

I LIVE HERE

NICK AND TIM PLATANITIS-MCKEE, KENWOOD, ST. PETERSBURG



Times photo — BOB CROSLIN

Tim Platanitis-McKee and Nick Platanitis-McKee, who first rented and then bought in St. Petersburg's Kenwood neighborhood, pose for a photo with their piano and their dog, Jake.

■ **The couple fell in love with their 1937 Tudor bungalow in Kenwood after renting in the same block for three years.**

We came to Kenwood in February 1999. It was the first area in Florida that looked like "Anytown, USA" ... if it hadn't been for a few palms, you couldn't be certain you were in Florida.

My husband Tim and I moved south from Massachusetts early in 1997.

I am a semiretired singer, who is currently recording a CD for release for the holidays.

Tim is a technical consultant in the enterprise application services practice with Hewlett-Packard.

He had been commuting from Sarasota to downtown St. Petersburg, when he first discovered Kenwood, just after New

Year's 1999.

From February 1999 to June 2002, we had rented two houses on the same side of the same street ... and then bought the third one!

The house never even made it on the market. A neighbor-friend told us his dad was going to be moving.

We asked about stopping by, and there you have it. The house bought us.

It was only two doors down from where we first settled, and I swear, I never knew it was here all that time — truly meant to be, I guess.

We love our 1937 Tudor bungalow. Some of the neighbors know that I tend to cook for a crowd, and share. The first year in the house, we had a minimum of 15 friends, family and neighbors over for Sunday dinner, each and every week. There have been many gatherings of larger groups as well.

This place reminds me of how it used to be. I'm grateful to neigh-

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bors like Edna, Carol, Eric, Kim and Sean, and Nancy and Dave — everyone looks out for the others' property. Kenwood is a place that you want to keep making better, and there are some very dedicated members of the neighborhood association indeed.

Tim and I have found great respect here. Kenwood is proudly very diverse, and it opens its arms to everyone who wants to dig their heels in here. Kenwood is *home* ... and that word has never meant more than it does now.