



*We are so proud of our accomplishments of the last few years
under the leadership of your Board of Directors ...
Arlington Park Neighborhood Association Inc
Presents this Slice of Recent APNA History – October 2020*

**APNA) IS NOW AN OFFICIAL 501(C)(3),
AWARD-WINNING NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION!**

1. After a year of building community agreement and doing lots of preliminary paperwork, **APNA** accomplished a great achievement. We incorporated in January 2019 and received our 501(c)(3) designation from the IRS on March 14, 2019! The benefits of our 501(c)(3) include the following:
 - Ability to partner with other 501(c)(3) and government organizations.
 - Qualifying for multiple types of grants
 - Starting in 2021 being eligible to pursue Annual Giving Challenge
 - Tax-deductible benefits for our donors and our organization
 - 501 (c)(3) status is permanent, and provides a solid future foundation
2. **APNA** applied for the *Sarasota County Neighborhood Challenge Award* and out of hundreds of neighborhoods, **APNA was a top award winner** two years in a row!

FUNDRAISING AND IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

3. **Partnering with other non-profit and citizen-led organizations, APNA** co-sponsored the [Helpful Hopeful Housing Summit \(now on You tube\)](#) with 18 local and 2 national speakers where we raised awareness about housing choices, including accessory dwelling units. All board members contributed days of effort, wonderful original artwork, and **raised over \$700** for the APNA treasury.
4. **APNA** held a **successful fundraiser** featuring award-winning performer and singer-songwriter Faerie Elaine Silver in a House Concert.
5. **APNA's** Board of Directors applied for and our neighborhood was awarded city grants that allowed us to buy **multiple Welcome to Arlington Park Signs, Community Bulletin Board, recycled materials Bicycle Rack and Picnic Table for the Park, and a stand-up Welcome Sign.** Our board members committed matching funds for the grant via work hours donated and completed.
6. **APNA's** Board of Directors worked with the City Parks Department to have **State of the Art New Exercise Equipment** installed in the park.
7. **APNA's excellent program committee** installed several **Butterfly and Bee Pollinator Gardens** throughout the neighborhood.
8. **APNA obtained Signage and created a Mini Park Landscaping Plan** and was successful in encouraging the City remove a huge invasive tree on School Avenue at the corner of Waldemere Street.

IMPROVING OUR ENVIRONMENT

9. **APNA's** Board of Directors continues our multi-year effort of correspondence, meetings and appearances in guarding Arlington Park from toxic pesticides with the City of Sarasota Parks Dept. and Sarasota County's Transportation and Drainage Departments. Members of the Holistic Community, and The Peace and Justice Foundation (WSLR-FM) joined us in an article in [Critical Times](#) to continue the fight to keep Glyphosate and other toxic chemicals out of our public spaces.
10. **APNA's** Board of Directors coordinated with the City and Sunshine Community Compost to create a **community composting site** in Arlington Park, open to all residents.
11. **By sharing information about educational resources** of Sarasota County IFAS and organic gardening and various sustainable businesses, we continue to encourage native and edible landscaping.

OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION

12. **For many years, our Board has planned and conducted regular in person Monthly Meetings (except in summer and December)** at the Firehouse. **Beginning in March 2020, meetings moved to weekly and then back to monthly Zoom meetings.** With Zoom, our efforts were first related to accomplishing a revised strategic plan and there were fewer than normal invited speakers of interest. We met throughout the summer of 2020; another important purpose of the weekly meetings was that everyone would have a place to check in for a social connection.
13. **For the past several years, APNA's** Board of Directors and Volunteers have led delightful December **Holiday Parties on the first Saturday of Dece** with food, live music and crafts.
14. **Created new branding**, <https://www.APNAsrq.com> new email APNAsrq@gmail.com and a word-cloud logo to use in addition to our previous logo.
15. **Created our new colorful website** with pictures and resources for members of APNA at APNAsrq.org
16. **Welcome letters are delivered** to all new property owners by our Communications Chair, now a standing Board member.
17. **Publish an e-Newsletter through Constant Contact about APNA and City Issues** that is emailed every month to notify all of our upcoming meetings.
18. To engage neighbors in our association, **APNA mailed information postcards to every address** over many years. This year we'll be distributing door hanger holiday greetings and including important APNA info.
19. Working closely with City staff, **APNA created the Putting Arlington Park Neighborhood on the Map Project**, in 2017, then revised it in 2019. Each time, we hand delivered this most important neighborhood information to our residents and business offices.

PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE

20. **On various issues, from the transportation plan to accessory dwelling units and City planning processes, we write letters, pass resolutions, meet with and appear before City-Commissioners, Planning Board and City staff Planners** to discuss the needs of Arlington Park Neighborhood. Some of the issues have included: the noise at the Cabana Inn, no high density adjacent to single family residential uses, keeping School Avenue in the hands of the public, creating safe walkways inside and outside of our neighborhood, upgrading and repairing our road and sidewalk infrastructure and commenting on rezoning application permits.
21. **Board Members participate in the Coalition of City Neighborhood Associations (CCNA)** monthly meetings and in leadership roles with CCNA to represent APNA and learn and engage with other neighborhoods, city leaders and staff. Through our CCNA efforts, we were instrumental in revising The Bay contract with the City, in evaluating all of the Leases in the City, and in keeping Lido Beach as a public space, open to all.

WHAT'S NEXT for 2021?

22. **Continue to seek new ways to engage more members of Arlington Park to participate in APNA** in addition to maintaining our monthly emails, direct new property owner mailings, newsletters, parties, fundraisers, website, constant contact, postcards, community bulletin board and yard signs.
23. **Engage our new Board of Directors to create a powerful strategic plan for APNA Inc. for 2021 and beyond.**
24. Utilizing our 2020-2021 City grant, develop our **new education based website at APNAsrq.org** that will allow on-line classes by our residents and other community supportive activities.
25. Revisit School Avenue landscaping circle and the corner of School Avenue and Waldemere Street to see if we can have the non-potable water lines extended and can then **improve and regularly maintain those public spaces.**
26. Create **dynamite on-going educational and other fundraising opportunities** that will build community and further our neighborhood's goals.
27. Continue to work to **obtain City participation to create a neighborhood plan** that will ensure the long term goals of our community are met and to urge the City to increase community participation in Zoning Text Amendments and in any development applications.