

## **Historic Kenwood Welcome Basket**

“Hello, are you a new resident of Historic Kenwood?” That’s my opening line that new Kenwoodians hear as I present them with their Welcome Basket donated by the Historic Kenwood Neighborhood Association. It’s always nicer when I have the names of the new residents, provided by a requesting neighbor, but otherwise I just strike up a welcoming conversation to introduce them to the neighborhood and the Association.

Here’s how the process starts. Each month, our newsletter encourages our residents to welcome their new neighbors by arranging for a Welcome Basket to be delivered. Emails should be sent to me at [skrohr@gmail.com](mailto:skrohr@gmail.com) with the address and names of the recipients. The new residents are added to my list for delivery.

Usually on a Sunday afternoon, the baskets are delivered to each address with a knock on the door. As I wait for their response, I’m hoping that folks don’t think that I’m a solicitor. I introduce myself and present their basket to them; most give a surprised look and then a smile. If they have time, I inquire if they have met their neighbors, if they’re getting a newsletter delivered, and if they have any questions about our neighborhood or the Association. I ask them to join us at our General Meeting and our Porch Party coming up that month. Sometimes our conversations are short and sometimes much longer. If no one is home, I leave the basket with a note and my contact information.

The decorated Baskets consist of HKNA information and history, the City of St. Petersburg information, and an assortment of small gifts such as note cards, pens, highlighters, candy, HKNA key rings, and notepads. I try to include items that will be helpful and enjoyable to a new resident, and also to elicit a smile or chuckle. Starting out in 2010, I have delivered 190 Baskets to date. For more information about the Welcome Basket, please see our website [www.historickenwood.org](http://www.historickenwood.org); choose the HKNA tab, then Welcome Basket.

My great reward in delivering baskets is meeting our new neighbors, making new friends, and sharing with them what a wonderful neighborhood that they have moved into. A neighborhood that is full of interesting, involved, and fun people; working and playing together, making our Historic Kenwood the envy of St. Petersburg.

Susan Rohr