



Pinckney Retreat Lowdown

www.PinckneyRetreat.org

March/April 2025

From the Board

The Pinckney Retreat Community Association Annual Meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 20th, 7pm** at the Port Royal Town Hall, 700 Paris Avenue. We hope all of you will be able to attend! You should have received an email packet from Coastal Resort Association Management (formerly Operation Seaside) with meeting information. Since we had no other nominations for the Board openings, and we don't accept nominations from the floor, Dick Ruggiero and Doc Wyatt will be automatically re-elected to another three year term. We do still need everyone to complete the proxy included in your packet to be sure we have a quorum so that our Annual Meeting is official according to the PR Covenants. Please complete the proxy and return it to CRA Mgmt or give it to a Board Member by 3/19, even if you plan to attend so we have it if something comes up to prevent you from being there.

We have lots of construction going on in the neighborhood. If you see anything of concern with contractors damaging property, etc., please contact the ACC at PinckneyRetreatACC@gmail.com. We do need to know if damage occurs so don't assume that someone else reported it. But we do remind you to NOT approach the contractors or builders yourself with issues.

The sprinkler system has been turned back on for the season so if you notice broken sprinkler heads on your walk around the neighborhood, please take a picture, *identify the location* and send an email to the Board at PinckneyRetreatBoard@gmail.com. Doc has flags available for you to mark the area that needs repair. Any other general neighborhood issues can also be reported the Board email. It takes a village to keep Pinckney Retreat up and running! Thanks to you all!

Dan's Project Calendar

March 24: Power Washing the Pier and Dock

March 25: Staining the Pier and Dock

Weather permitting

Contact Dan for more information @571-201-4091

After Five Book Club

March 12th: The House on Fripp Island by Rebecca Kauffman (Suzi Darnes hosting)

April 9th: Theo of Golden by Allen Levi (Marion Williams hosting)

6:30-7:00 pm Social Time

7:00 pm Book Discussion



The meetings will be held at the Retreat House.

Retreat House Landscaping



Betsy has scheduled **March 22nd from 10am until Noon** for some springtime replanting and cleanup around the Retreat House. Bring your gloves and garden tools!



Pinck Ladies go Green!

Mark your calendars for the evening of March 27th! Join us for a SALAD BAR and if you're LUCKY you may win the POT of GOLD with a game of Left, Right and Center!



Watch for an email with more details to come. All ladies of Pinckney Retreat are welcome. The more the merrier!

Retreat House Projects

Two dormer windows in the Primary Bedroom of the Retreat House were repaired. There are two additional sets of windows that need repairs and Dick is getting quotes for those. Overall the house is in good shape, considering her advanced years! There is one area of the roof that had been repaired for a leak that will need to be replaced in the near future. Dick Ruggiero has done a wonderful job of keeping up with all of the projects!



Did you know...

that 50% of teachers who enter the profession are gone after five years? That's according to Beaufort County School Superintendent Dr. Frank Rodriguez. At a recent Beaufort County Senior Leadership Education Day class he gave quite a few interesting statistics and comments. (Quite a few Pinckney residents have completed this program or are currently involved in it! For a list of names, ask Cheryl Gaillard.) Dr. Rodriguez said that the two most common reasons for leaving are compensation and student behavior. He said that when he began teaching 30 years ago, his starting salary was \$30,000. When he arrived in 2019, the starting salary for teachers in Beaufort County was only \$37,000. Under his leadership, the district's FY2023 budget was unanimously approved, raising the starting teacher salary to \$50,066 and propelling the district from 53rd to 1st in teacher compensation in the state at that time. He also said that when issues with a child's behavior are raised with parents that too often it is turned back to the teacher on what she is doing wrong rather than focusing on improving the child's behavior.

Dr. Rodriguez was asked how the current discussion about dismantling the Department of Education would affect our schools. He said that too little is known but that it could affect certain grants funding with Title I schools and Special Ed programs. He iterated that almost all of BC schools funding is local with state funding filling up the rest of the budget.. Oddly, he noted that state funding is based on the wealth of the county, with the wealthiest getting the least funding. While Beaufort County is among the wealthiest in SC and getting the least amount of funding, 58.6% of Beaufort County students live below the poverty level.

Dr. Rodriguez was recently named the 2025 South Carolina Superintendent of the year, so I think we have a good leader at the helm of our schools going forward. ~CG

Beaufort Memorial Hospital...

is conducting a 100% confidential community health needs assessment. The purpose of the survey is to better understand the health of the community and to help the hospital develop programs to address identified health needs. Please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BMHCHNA2025> to begin.

We are hoping to have Russell Baxley, President and CEO of BMH speak at one of upcoming meetings!



**PINCKNEY
RETREAT
COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION**

www.PinckneyRetreat.org

Association Manager

Coastal Resort Association Management
1551 Sea Island Parkway
St. Helena, SC 29920

CoastalOperations@CRAManagement.com

Abby Thurber
Association Manager
Office 843.329.7411
Abby@CRAManagement.com

Accounting Questions
843.329.7409
Accounting@CRAManagement.com

Architectural Control Committee

PinckneyRetreatACC@gmail.com

Board of Directors

Mark "Doc" Wyatt, President
Cheryl Gaillard, Secretary
Betsy Pavlovski, Director
Richard "Dick" Ruggiero, Director
Dan Whitaker, Director

PinckneyRetreatBoard@gmail.com

Cheryl Gaillard, Newsletter Editor
PinckneyRetreatLowdown@gmail.com

New Residents Portal

CRA Management is still working on the conversion of their systems following their merger. The current plan is to have a demo of the new resident portal at the Annual Meeting and the next day have it available for resident use so stay tuned for more information!



March/April Recycle Days...

3/4, 3/18, 4/8, 4/22