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EV GRIEVE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2012

Despite plea, landlord doubling rent on East Village family with cancer-stricken 2 year old

On Sept. 22, members of the community came together to organize a fundraiser called "[James Day](#)" in First Park in support of [James Panitz](#).

Shortly before his 2nd birthday this past spring, doctors diagnosed James with rhabdomyosarcoma, a form of cancer often found in children. He has been undergoing intensive chemo and radiation therapy, and while the results are encouraging, a long course of treatment remains ahead of him. The related medical expenses have been overwhelming for his family.

James' father Damian Panitz, a longtime East Village resident who is a teacher and technician at NYU, said that while the event was a success and raised funds to help with medical expenses, the family now faces a new challenge.

Damian and his wife Kate Perry **recently learned that their landlord, [Steve Croman](#) of Croman Realty/Croman 9300, is nearly doubling their rent on East First Street from \$2,100 to \$4,100 a month.**

"We absolutely cannot afford this price bump," Damian told me. "And to move in the middle of my son's treatment could be disastrous to his health."

BY THE WAY

Here, you'll find things that you may or may not be interested in about the East Village and other parts of New York City. Appreciating what's here while it's still here. Remembering what's no longer here. Wishing some things weren't here that are here.

NAMED BEST NEIGHBORHOOD BLOG IN THE FIRST ANNUAL VILLAGE VOICE WEB AWARDS



WE LOVE TIPS

Have a story idea or tip about something happening in the East Village? Or maybe a photo? Or several photos? Or video! We'd love to hear about it. Or see it. Or something. Please go [here](#) to submit a tip.

RECENT COMMENTS

Kurt commented on [Thanks To C Squat: Commodities Natural](#)



[Photo of James courtesy of Damian Panitz]

So, when paying the October rent in person at the Croman office on Broadway, Damian's wife Kate outlined the situation to a Croman rep, explaining that they needed one more year until James is healthier.

Per Damian:

She explained that we could not possibly sign a lease for \$4,100 but pleaded that if our rent were to raise would he be so nice to consider a 10 percent raise? His attitude was snarky. He said they are running a business and not a charity and he could possibly find something cheaper for us somewhere else.

She explained again that moving out in January could be detrimental to his condition, not to mention we work nearby and the ability to check on our son during our breaks is essential. He then said "so you want me to do you a favor?" She said no, **do a favor for a 2 year old boy with cancer.** It's just one more year.

Damian says they were planning on moving after Croman bought the building 18 months ago. However, James' illness has complicated any move.

Markets gave away all there perishables on Tuesday night and Rai Rai Ken gave...

Gogglä commented on [Thanks To C Squat](#): Thanks to C-Squat and everyone who helped out. This is what makes a neighborhood - you're...

Anonymous commented on [Landlord Serves Eviction Notice During: By the way, the reason they are gutting the other apartments and trying to get us out is that they...](#)

Anonymous commented on [More Scenes From Outside Key Food](#): I'm sure some of the food / vegetables was still good to eat, but people really shouldn't...

Anonymous commented on [More Scenes From Outside Key Food](#): I saw the same happen in front of Fine Fare on Ave C.

La Muzz commented on [East Village Restaurants That Are: Amici Pizza at 3rd Ave and E. 12th opened on Wed and Thurs via generator...](#)

Anonymous commented on [The Power Is On](#): Any word on the sky east building at 11th and ave c?

Anonymous commented on [A Quick Look At Avenue C And D This](#): The National Guard came with FEMA-supplied food. They were here all morning (November 2nd) at a...

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"We figured we would wait out the lease and go. However, since our son has been ill, it is suggested we keep him where he is until he hopefully regains his health."

The family hopes to continue to plead their case to Croman. As a backup, they'll try to quickly find another affordable apartment in the neighborhood, where Damian and Kate want to stay.

"My mother's family emigrated to St. Mark's Place in the early 1920s from Bratislava, Slovakia," Damian said. "My uncle has lived in the East Village for 45 years," he said. "And now I would like to raise my son here."



POSTED BY GRIEVE AT 7:00 AM

LABELS: JAMES PANITZ, STEVE CROMAN

54 COMMENTS:

Jack is back said...

Mind-boggling.

OCTOBER 9, 2012 7:50 AM

Anonymous said...

a lot confused how a landlord can legally raise the rent that much? can someone pls explain...doesnt make any legal sense. i thought market rate hit once an apt was \$2500? and if you make something like \$250K?

OCTOBER 9, 2012 8:18 AM

Hey19 said...

Croman is the worst, I almost rented w them, but got a bad feeling on my initial dealings. Of course, my current rent isnt great, they just sent me a lease renewal for 16%. I guess thats better than double, but I was still taken aback.

OCTOBER 9, 2012 8:58 AM

Anonymous said...

FACEBOOK BADGE

E.V. Grieve's Profile



facebook



Name:
E.V. Grieve

Email:
grieve98@gmail.com

Status:
None

Create Your Badge

68



NEITHER MORE NOR LESS (2006-2011)



SITES OF NOTE

- [Jeremiah's Vanishing New York](#)
- [The Grumbler](#)
- [Neither More Nor Less](#)
- [Nadie Se Conoce](#)
- [Flaming Pablum](#)
- [The Vanishing City](#)
- [Save the Lower East Side](#)

If all this shit is true then rocks should be thrown at this Croman guy. Sub human.

OCTOBER 9, 2012 9:27 AM

Anonymous said...

I unfortunately rent from Croman. Never again. They're the worst.

OCTOBER 9, 2012 9:47 AM

Anonymous said...

This is scary. Are we to assume this apartment is not rent stabilized? This might be a stretch given that NYU isn't known as the most giving organization, but they own those big apartment buildings for the faculty. The apartments are huge. Is it possible they might be able to make an exception and house this NYU employee and his family in one of the apartments for at least a year? It's worth asking. I am sure the NYU community would like to help one of their own.

OCTOBER 9, 2012 9:53 AM

Marty Wombachersaid...

When people ask why I'm moving out of the city after 19 years here, I think I'll show them this post. If there's any justice in this life, Steve Croman will burn in hell for what he's done to this town and especially to these people.

OCTOBER 9, 2012 10:03 AM

Dave on 7th said...

@ anon 8:18.

Clearly this apt. is already deregulated and market rate. The \$2500 rent deregulation applies to new leases once the legal rent surpasses that amount. The income limit can apply to existing rent regulated apts. However, once an apt becomes market rate a landlord can charge whatever they want. It can be less than \$2500 or as high as the market will bear. If in fact the apt in question is not market rate and the tenants do not make more than \$250,000, then Croman would not be able to raise the rent to \$4100. I suspect that is not the case.

OCTOBER 9, 2012 10:15 AM

Mosaic Man Trail
Runnin' Scared/Village Voice
EV Heave
New York Shitty
City Room
New York Observer/Real Estate
STUPEFACTION
BoweryBoogie
Nonetheless (former Esquared)
The East Village History Project
The Lo-Down
East Village Radio
The Gog Log
Tripping With Marty
Marty After Dark
Occupy East 4th Street
Escape Stuy Town
jdx
NoHo News
Steven Hirsch
Crustypunks
Off The Grid/GVSHIP
James Maher Photography
EV Transitions
NY Through the Lens
The Space at Tompkins
NearSay East Village
NYC the Blog
NabeWise
East Village Podcasts
The Bowery Boys
Twerking Hard in the East Village
Not for Tourists
Hotel Chelsea Blog
Ephemeral New York
NewYorkology
Save St. Brigid's
This Ain't the Summer of Love
Metroblogging NYC

 Pumpkin Patchesaid...

8:18, if an apartment is market (that is, not rent-subsidized, no matter what the actual rent) the landlord may legally increase the rent as much as he/she/it chooses.

But given the above, Croman the company and this particular representative of the company can go rot in hell as the pieces of shit they are.

632 Broadway

OCTOBER 9, 2012 10:19 AM

Quiet "Tude said...

The landlords aren't "running a business," per se: they're managing an investment portfolio. And just as different types of investments enjoy different risk/reward ratios, they also entail different sets of responsibilities.

When your investment is someone else's home, the risk/reward ratio is pretty sweet, but the responsibilities are unique and sometimes demanding. Landlords need to understand and appreciate this; and we all ought to see that more of these responsibilities are codified in law so that irresponsible landlords can't so easily wreak so much havoc on our families and neighborhoods.

OCTOBER 9, 2012 10:21 AM



Shawn Chittlesaid...

My god man, my heart is so heavy I can barely type this.

Please let me know what I can do. Anything!

OCTOBER 9, 2012 10:32 AM

Anonymous said...

If it's a stabilized apartment, they have a case, but if it was just a cheap market-rate apartment, per the NYC RGB "Owners of market-rate housing are allowed to raise rents to whatever rate they feel the market can bear."

OCTOBER 9, 2012 10:42 AM

Anonymous said...

[Bank the Nine](#)

[The Shadow](#)

[The Villager](#)

[Curbed](#)

[Eater](#)

[The Real Deal](#)

[Gothamist](#)

[Eugene Merinov Photography](#)

[Lost City](#)

[Forgotten New York](#)

[Blah Blog Blah](#)

[Daily Session](#)

[HUNTER-GATHERER](#)

[Greenwich Village Daily Photo](#)

[Fading Ad Blog](#)

[Kinetic Carnival \(Coney Island\)](#)

[Wonderful and Delicious](#)

[Blog About Town](#)

[NYC Taxi Photo](#)

[Queens Crap](#)

[East of Bowery](#)

[Scouting New York](#)

[Slavs of New York](#)

[Street Level](#)

[Nathan Kensinger Photography](#)

[Fine Blog](#)

[Slum Goddess](#)

[LITTLE STORIES AND MAYBE](#)

[POEMS FROM NOW AND THEN](#)

[Washington Square Park](#)

[Patell and Waterman's History of New York](#)

[Idealist in NYC](#)

[Daily Intel](#)

[Grub Street](#)

[With Leftovers](#)

[Melanie](#)

[Melanie 2](#)

[Food Bank For New York City](#)

[Gotham Lost and Found](#)

Quiet tude has it right..a lot of the new "landlords" are essentially investors who want to squeeze as much money as possible out of every building they buy.

While this takes despicable to a new level because a sick child is involved, this isn't an isolated case or even an uncommon one, and it's not just Croman.

I was surprised at all the publicity the three 7th street buildings got when leases were not renewed because unreasonable rent increases are the same thing and no one ever talks about them or puts up a fight, and they happen all the time. For new buyers who want to kick out "low-income" tenants in order to renovate the apartments and double the rent rolls and the value of the building, it's as easy as raising the rent by an insane amount that they know will force people to move. And tenants don't even have the right to complain because after all they did get an "offer". It happened to me..over 50% increase, and it's happening to a lot of people all over the neighborhood. Investors are specifically eyeing older walk-up buildings in trendy neighborhoods like LES and EV because there is a lot of potential for profit in renovations.

If your building is up for sale and you are a market rate tenant who pays under 2,500, you should probably start packing your bags.

OCTOBER 9, 2012 10:52 AM

Dave on 7th said...

@ anon 8:18

To clarify, when I said that \$2500 a month rent deregulation applies to new leases, I meant new tenants. If you are a stabilized tenant and your rent legally surpasses \$2500, the apt remains stabilized until you move out. At that time the apt would become deregulated.

OCTOBER 9, 2012 10:57 AM

Anonymous said...

I'm hopeful that Mr. Croman will let them stay on longer at just the 10% rent increase.

- [John Penley photo blog](#)
- [Roosevelt Islander](#)
- [Bowery Alliance of Neighbors](#)
- [East Village Eats](#)
- [Joonbug/Cultivated](#)

BLOG ARCHIVE

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 - ▼ [October\(289\)](#)
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 - [Sandy's approach](#)
 - [Fallen storefront on Avenue B and East Second Stre...](#)
 - [Reader report: Storm damage on Avenue A and East F...](#)
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 - [Late afternoon at the East River](#)
 - [Light pole down on the FDR](#)
 - [Sandy skyline](#)
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 - [Scenes from Ninth and C — and the East River](#)
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 - [Wind power](#)
 - [More downed limbs](#)
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 - [Zoltar remains a voice of reason during these Scar...](#)
 - [Reader report from Avenue A: Citibank ATMs out of ...](#)

OCTOBER 9, 2012 10:59 AM

Anonymous said...

My apartment is technically rent-stabilized, but there's a rider in the lease where the landlord agrees to rent the apartment for a lower rate than they can legally charge under rent-stabilization - which is 50% higher than what we pay. I wonder if this is what happened here? Regardless, this story is ridiculously sad. What a disgusting person. What happened to a little compassion, even in business?

OCTOBER 9, 2012 11:02 AM

dwg said...

I hope the the family is working with GOLES or Tenants and Neighbors to help fight this.

OCTOBER 9, 2012 11:16 AM

Anonymous said...

I am a landlord and this is obviously a terrible situation. Cancer and life threatening diseases are extremely sensitive and without any doubt the media and public demand the landlord to be reasonable. The problem is that isolating an individual case and blaming the landlord for a renter's unfortunate situation - financial hardship, divorce, death, health, is just opening a can of worms for dozens, if not hundreds of cases for large landlords who own many buildings and units. In this case I know for a fact that Croman bought a run down, well located building from a previous owner who never once renovated units. The \$2100 rent was a cheap rent on a large unit, that once fully renovated would command between \$3,000-4000. It is completely in the right of the landlord to take possession of unrenovated free-market apartments if the existing tenants arent willing to pay a large increase, which is preventing the new owner from capturing the buildings upside. People must understand that investor and buyers value properties on their upside of future rent growth. This does not involve "kicking out" old ladies and stabilized tenants. These are free market tenants that pay more than \$2,000 a month. Buildings arent traded like baseball cards. Buyers risk alot of money to make investments and run their companies. Me personally, would have

NYPD shoos away Hurricane Sandy photoseekers along...

Looking at the FDR at 1:29 p.m.

Shut?

Splash Zone poster art

Scenes from a Sandy morning walk in the East Villa...

First Avenue, 11 a.m., Oct. 29

Dog shit now piling up

[Updated] Here comes the East River

Bloomberg boombox

Early tree damage

7 a.m., Hurricane Sandy Day 1

Late-night fireworks

Safe ... for now

Meanwhile in Zone A...

You can always count on Ray's

At the Punk Rock Storm Evacuation Center

Con Ed shutting off some steam service

[Updated] Sandbags were going for \$4.99 today

Pre-Sandy scenes from this afternoon

Soccer practice in Zone A

[Updated] The line to checkout at Key Food at 3 p....

Meanwhile, in things that likely have nothing to d...

City shuts down Tompkins Square Park

Con Ed amassing the troops in Union Square

Pre-Sandy ops: Village East Cinema removes letters...

compassion for this poor child. Croman is notorious for having no sympathy, but to his defense he owns hundreds of buildings, thousands of units, and has lost touch with the concept of isolated situations if hes legally entitled to raising rents.

OCTOBER 9, 2012 11:20 AM

Lista86 said...

This is absolutely devastating. My heart literally breaks for this family. The last thing they need is to take on a landlord right now- which is an exhausting endeavor in itself. Have they talked to the people at GOLES? Wasim Lone is an angel. They also have connections with the local press. Perhaps holding a press conference in front of the landlord's office? Have they contacted any local publications? I'm SURE the neighborhood would rally behind them! What about the news channels? The Post? This sort of human interest story is SURE to garner attention! Perhaps if the landlord were bombarded by calls from reporters, they would be more willing to negotiate!

This family needs to know they're not alone! We are here to help- myself, and I'm sure so many others!!! Just let us know how!

OCTOBER 9, 2012 11:45 AM

 Pumpkin Patchsaid...

11:20AM, I appreciate your comment, but this sentence gave me pause:

"the problem is that isolating an individual case and blaming the landlord for a renter's unfortunate situation - financial hardship, divorce, death, health, is just opening a can of worms for dozens, if not hundreds of cases for large landlords who own many buildings and units."

This sentence does a pretty good job of justifying the amoral (which are actually immoral) actions of Croman (and their ilk). Croman has decided that the pursuit of \$24K over the next 12 months is more important than a child with cancer. That is the bottom line. It is disgusting and it is unsustainable.

Pre-Sandy spot grocery check

Bloomberg orders mandatory evacuation for Zone A

Tompkins Square Park closing at 5 p.m.; plus MTA s...

In case you were expecting that Fresh Direct order...

Scenes from Sandy Sunday morning

Steamed on Avenue A and East 10th Street

Accident on 9th Street and Avenue A this afternoon...

If you are looking to buy some candles...

If you don't like hurricanes, then move to...

It has begun...

Bomb Pop closing party tonight at Bullet Space

There will be bloodwrestling tonight...

[Updated] Stray cat on East Seventh Street needs a...

Today in the El Sol Brillante Jr. Garden

Come to the light and dark side

Arcane back open tonight

This weekend: Tompkins Square Halloween Punk Conce...

Last Unicorn tonight at the Pyramid

Why yes — you can buy a \$600,000 ticket to see the...

Kitty almost cornered

Whole Earth Bakery and Kitchen facing eviction aga...

OCTOBER 9, 2012 12:01 PM

Anonymous said...

You cannot even rent a Studio in the city currently for 2100. People seem to forget all the money they saved while they were paying under market rent for years. If this is a fairly large apartment if renovated it would command 4000+. People also seem to forget that these landlords have to PURCHASE these buildings in the first place and take the risk financially. It is a piece of property they own. Another large reason landlords have to charge the rates they do in this city is because a large percentage of Manhattan apartments are regulated by rent control with tenants paying between 500-1200 for apartments that would rent for well over what the tenant is currently paying. In order to compensate for potentially 40% of the building being rent control tenants have to ask the amounts they do on deregulated apartments. New graduates are essentially subsidizing the rent control tenants who have saved 100's of thousands over the years. That is why rent regulation laws are ludicrous and only interfere and distort the free market. Landlords also have to pay heating and you may have noticed oil is well over 90 a barrel, maintenance, supers, property management, accounting, insurance, PROPERTY TAXES that increase. Apartments would be considerably cheaper at this point without regulation for the majority of Manhattan renters.

OCTOBER 9, 2012 12:09 PM

blue glassd said...

anonymous 11:20am

"These are free market tenants that pay more than \$2,000 a month. Buildings arent traded like baseball cards. Buyers risk alot of money to make investments and run their companies" in fact buildings ARE traded like baseball cards and folks are facing astounding rent increases. while these actions might be legal, the life threatening consequences of residential displacement are a real issue. there are very few "affordable" apartments in the 5 boroughs as buildings are being sucked up by these "investors". food and shelter are necessities and should not be so easily traded at the expense of human lives.

OCTOBER 9, 2012 12:23 PM

Memorial grows for Christine Ebel outside Arcane o...

3 views of Tompkins Square Park from a \$5,900 apar...

Tompkins Square Park playground closed for repair ...

Art house

Today's sign of the apocalypse

Fists of FroYo

Fall Friday flashback: In the Associated water ais...

Batman returns

Reader report: iPhone snatching ends in chase, bra...

Reflection of the times

Eviction notice for Soho Billiards

A scene from the Union Square Citibank today

Today's sign of the TSP Ratstravaganza

EV Grieve Etc.: Mourning Edition

Suitor in line for Lucky Cheng's space

Noted

Fire at 518 E. Sixth St. last night

[Updated] RIP Christine Ebel, co-owner of Arcane a...

A strange encounter on an East 11th Street elevato...

Eric Drooker at MoRUS tonight

Looking at David Schwimmer's bricks

From the inbox: Developer says Arabella 101 85% le...

[Marty Wombachersaid...](#)

@Anonymous 12:09 PM: You forgot to address the fact that Steve Croman is DOUBLING the rent on a couple who have a child with CANCER. Are you a Vulcan or what's wrong with you?

OCTOBER 9, 2012 12:46 PM

Ken from Ken's Kitchen said...

@ Anonymous October 9, 2012 12:09 PM

Talk to the hand. Hearts are breaking for the Panitz family, not for you bloodsuckers in the real estate racket.

And you can go f*ck yourself for using this post on their ongoing troubles as an excuse to get on your anti-rent regulation soapbox. A subhuman POS you are.

OCTOBER 9, 2012 1:00 PM

Anonymous said...

"Anonymous said...

You cannot even rent a Studio in the city currently for 2100. People seem to forget all the money they saved while they were paying under market rent for years. "

Go fuck yourself. So before the EV became invaded by greedy sacks of shit such as yourself (I am assuming you are either a politician or a real estate developer), we were "saving" money by paying "undermarket" rents? Drop dead. \$4100 for a studio apartment anywhere in THE WORLD is completely unreasonable, no matter how much you've paved the streets with gold.

OCTOBER 9, 2012 1:10 PM

Anonymous said...

the fact that they said they would move out willingly and croman just bought the building probably indicates that its not a stabilized lease.

I'm guessing they knew the landlord before if it was a single guy and he didn't raise the rent.. Croman's style is renovating

[FDNY responds to Tompkins Square Park trash can fi...](#)

[Updated\] Report: Body found in East Seventh Street...](#)

[Looking at some old favorites along Second Avenue](#)

[Out and About in the East Village](#)

[Explanation for this splop on St. Mark's Place thi...](#)

[We'll always have Craigslist: 'Seeking third roomm...](#)

[Wylie Dufresne's rent on Second Avenue](#)

[New life for old deli on First Avenue](#)

[Busted](#)

[For whom the Spa Belles toll](#)

[Hot buns: Burger-burlesque concept on tap for the ...](#)

[Backhoe Beamer — explained!](#)

[Next for 255 E. Houston St.: Community facility/sc...](#)

[200 Avenue A back in play?](#)

[Reader requests: 'At least you...' WHAT?](#)

[Letter to a record store](#)

[Now why did I just go look inside the former Cedar...](#)

[More about Graffiti Me opening soon on East 10th S...](#)

[The 17th National Day of Protest to Stop Police Br...](#)

[Report: Cop pleads guilty to stealing guns from th...](#)

[More on the Tompkins Square Bagels bust](#)

apts... making small 2br look nice with stainless steel and w/d but small apartments.. they might be raising the rent too high just to get them out so they can renovate the apt

OCTOBER 9, 2012 1:28 PM

Dante Alighieri said...

Nice to see Steve Cromagnon or his Cromagnon Realty employee or Amanda Burden commenting at 12:09pm. Dante's 4th Circle of Hell awaits Steve and his realty company. Round 2 of the 9th Circle awaits Bloomberg, Burden, and the rest of his cronies for betraying NYC to dinero.

OCTOBER 9, 2012 1:29 PM



Spikesaid...

I love the idea that landlords wouldn't charge so much if it weren't for rent regulation laws.

OCTOBER 9, 2012 1:50 PM

Anonymous said...

@MartyW where do you draw the line in the sand? No one here argues that this case isn't sad or extremely unfortunate for the family. There are thousands of more tragic situations that landlords face on a daily basis. Its part of the business and not an easy one. But the problem here isnt the moral obligation of a landlord and someone like you to come here and judge someone else. Owning buildings has miles of red tape yet everyone's perception of "The Landlord" is the same - rich, greedy, selfish and in full control of decisions. Did you know most banks now approve rent increases now as part of the loan? Bank officers underwrite deals with a finite comb. They know which free market apts expire and have appraisers tell them what its worth. Partnership agreements with investors or private equity is twice as worse. Take these regulated mortgages and agreements in a City where taxes, water & sewer, electric and oil/gas are tripling in a 5-year span and combine with rent stabilization law and happily approve every below market paying free market tenant request? Its impossible unless you own the building outright, all cash, which is rare in the 21st century. This is the problem.

EV Grieve Etc.: Mourning Edition

And how was your morning?

21 E. First St. comes into view

City wants you to remove your bike — or at least w...

Backhoe Beamer joins ranks of classic neighborhood...

Checking in on the Standard East Village plywood g...

Union Market update: 'Inching ahead, day by day'

Gem Spa in 2001 and 2012: Your Face on a Sticker v...

EV Grieve Eatery Etc.: Angelina Cafe reopens tonig...

Everyone enjoys takeout near Tompkins Square Park

So long, Freaks

Week in Grievew

And how was your morning?

[Updated] Fire in the manhole on Third Avenue

Croissanteria now open on Avenue A

And now, a lot of photos of dogs in costumes...

Hats off...

Otto's Shrunken Head celebrates 10th anniversary t...

Last weekend for Gimme Gimme Records

East Village dipping alert

A busy Saturday in Tompkins Square Park today

A Tea Party that we like

Liberal socialist stabilized tenants who read EV dont care about this. That's fine and predictable. But its completely ignorant to the facts. Landlords are often asked to do favors for free market tenants daily since rents are rising dramatically. If they dont accept, then they are monsters. Easier said than done to sit and point fingers and be the judge. @ blue glassd, try moving to Cuba if you prefer socialism. The market creates this, not the landlords. If people from all the over the world didnt come here to pursue their dreams, live in arguably the best city on earth and pay for it, then we wouldnt be having this conversation. So clearly any beef you have should be taken to the Gov't, Bloomberg and Quinn. Rent Stabilization and low-income housing is a law that has been abused by thousands of protected tenants who sub-lease for large profits at the tax payers expense, use as weekend NYC apts, and false report income to remain qualified. Of course you dont want to discuss the evils of these laws you want to further extend.

God Bless the child, and unfortunately their landlord is the most insensitive of them all. They deserve a break, or atleast an accommodated move to an apt of equivalent rent that they can afford.

OCTOBER 9, 2012 1:50 PM

jose garcia said...

reposting this because we never got an answer last time. meanwhile if there's anything at all we can do to help this family please let us know. we are ourselves currently as broke as broke can be but if there's a cell phone bill or an electric bill or something like that we can pay on their behalf to make some annoyance go away for them please let us know. we are all neighbors here and this is how neighbors behave. xo, mr. + mr. jose garcia

1 COMMENT:

Anonymous said...

we went by this afternoon at around 4 but couldn't figure out where to make a donation. if anyone knows of a name and address where we might send a check we'd appreciate learning about it. thanks.

Reminders: CUTE DOG

ALERT in Tompkins Square Park ...

Everyone enjoys take out in Tompkins Square Park

Fall Fair for people 1 to 100 today

It was the night he came home...

Gusher

The season of the Witch?

Report: Blue Ribbon Fried Chicken frying soon on E...

Arrest made in connection with burglary at Tompkin...

A welcome for Wylie?

Report: East Side students may not be able to retu...

With Park views and built-in AC

When St. Brigid's dared to have a picnic

84 Third Avenue is rising ...

Mysterious, rolled-up thing delivered to Tompkins ...

Before Zoltar, there was Treasure Chest

Fall Friday flashback: Commenter comedy gold

Dreams never end

Wylie Dufresne bringing fancy cocktails for foodie...

Reader report: Mysterious late-night activity at t...

Tompkins Square Bagels robbed; suspect captured on...

Isn't there an app for that?

OCTOBER 9, 2012 1:55 PM

Anonymous said...

Croman is a heartless and greedy bastard.

Aside from that, I think Lista86 has the right idea. Let's help this family broadcast its situation, and hope that pressure will win out over this evil (Cro)man.

OCTOBER 9, 2012 2:00 PM

Anonymous said...

It's horrible that the rent is being doubles but business is business. I was unemployed for 2 years I never asked my landlord for help.

OCTOBER 9, 2012 2:01 PM

 Pumpkin Patchsaid...

"In order to compensate for potentially 40% of the building being rent control tenants have to ask the amounts they do on deregulated apartments."

The generally agreed rules of economics say that this is BS. Landlords charge higher rent to unstabilized renters because they can. The market sets the cost of these apartments, not the landlord's own cost. It's the same reason Apple has a 40% profit margin while other tech companies have smaller profit margins.

OCTOBER 9, 2012 2:12 PM

 Pumpkin Patchsaid...

"where do you draw the line in the sand? No one here argues that this case isn't sad or extremely unfortunate for the family"

We've established in the current case that the line is drawn somewhere on the other side of a child with cancer. Are there no greys in your world? Lines can't be drawn based on reasonable, rational decision making?

"Landlords are often asked to do favors for free market

Like The Virgins, practicing for the very first ti...

A plan to replace those floor-to-ceiling windows a...

Wash day at St. Brigid's yesterday

EV Grieve Eatery Etc.: New awning for HiFi; 'train...

Neighborhood Pumpkin Watch group reports first cas...

That's one small step for Beauty Bar...

16 photos from the EV Grieve archives for no reaso...

Out and About in the East Village

St. Mark's Church-in-the-Bowery to install first f...

Why yes — you can rent an apartment on East Fifth ...

Sweet Jesus

Gimme Gimme Records is closing after Sunday; 4th E...

Fall at the Surprise Garden on East 14th Street

A shot in time: First Avenue and East Ninth Street...

What do you think of the new carts at Key Food?

The Bowery 2008: waiting for Bond and Obama

The Standard East Village is sporting a lot of woo...

Meanwhile outside the Standard East Village plywoo...

Sleepers

Former Cafe Gigi is now a \$8,750 triplex apartment...

tenants daily since rents are rising dramatically."

Why are rents rising dramatically? Because of higher real estate taxes? Sure, a bit. But you know what the real reason is. Banks don't make you become highly leveraged so you can buy a building or a portfolio of buildings. Limited partners don't make you form PE Funds and crank up the LTV on these assets. This situation isn't created by landlords who have owned buildings for decades and are just trying to feed themselves.

If people treating each other with a little bit of decency is "socialist", I'll go down to Urban Outfitters tonight and buy a \$40 Che t-shirt.

/And I'm not even a "Liberal socialist stabilized tenant"

OCTOBER 9, 2012 2:28 PM

Ken from Ken's Kitchen said...

October 9, 2012 1:50 PM

Socialism, Cuba? Bullshit.

The reason people purchase houses in the suburbs and condos/co-ops in cities is so they are not subject to the vagaries of the real estate market/whims of landlords. Once upon a time, NYC decided that in order to keep a vibrant middle class in our mostly rental city some sort of rent regulation should be instituted. So that landlords couldn't do exactly what Cromagnon Realty is doing to the Panitz family and other predator landlords across the city are doing to thousands of other non regulated tenants on a regular basis.

What NYC once realized was that no average American family can possibly budget for their housing needs when landlords are able to impose 100% rent increases with a lease renewal. So NYC came up with rent regulation, a way to try to stabilize families/neighborhoods and guarantee landlords a fair income.

For the past 40 years, guys like you have been hammering

The former Mystery Lot
sinks ... and rises

And now, a lot of photos of St.
Brigid's

Two years later, Walid
Menswear has gone out of
bu...

Reader report: I Coppi team
opening new restaurant...

Pinisi Cafe & Bakery has closed
on East Fourth Str...

EV Grieve Eatery Etc.: AAA
Amici Pizza still open;...

Why couldn't Zoltar foretell
this development?

Week in Grievew

Reader report: Man arrested
for having dog on L tr...

Night and day on Ninth Street
and Avenue A

Here's is the Taylor Swift
section at Duane Reade'...

San Francisco Giants
celebration tree mended on
Se...

Watching Television this
morning

Next De-Flea Market tomorrow
at Bar 82

PUB CRAWL ALERT

A celebration of Donald Suggs'
life tomorrow night...

Continuum Coffee now open on
Avenue B

Immaculate Conception
Church flea market is on

Don't Panic: Free concert
tomorrow in Tompkins
Squ...

Red dawn, though at sunset

away at the rent protections that used to give average NY renters some sense of security because a fair income just wasn't enough for your ilk.

Nobody here wants to hear your shit. Please go away. Take it to Real Estate Weekly or wherever it is you vultures like to congregate.

OCTOBER 9, 2012 2:37 PM

Anonymous said...

@Ken from Ken's Kitchen - And I was a stabilized renter for almost 30 years who saved their money and then moved to the suburbs because I knew that Manhattan would not be an affordable place to stay for my retirement. The sad thing is that today's middle class doesn't have that opportunity. They're being shoved 3, 4, or 5 in an apartment, just so they can pay an affordable \$1000 or \$1500 a month rent EACH. What's going to happen to all of these people ? Are they all going to earn mid-6 or 7 figure incomes in order to comfortably afford a taxi ride and a steak in Manhattan ? It's unbelievable, and getting worse every day. I hope Occupy wasn't a flash in the pan, cause something has to give.

And as far as this situation is concerned, the landlord should simply grant a lease extension until the child is able to be moved to another place. That would be the humane thing to do, and you don't have to open a can of worms to do it... just do it !

OCTOBER 9, 2012 3:27 PM

Anonymous said...

- 1) \$2100 for an apartment in that area is really cheap.
- 2) A 95% rent hike is beyond exhorbitant
- 3) Considering the extenuating circumstances, Croman should at least allow room for negotiation - be it a 6 month lease extension (so the kid can at least move in spring/summer rather than winter) or a significantly lower increase in monthlies with the understanding that the family needs to pursue other options for next year...

[A Blues explosion](#)

[The Daily News goes all out in its coverage of a B...](#)

[EV Grieve Etc.: Mourning Edition](#)

[San Francisco Giants fans apparently damage East V...](#)

[Soft opening today for Hanjoo on St. Mark's Place](#)

[2 new floors in the works for East Second Street b...](#)

[A Daniel Craig moment outside the Theater For The ...](#)

[A glimpse into the Mystery Lot](#)

[\[Updated\] EV Grieve Eatery Etc.: AAA Amici Pizza l...](#)

[\[Updated\] An East Fifth Street view of the Standar...](#)

[Cool for kids: Schools unveiling the new rooftop g...](#)

[Exclusive first look inside the first Monimax 4000...](#)

[Fall Friday Flashback: Nuts? One plan to expand To...](#)

[A journey through the East Village and Lower East ...](#)

[East Side faculty returning to vacated school for ...](#)

[Did a Subway close on First Avenue?](#)

[And now the renovations really begin at 50-58 E. T...](#)

[Duane Park-Bowery Poetry Club mashup coming together...](#)

[Mourning lost bars; early morning at Downtown Beir...](#)

[Exclusive: The Bowery to receive its first Monimax...](#)

OCTOBER 9, 2012 3:36 PM

Marty Wombachersaid...

@Anonymous 1:50 PM: I draw the line in the sand at doubling a couples rent when their child has cancer and they're asking for help. Is that clear enough for you? And please, no more of your lectures and know-it-all bullshit about the "poor landlords" in this town, this post is about one couple asking for help, so unless you want to write about that, STFU.

OCTOBER 9, 2012 3:38 PM

Chris Crowley said...

I take it that you jerks sympathizing with and making excuses for the landlord are the kind of capitalists who haven't even read Adam Smith. Hey, asshole: we're talking about a child's life, which from one capitalist to another is worth more than any amount of money.

I hope that hell rains down upon Croman. And, yes, please post further information about how we can help. I can't do much, but I'll do what I can.

Do you people understand anything but money? You cannot measure the worth of this city in dollars alone. That is something your ilk cannot understand, and its why you have to be pushed out.

TAKE BACK THE CITY.

OCTOBER 9, 2012 4:43 PM

Anonymous said...

I am not hopeful about this situation after reading this article about Steve Croman that ran in the Village Voice in 2000:

<http://www.villagevoice.com/2000-05-09/news/there-goes-the-neighborhood/>

OCTOBER 9, 2012 4:45 PM



Shawn Chittlesaid...

This is what the entrance at 93 E. Seventh St. loo...

EV Grieve Etc.: Mourning Edition

Something new in the works for PS 64?; plus sidewa...

A memorial for Donald Suggs on Avenue A

Out and About in the East Village

How you can help the displaced students from East ...

When marching bands march: A Cavalcade of Pomp ton...

A Second Avenue and East 12th Street now and then

Azaleas moving around the corner to Second Avenue

[Updated] City approves East Village Historic Dist...

EV Grieve Etc. Mourning Edition

Despite plea, landlord doubling rent on East Villa...

RIP Donald Suggs

NLYU Yogurt has closed and everything — and we mea...

Reminders: East Village/Lower East Side Historic D...

GRAND OPENING WINE AND LIQUOR ALERT

Sushi in the works for former Polonia space

Men of steel top off 51 Astor Place

The Standard East Village debuts its new awning

Changes coming to Fourth Avenue and East 13th Stre...

Please send this to CNN, ABC News, NY1, New York Times, NY Post.

Do it. Now! C'mon!

OCTOBER 9, 2012 4:46 PM

Anonymous said...

I understand that doubling the rent in this circumstances appears Draconian, however, everyone has circumstances, albeit not a child with cancer, but certainly some unfavorable circumstance in the face of which a doubling of rent would be an undue financial burden.

I think that when someone rents an apartment that they know or should know if far under market rent, they should not be surprised when their landlord attempts to raise the rent within the law to market rent.

OCTOBER 9, 2012 4:57 PM

Anonymous said...

Landlords are the real terrorists!

Contact GOLES but do not contact the Cooper Square Committee. Cooper Square Housing is now working with Bob Perl of Tower Brokerage. Just as bad as Croman, Ben Shaoul or Icon Realty.

Please stay in the neighborhood. This is your neighborhood. There's got to be an affordable apartment around.

Peace and Love

OCTOBER 9, 2012 5:25 PM



Gogglasaid...

These people are only asking for a year with a 10% increase. They're not even asking for a reduction. Yet this landlord can't even give them that. Wow.

OCTOBER 9, 2012 5:28 PM

Anonymous said...

Happy Columbus Day

Week in Grievew

[Updated] Report: NYPD makes arrest in Tompkins Sq...

Today in lines for Octoberfest at Zum Schneider

Zoltar is the greatest thing to happen to St. Mark...

Open houses, gardens and cemeteries this weekend

Did you lose a cat?

It must be Love

On Fourth Avenue, the Forum is 'closed for renovat...

Trash talk

(Giant red) Pillow talk

Everything that you wanted to know about Halloween...

Looking at the Loews Village 7 marquee

This weekend: Harvest Arts Festival in the Gardens...

The Secret Garden, or a Private Garden?

Slide show ending in A Building

Places where I never watched a baseball game in 20...

Fall Friday flashback: Yesterday's First Avenue ma...

Red-tailed hawk making it easier for you

Today on East 10th Street and Avenue B

A quick Bowery retail inventory

Empty East 11th Street lot will yield to 8 stories...

If it is such a losing proposition to own a rental building in NYC, then why are private equity firms falling over themselves, partnering with developers, to buy up buildings in the EV?

The very same argument used against us lamenting the changes in our neighborhood can be gleefully turned back:

If owning a building with rent stabilized units is so bad, why don't you just sell and buy a different one?

OCTOBER 9, 2012 5:31 PM

Anonymous said...

I feel for the plights of the landlords. It's a tough city. Your hit from every direction and everyone has their hands out to collect. It's sick is the situation. I feel for the regular hard working family with 2 professional incomes. They can hardly make ends meet. It's not about Socialism, Communism or Capitalism. It's about things that should fall within reason. Rents, Taxes, General Bills and Salaries. The City of New York needs to put provisions into place that protect not just corporate laws but laws that protect and safeguard the well being of all it's people.

Banks as well as large real-estate firms as well companies that supply our foods need to be heavily regulated. We aren't dealing with objects we are dealing with humans. It baffles me that teachers make far less than lawyers, Doctors and most of all the useless banker or Wall Street trader. Yet when you walk around this great city the street are littered with these useless bankers, landlords and lawyers.

There was a time I could walk the street of the Lower East Side and eavesdrop on various conversations that were actually interesting. I could hear conversations regarding art, science, music and culture. I would hear various people discussing social injustices' and the kind of paint they thought would bring out an emotion in a painting.

Today if I walk the streets and tune in I hear a much different tune. Vacations in Vermont, my car, my shirt, my shoes, where I bought this or that... but most of all I find it rare that

Second floor returns to East Sixth Street church

4 views of the incoming 51 Astor Place

Marketing some prime-time Union Square space

Reminders: Free marijuana screenings tonight

This is what 12 Avenue A looked like on Sept. 30, ...

EV Grieve Eatery Etc.: Gruppo moving news; Maltida...

Noted

Death Star getting its shield!

Study: Bicyclists and pedestrians power local East...

Angel Memorial House for sale on Avenue B; condos ...

Here's what's coming to the former Life Cafe space...

Mystery Lot killer REVEALED; bland, glassy box in ...

DL team hoping to take over the The Porch on Avenu...

Out and About in the East Village

Rockit Scientist Records to become a bubble tea sh...

In six-year eviction fight, 'sushi defense' keeps ...

[Updated] In which we don't have any idea of what ...

Noted

Same old rat story in Tompkins Square Park

Mickey Leigh on his brother Joey Ramone's 'New Yor...

A few signs of fall

someone would talk about something other than themselves.

Maybe Steven Jobs saw it. The "i" generation.

One day I spoke with a person whom identified himself as the 1%. He used an analogy where Darwin's theory was where he was in his favor for him and his colleagues alike. He, of Indian decent said with an accent and I quote him. Man came from across the sea and killed all the Native Indians. Don't you just love what those men from across the sea have provided you? We [the 1 percenters] are here because we have the big guns and the rest are just Indians.

My response was, if I could sacrifice my life for them Indians I would gladly hand it over.

Folks, its not unique to any culture. It doesn't matter where you are from. What matters is playing the game fair and just.

Let's compare the current NYC real-estate industry and the banking industry simply. They deal with the lives of humans. Both industries are there to provide SECURITY. As we see in the case of the this family they are not holding their end of the bargain.

Somethings got to be done.

Call me crazy.

OCTOBER 9, 2012 5:35 PM

-CAS said...

I spoke with my sister who is an attorney in another state and her suggestion was to check with Legal Aid, but that the income cut-offs are pretty low. Alternatively she suggested contacting the NYC Bar Association for a free referral to a solo practitioner:

<http://www.nycbar.org/get-legal-help/legal-referral-service/practice-areas/landlordtenant-law>

OCTOBER 9, 2012 5:38 PM

Ken from Ken's Kitchen said...

[East 9th Street buildings will soon be taller than...](#)

[Perhaps 84 Third Ave. will have four extra floors?...](#)

[EV Grieve Eatery Etc.: Taureau owner bringing new ...](#)

[Report: Mendez office to crack down on crusties](#)

[Lease a \(soon to be former\) Duane Reade](#)

[TV show love outside Vazac's](#)

[First Avenue Pierogi & Deli is back open](#)

[First look at Lehane's Tavern on Seventh Street an...](#)

[EV Grieve Etc.: Mourning Edition](#)

[Schools making it work while repairs continue at 4...](#)

[Dollar Plus store opens below million-dollar condo...](#)

[Here are your East 10th Street Historic District s...](#)

[Remember The Frenchmen on First Avenue](#)

[\[Updated\] Mystery applicant \(for now\) taking over ...](#)

[But it is so tempting](#)

[EV Grieve Eatery Etc.: Entrez enters the East Vill...](#)

- ▶ [September \(270\)](#)
- ▶ [August \(286\)](#)
- ▶ [July \(292\)](#)
- ▶ [June \(279\)](#)
- ▶ [May \(316\)](#)
- ▶ [April \(237\)](#)
- ▶ [March \(283\)](#)
- ▶ [February \(261\)](#)

I would recommend contacting the Urban Justice Center. But sadly enough, there is probably nothing that an attorney can do -- Cromagnon Realty is doing nothing illegal. The state legislature of NY is in the process of ending rent regulation at the behest of a very financially and politically powerful real estate industry. Market rate tenants have no rights when it comes to rent renewal.

Probably the best thing to do is follow Shawn Chittle's advice and let Cromagnon Realty face the court of public opinion. This story needs to break out of the blogs and into trad media.

OCTOBER 9, 2012 6:30 PM

blue glass said...

all you folks that worry about the poor landlord have forgotten that aside from destabilization there are other ways landlords can be sure of a profit.

if a landlord is NOT making a profit on his building (s)he can open her/his books and show the loss and legally get an increase.

true this is not a great profit, but there does not have to be a loss.

and to charge that my sympathy with tenants makes me eligible to live in cuba, please, get a brain.

OCTOBER 9, 2012 6:33 PM

Anonymous said...

Apartments come and go. My best thoughts to James on a full and speedy recovery. And my best to his parents!

OCTOBER 9, 2012 8:02 PM

Anonymous said...

Those of you feeling for these poor East Village landlords need not feel for bad for them. My landlord, who is actually a great guy, owns a bunch of buildings in the neighborhood, and they are full of mostly rent stabilized tenants, and guess what? He's doing just great. In fact, he lives in one of the wealthiest suburbs just outside of the city, and his kids go to Ivy League schools.

OCTOBER 9, 2012 8:17 PM

▶ [January](#) (284)

▶ [2011](#) (3662)

▶ [2010](#) (3048)

▶ [2009](#) (2491)

▶ [2008](#) (1383)

▶ [2007](#) (8)

POPULAR POSTS



[\[Updated\] There is a woman who has been walking around the East Village topless](#)

3FW if you keep scrolling In the past two weeks, multiple readers have sent us emails asking if we had seen a woman walking around the ne...



[The East Village rolls out welcome wagon for new Starbucks](#)

Spotted on the plywood at the incoming Starbucks on First Avenue and East Third Street ... thanks to jdx for the photos...



[\[Updated\] We do not know what this is on St. Mark's Place](#)

Spotted by @thestarkonline on St. Mark's Place between First Avenue and Avenue A ... Uh... Good lord... And in the light of day... A ...



[Everyone loves a really bad meatball sandwich!](#)

EV Grieve reader MP sent this along from outside JoeDough today on First Avenue near St. Mark's ... Heh. And here's the Yelp review fro...

Anonymous said...

Would love a way to help this family out, if anyone knows a way to donate please post.

OCTOBER 9, 2012 9:06 PM

Anonymous said...

I don't think they need monetary donations. They have jobs. They need a cheaper place to live.

OCTOBER 10, 2012 1:22 PM

Anonymous said...

Ha ha, anonymous at 12:09 is an idiot, so if there were no rent regulation laws to protect tenants, landlords would magically charge you less, because you know them they are such nice guys they only want to feel their families. compassion less idiot! May Croman and Shaoul receive in triplicate what they have given to the world

OCTOBER 10, 2012 4:02 PM

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[Updated] [Here comes the East River](#)

East River Park just now...

Via EVG reader John...

...and Crazy Eddie... About 10:30 ... via @ARaeAshcraft ... And 11 a.m. ... v...



Despite plea, landlord

doubling rent on East

Village family with cancer

-stricken 2 year old

1 Sept. 22, members of the community came together to organize a fundraiser called "James Day" in First Park in support of James Panitz



[The Holiday Cocktail](#)

[Lounge is closing](#)

[Saturday night](#)

[Ben Rosenzweig/ Grub

Street] We feared the worst when 75 St. Mark's Place went on the market last fall . Aside from several apartments, ...



[On East Second Street, a](#)

[sink hole and an Icicle](#)

[Audi](#)

Thanks to RyanAvenueA for this shot... of a large hole in the middle of Second Street near Second Avenue... Come spring, we'll move the c...



[Updated] [d.b.a. owner Ray](#)

[Deter in critical condition](#)

[after bicycling accident](#)

The folks at d.b.a. asked us to share the following message about Ray Deter, who owns dba on First Avenue as well as the locations in Willia...



This was the line for McSorley's at 8:56 a.m., March 17, 2012

Hey, it's St. Patrick's Day. In case you didn't know already because your neighbors have recently discovered the Pogues. Anyway! Forgot to...

EV GRIEVE ELSEWHERE

[The Huffington Post](#)
[Gothamist](#)
[Gawker](#)
[Grub Street](#)
[Curbed](#)
[Eater](#)
[Racked](#)
[The Villager](#)
[The Real Deal](#)
[Columbia Spectator](#)

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[Stacie Joy](#)
[The Long-Lost Intern of EV Grieve](#)

HERE AND NOW



EV



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