needs people may have. Think about ways our community can help each other.

We look forward to hearing from you all Thursday 15 May. ■

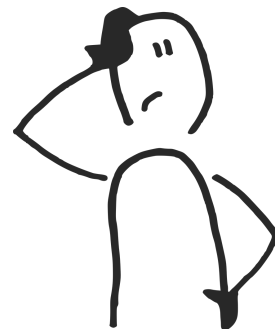
We Are Our Only Hope

We are going to get protective measures for renters passed in Kalamazoo.

To do this we need to collect approximately 5000 signatures of registered Kalamazoo voters. This will be an organizing effort beyond Pinehurst. We will be canvassing door to door and turning up at local festivals; and we still need dedicated volunteers. April is building a team and we still have spots open for folks that are dedicated to people power and renters rights. Contact the union via email or phone to get involved.

We will be gathering signatures in support of The Right To Organize: the right of tenants to form, join, or participate in tenant groups, and The Right To Renew with Good Cause Protections. These two local ordinances if passed, will provide protection for the the local unions and their members that are currently organizing and wish to in the future. The second will help folks stay in their homes with the right to renew their lease. These will be big steps forward in the struggle for renters rights. ■

I Can't Believe I Waited So Long



Talk about forming a Tenant Union at Pinehurst began in 2020. When several residents received bills for back rent they supposedly owed to the new owners. A few of us simply paid it others negotiated. What most of us learned was that...

- 1.The new management doesn't have a clue what they are doing.
- 2.They will exploit us for every penny even if they have to make sh*t up.
- 3.They will argue that their mistakes are actually your mistakes AND charge you for it.
- 4.Pinehurst is being bought and sold by investors only interested in maximizing their profits at the expense of every resident and our ability to enjoy our community.
- 5.If we want change we must organize and demand it.

I Can't Believe I Waited.. cont.

With all this knowledge now forced upon us, we had to face it and step up.

Afraid and with no experience organizing, some members simply hoped someone would start something. Continued conversations among tenants revealed the level of incompetency of those running our community and the financial swindling they are engaging in. The urgency of our collective need to act became very clear.

Finally, in 2024, three residents set out to deliver our first notice of our intent to organize. The PTU was born. A full one third of our community are already members, but we need everyone! Our full power potential can be realized when a collective 97 units can withhold tens of thousands of dollars in rent checks hostage until our demands are met. That is power. We only get it by organizing.

Once people join a union we often find ourselves feeling a great deal of relief. Suddenly we are not alone and we are not the only ones facing the issues we are. All at once you enter into a committed group with your self interest truly at heart; because it is directly tied to their own. And we think, "I can't believe I waited so long." ■

Sign-Up to Volunteer

Organizing our tenant union takes time and effort. Only a few members are currently deeply involved in planning, writing, collecting signatures, sending out emails etc. We need YOU!

We need everyone to make sure they have signed their union card online. Then we need you to get involved. Attend meetings and participate in community door knocking. Getting out an meeting our neighbors face to face is a lot of fun and fosters good relationships between residents. It also helps protect everyone involved. They can tell one person not to deliver Union newsletters, but if they were to tell the Union to stop it would be considered union busting and that is illegal. Also, addressing the Union would recognize and legitimize our organizations giving us some tentative power. They do not want us to even think about standing up for ourselves.... so let's do it anyway. ■



Punch Up

When you take a swing, be it physical or verbal, at minority and disenfranchised groups of people; you're not punching up, you're injuring adjacently. They have no power over your quality of life. But property owners do. Industry owners do. Billionaires and their boot-licking bought and paid for government officials do.

These are our enemies. These are the folks we ALL need to be angry at. That we ALL need to struggle against. The rich will only ever want to be richer. Hoarding unimaginable wealth while the masses starve and shiver is as dystopian as it gets and we're currently living in it; and accepting it as the only way. Let's not take this lying down. Let's fight back. Sign your union card today pinehursttenantsunion.org and talk to our neighbors to get them involved. We must all find our self-interest and understand how our well being is directly connected to those around us. ■