

Pinewood Cemetery Pioneer Day 2026

Planning Information as of 15 Jan 2026

General:

Pinewood Cemetery Advisory Board member Lorrie Martin was designated at the October Board meeting to coordinate plans for the upcoming Pioneer Day. Lorrie met with Board Liaison Kara Kautz Moss on 28 Oct 2025 and reviewed past event details, along with potential future dates, speakers, and details. At the last Board meeting, our guidance was that the last Gables Centennial events would be held in late Spring 2026, however, the final events for the Centennial year were before year-end 2025. The upcoming Pioneer Day will therefore not be held within the official “Centennial Year” celebration period.

Date & Time:

Dates were discussed that would not conflict with other known and related events. (Note: Staff overtime is the same for Saturday or Sunday regarding time for setup/teardown, but Saturdays were typically scheduled in past years.) Following are upcoming dates for consideration and discussion:

16-Jan SCHOOL / TEACHER WORKDAY (no cleanup scheduled by KCGB)

20-Jan Pinewood Advisory Board Meeting

8-Feb Superbowl ... Feb 14-15 is President’s Day Weekend

21-Feb POSSIBLE DATE*

28-Feb POSSIBLE DATE

7-Mar GSGM, DAR Conflicts

14-Mar Pioneers Conflict

21-Mar Miami-Dade schools Spring Break 21-28 March

3-Apr Teacher Workday – Next potential cleanup day is Good Friday

4-Apr GSGM Conflict (+ Easter is April 5th)

11-Apr Pioneers Conflict

18-Apr open, but warmer

25-Apr open, but warmer

Consider a rain/backup date

24-Apr Garden Club event mentioned - Friday?

**Lorrie has a personal conflict, also only ~30 days from Board meeting.*

Event Setup:

As in past years, the City departments handle the setup of tables, podium, food, and a/v. A tent has not been used (rain or shine), as it is difficult to get a tent set up in the clearing [circle].

Event Program – Topic, Speaker, Theme, etc.

- Potential speakers were discussed, incl. Les Standiford, author of “Coral Gables: From Bankruptcy to Beauty” (contributors incl. past Comms. Chip Withers and Bill Kerdyk)
- Other local speakers/historians include Ronnie Hurwitz, who gives tours and speaks about Miami City Cemetery.
- There are descendants of the Larkins family still living in the area. If not to speak, they could be recognized at the event.
- Tours can be given by Board members and/or they can each be assigned a station. Visitors can stop by each station to hear about nearby “residents”. A short list can be developed of historically significant residents, and those with interesting stories.

Speaker selection could be dependent upon scheduled date (speaker availability), and Theme could also drive speaker selection. Potential topic: “Before the Founding” [of Coral Gables]

Community Partnerships:

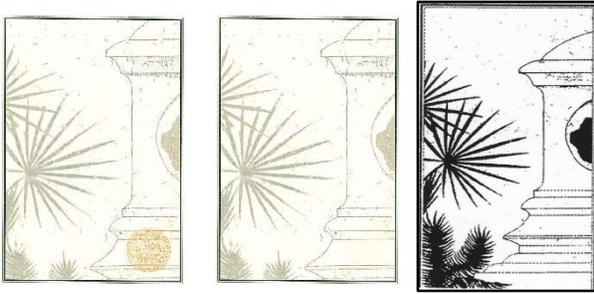
Tables can be made available to local organizations that are related to the Cemetery in various ways, which can also help boost attendance and interest. Target organizations include:

- DAR/SAR/CAR
- Genealogical Society of Greater Miami (also has Pinewood books in inventory)
- Pioneers & Natives of Dade
- Garden Clubs of Coral Gables & South Miami
- Scouts (could have a table, or could help ‘host’)
- Villagers
- Keep Coral Gables Beautiful?
- Fairchild?
- Audubon Society?
- Other? (for discussion)

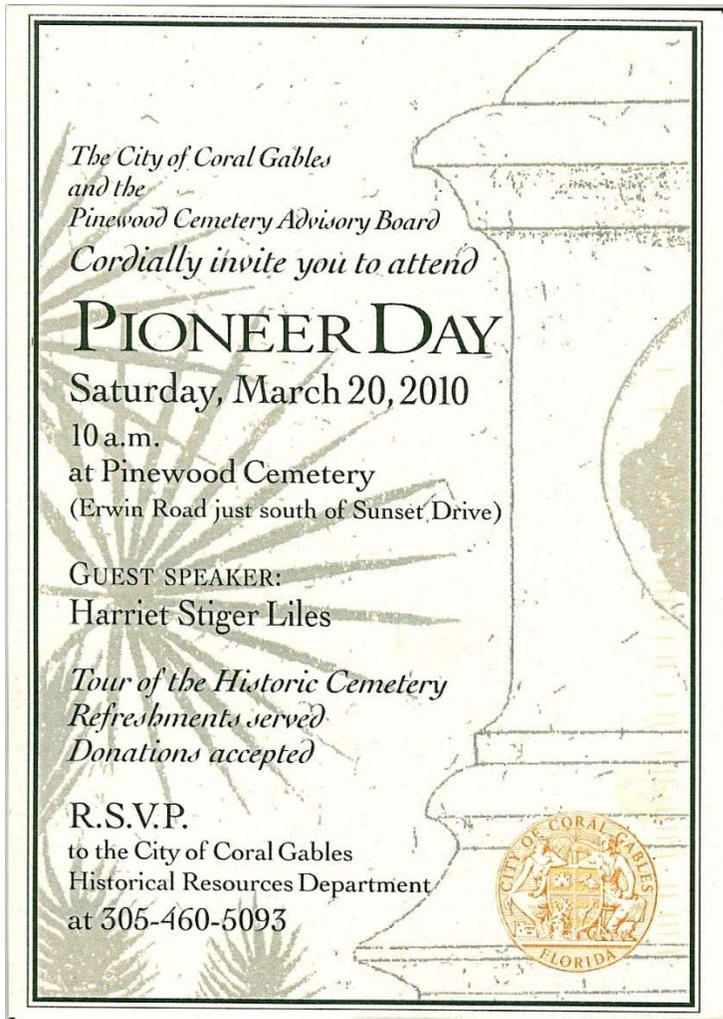
Invitations, Programs, and Collateral:

- Invitations should be sent out to Commissioners, other dignitaries, and other City Staff as per custom. The City has a mailing list, but it may need to be updated. Other local organizations should also be notified and invited, in addition to those being offered tables. Social media, marketing, etc., per City custom.
- Programs for the day-of event can follow prior year formats (see attached example)
- Maps to be made available, perhaps highlighting several residents of the cemetery (can tie to the programming).
- Some records from the Archives or Pinewood historical documents could be enlarged and displayed at the event, esp. related to founders and residents of Coral Gables.

Logo/representative image(s) that can be used for future events and marketing:



Prior Event flyer, for reference and example:



Respectfully submitted,

Lorrie Martin