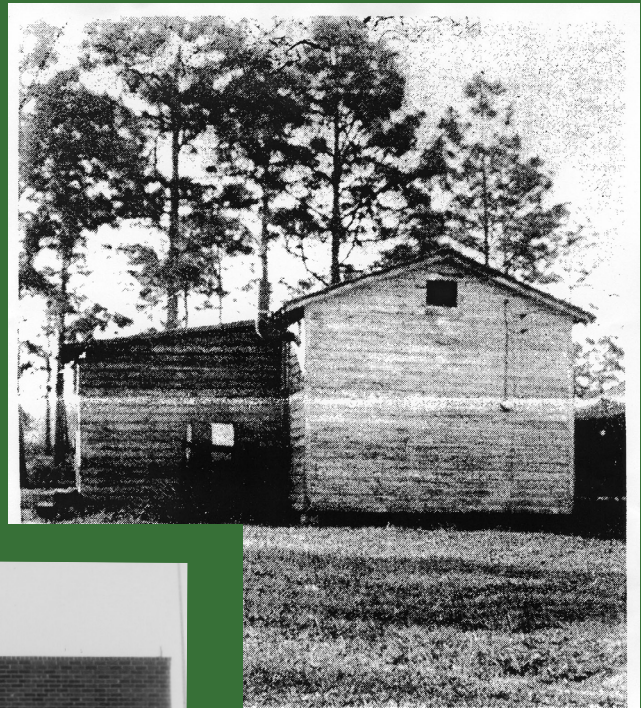


1961



Now



1974



Celebrating Our Future

*City of Goose Creek 50th Anniversary
1961-2011*

City of Goose Creek - Fifty Year Anniversary

Celebrating Our Future

The Otranto, Mount Holly and Strawberry Railway Depots connected five miles of track through the eastern section of the St. James, Goose Creek Parish where the City of Goose Creek incorporated in 1961. Each railroad station featured a few European-American homes and businesses that together composed the political core of the southern part of Berkeley County during the first half of the twentieth century. Beyond the rail stops, hundreds of African-Americans nestled near white-washed churches in separate neighborhoods. The African-American families, the rail stop clans, hunting clubs and a few timber companies defined several loosely connected areas that collectively composed the, “Mount Holly Census District.” Mount Holly was the best defined community in the eastern parish for many decades but when automobiles and highways replaced passenger train services near mid-century, a tiny concentration of residences and businesses at the intersection of State Highways 52 and 176 became the center of the new municipality. After chartering in 1961, the little town persistently absorbed the surrounding neighborhoods into its expanding residential and commercial subdivisions until the municipal boundaries framed one of the most populated Cities in South Carolina. Half a century later, the people of Goose Creek recall their accomplishments, recognize their collective potential and celebrate the fifty year anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Goose Creek.



Figures 1 and 2: *The two photographs show striking contrasts. The left image shows the wooden Goose Creek Bridge crossing the Goose Creek waterway, in 1904. State Road commenced its state-wide route at the bridge long before the use of automobiles. The Atlantic Southern Railroad track departing Otranto Station is barely visible in the back ground. The right image shows the Goose Creek Bridge in 2011. The N.A.D. (Naval Ammunition Depot) Road constructed during the middle decades of the twentieth century traverses Goose Creek where the wooden bridge once conveyed carriages. The left image is among the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston, South Carolina. The other image is among the collections of the author.*

The Middle Decades - 1940-1960

James Rozier and his bride, Agnes Jaudon opened the Rozier General Store in Strawberry in 1939. The sparse European-American communities in the eastern section of the old St. James, Goose Creek Parish did not support a school and the few white children commuted to academies in Moncks Corner or Charleston, while the African-American scholars attended one or two-room public schools locally. Most white families attended Groomsville Baptist or nearby Smyrna Methodist Church, while black families packed Casey United Methodist, Mount Zion, Mount Carmel, St. Paul's and other houses of prayer.

During the middle decades (1940-1960), families in the eastern parish formed quasi-institutions, such as the Mount Holly Home Demonstration Club. Women members participated in domestic crafts and mothers taught daughters food preservation techniques and recipes. The associates also attended club meetings to hear the latest news arriving twice daily with the trains¹. The train passengers transmitted information to the general stores and the hearsay broadcasted from there to the social circles. The first radio in the parish tuned-in at the mercantile in Mount Holly in 1938. Television debuted twenty years later when "the entire community,"² gathered to witness the newest phenomenon at Gowder's General Store.

George and Eloise Gowder purchased a General Store at Mount Holly in 1946 and managed it for ten years.⁴ Their best customers included the two teachers at nearby Casey Elementary School, who bought supplies for hot school lunches. Near the Gowder store, the Tokio Kodama family resided on the second floor of their mercantile shop.



Figure 3: The photograph shows James H. Rozier Sr. in the center with his wife, Agnes Jaudon Rozier and their sons Robert H. Rozier on the left and James H. Rozier Jr. on the right. James H. Rozier Sr. operated the general store one mile south of the Strawberry, Railroad Station for forty-two years. The image is courtesy of James H. Rozier, Jr.

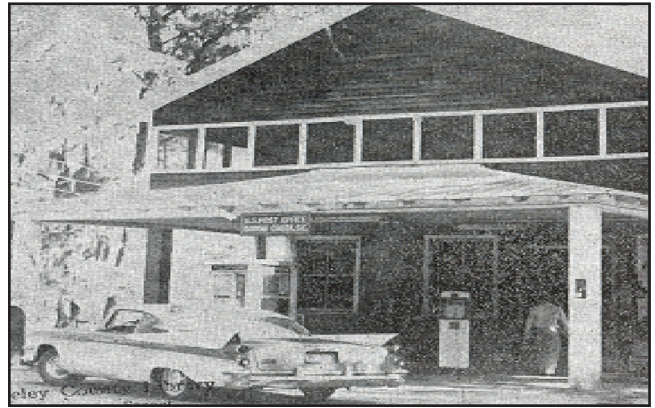


Figure 4: The blurry photograph shows Cannon's General Store circa 1965. The store featured a creaky floor, a long wooden counter, overhanging wooden mail boxes and a "huge" tub of penny candy. The store and post office operated near the Goose Creek Bridge, one quarter mile east of the Otranto Railroad Depot. Until some of the nearby properties incorporated in 1961, most referred to the general area as Mount Holly, but tagged the crossroads near the bridge "Goose Creek," prompting the son of the store owner, M.C. Cannon to note, "I was the only white boy in Goose Creek."³

The Kodama family relocated to the rail stop community when Federal authorities annexed their Marrington Plantation home to the Naval Weapons Station.⁵ Mrs. Hilma Watkins opened a grocery at the Mount Holly Post Office in the 1930s and later Mrs. C. B. Linder managed it.⁶ As mid-century neared, Mount Holly persisted as the most dynamic commercial center in southern Berkeley County and in addition to the railroad station, stores and post office; it featured a mill saw, gristmill, sugarcane press, fertilizer merchant, casket maker and five houses. Mount Holly resembled a small agricultural town, but by mid-century the farmsteads no longer sustained families, but supplemented the incomes of fathers working at nearby military installations.

World War II brought employment to Greater Charleston when defense related industries employed workers and by 1950, the population of the greater Charleston Area, including southern Berkeley County, exploded to 225,000 people.⁷ Most heads of households commuted by way of the Naval Ammunition Depot (N.A.D.) Road connecting to the Cooper River via Red Bank Road. That road provided the most convenient land access to the increasingly important weapons depot hidden in dense forests above the Goose Creek waterway. Additionally, State Highways 52 and 176 provided gravel and paved surface conveyance from Charleston to Goose Creek and beyond after 1930.

As more civil servants found employment, new families sought homes within easy commutes. In response, Jack Etling began building two and three bedroom block, brick, or wood-sided houses on his family chicken farm. "I laid out the first lots in October 1953," Etling recalled, and his modest, well-constructed homes sold quickly.⁸ A builder by trade, thirty-year-old Jack Etling came to Goose Creek with his father in 1934. He collected an insurance payment from an automobile accident and used it to purchase 150 acres of the old Oaks Plantation contiguous to 116 acres he inherited from his father.



Figure 5: *The photograph shows William Irving Etling in tie and hat and his two young daughters, holding puppies among hundreds of chickens. Jack Etling, son of William, converted the chicken farmland into Pineview Subdivision during the 1950s and 1960s.*

Near the end of the middle decades, more millions of investment dollars flowed to nearby military bases and new industries at the Bushy Park Industrial Complex. In addition, the Navy erected the Polaris Missile Facility, United States Atlantic Fleet Area (POMFLANT), near Back River. Many skilled workers at these industries sought homes in nearby Goose Creek and some accessed Etling's sturdy little houses in Pineview Acres and Pineview Terrace subdivisions by way of dirt streets named after his daughters and their friends. When his real estate successes blossomed, other developers commenced building residences in nearby Forest Lawn and Greenview subdivisions. Property values steadily rose in these newest suburbs of Charleston. Jack Etling sold the first Pineview houses for \$9,660, but twenty years later he received more than \$25,000 each.

Leadership faltered during the middle decades. The recently-arrived residents knew too little about their emerging neighborhoods to take charge of decision-making, and no State or County official stepped-up to the challenge. Berkeley County officials possessed no experience in dealing with population surges nor did they feel any kinship with the outsiders arriving in large numbers to the farthest southern extent of their rural domain. Thus, starkly inadequate oversight allowed haphazard development that collapsed the rural infrastructure.

The new Goose Creek families found feeble water, sewer and sanitation services. They found no police, no firefighters, no emergency personnel, no sanitation workers, and worse - they found no one in charge. Deteriorating conditions resulted in low pressure and foul tasting water from shallow wells, smelly and unhealthy sewage from malfunctioning septic tanks, rotting and unsightly garbage heaps cluttering the forests, and traffic snarling substandard roads and unregulated intersections. Worse of all during the 1950s, residents perceived no signs of relief and no plans for recovery.

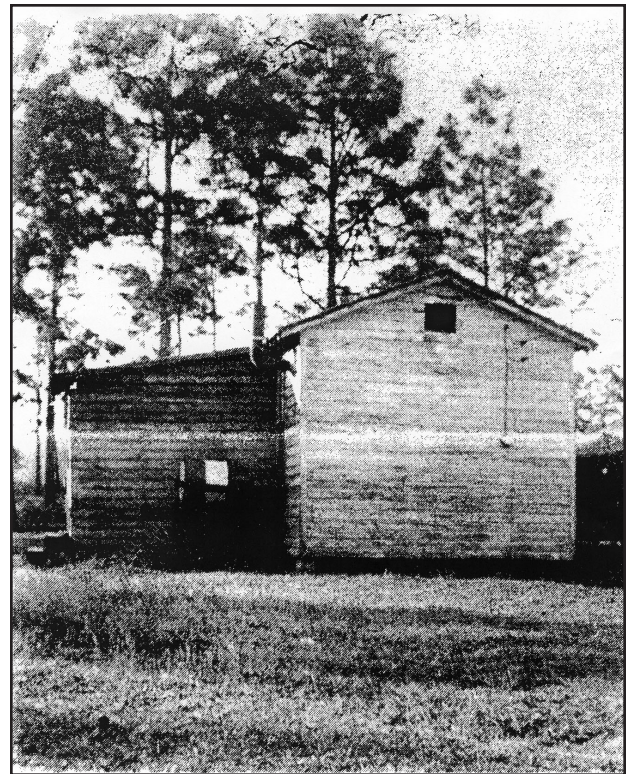


Figure 6: *The photograph above shows Turner's Barber-shop. Officials used this structure as the first City Hall and Municipal Court. It sat on the western corner of the intersection of Farm Road and St. James Boulevard (State Road/State Highway 176).*

The City of Goose Creek

The worsening circumstances prompted leading men of the new subdivisions to step forward. At first, Jack Etling and Waring Bunch met routinely along their abutting property lines between Bunch's Trailer Park and Etling's rising Pineview Subdivisions. A serious man, Hilton Waring Bunch believed in order and rules. He successfully employed that code as a family man and land manager. His multi-generational family hailed locally. The Hilton, Waring and Bunch clans farmed the St. James, Goose Creek Parish since the colonial era and the middle decades found Bunch managing the long-leaf pine forests of Medway Plantation. However, in 1957, he relocated with his bride and two children, to ten acres of property at the intersection of South Carolina Highway 52 (Goose Creek Boulevard) and State Road (St. James Avenue/Red Bank Road). He built a tidy, white asbestos shingled, single story home in a copse of pines and carefully lined five dozen mobile homes in his sprawling back yard.

The Hilton-Etling meetings widened to include others men such as J.B. Brown, Jr., and Lonnie B. Holland, and the meeting-place shifted from the shade trees to the nearby Etling home. Mr. Etling recalled "...those men kept sitting on my porch..." searching for solutions to increasingly deteriorating circumstances and "...someone had to pay for an ad..."⁹ Finally, the founders pooled a few dollars to advertise in the Charleston newspaper for an incorporation election. The earliest leaders concluded that a town (municipality) was the best way to garner resources required to bring order out of chaos. They resolutely offered the incorporation option to their skeptical neighbors.

The Goose Creek municipal incorporation election of Tuesday, March 21, 1961 joined almost 500 citizens into a municipality. The voters elected Hilton Waring Bunch, Mayor, and Edgar Neis, Roger Anderson, Edgar Binnar and E.W. (Jack) Etling as Councilmen. They also selected "Goose Creek" as the name of the newest town in South Carolina.¹⁰ Three weeks later, at 7:00 pm, April 6, 1961, Mayor Hilton Waring Bunch sounded a wooden gavel that called the first meeting of Council for the "Town of Goose Creek" to order and signaled the commencement of a grand experiment in local rule.



Figure 7: Lonnie Barfield Holland served as one of three commissioners to oversee the charter election for the City of Goose Creek in 1961. He is shown here as the second fire chief for the City of Goose Creek circa 1985. Dellie Truelove served as the first fire chief for the City.



Figure 8: The photograph above shows a school bus traveling south on unpaved Pineview Drive near the intersection of Farm Road circa 1958. The image is courtesy of Frances Etling Roberson.



Figure 9: The image shows Thomason's Store and Gulf® Station circa 1960. Today this sleepy way-station is the busy intersection of St. James Avenue and Thomason Boulevard. The image is among the collections of the author.



Figures 10: These two structures at the intersection of St. James Avenue and Goose Creek Boulevard were central features when Goose Creek incorporated in 1961. The structure on the left was the site of Tillery's Grocery and the Tillery family resided next door. The Hilton Waring Bunch home and trailer park stood next to the store.



Figure 11: The photograph shows the charter members of the Pineview Baptist Church in July 1961. The church stood next to the present Goose Creek Baptist Church. Mayor Hilton Waring Bunch, standing in the center at the front door of the church, called the first meeting of Town Council to order on April 6, 1961.

The Early Councils

Mayor Hilton Waring Bunch and his inexperienced Council addressed a plethora of concerns. During the maiden assembly, Town Council decided to require a 2/3 favorable majority to pass a motion, and a property tax not to exceed 40 mills. They also ordained a 25 mile-per-hour speed limit in all residential zones, and a sanitation law that curtailed illegal dumping. Council also promised to write a “fair” zoning ordinance at a later date, and to improve the water and sewer services.

That evening, a lone citizen in the audience addressed Town Council. St. Elmo “Speedy” Felkle rose to ask if the leaders intended to zone a ten acre parcel of land that he hoped to develop near the intersection. Speedy Felkel remained a colorful Goose Creek personality well into the 21st century, and zoning questions such as the one he brought that evening remain hotly contested to this day.

During a subsequent meeting that first year, the town leaders donated \$5 each to pay the annual dues to the South Carolina Municipal Association. They traveled to the association’s office in Columbia, South Carolina to garner advice on preparing budgets, passing ordinances, and empowering police officers. The first Council divided its attention toward the fledgling police and fire departments, a substandard surface drainage system, inadequate facilities and too little revenue. Citizen complaints mounted, but small successes shone when Council purchased a 12 by 24 foot cinder block structure for a larger town hall. They bought the little building, located on the back of the lot on the eastern corner of Farm Road and St. James Avenue (State Highway 176) from L.B. Grooms. Council paid \$500 down and promised installments for the remaining \$4000.

Soon after, Council purchased a used tanker vehicle for \$250 and outfitted it with a pump to serve as a fire truck.¹¹ Resources stretched far enough to acquire some firefighting and police equipment, but there were no salaries. Volunteers filled all of the police and fire positions. J.B. Brown, the lone town police officer drove his own Ford Fairlane to patrol the roadways.

Many capable citizens stepped forward to help including Delle Truelove, who began duty as the first fire chief in the summer of 1963 in time for the second election. That year, Mayor Bunch returned to office, as well as Jack Etling, who exclaimed, “I’ve seen this place grow from woods to a town...I want it to continue to grow.”¹² Ominously, a sorely inadequate water supply and wastewater treatment system threatened the growth and health and safety worries steadily mounted.

Poor water and wastewater services surfaced in the early 1960s and persisted for decades as the most serious municipal issue. As the number of houses and businesses increased, the need for a solution to the water supply and sewer treatment problem increased. In addition, new schools and churches required greater capacities of water and sewer for larger congregations, but when Mayor Bunch did not offer for reelection in 1964, Councilman, Smith E. Hinnant stepped up to the challenge.

The short-sighted citizenry expected the one-term Mayor Hinnant to find remedies where there were none.¹³ Thus, with no good solutions available, the City granted a five-year exclusive franchise in 1968 to Speedy Felkel to operate and expand his privately owned water and sewer system throughout the incorporated area.¹⁴ Many perceptively disapproved of that option and that choice proved costly, but Mr. Felkel’s untested system was the lone solution available to eager builders and impatient home buyers.

Year	South Carolina Population	Berkeley County Population	St. James, Goose Creek Parish Population	Parish Percent of State	Parish Percent of County
1950	2,117,027	30,251	6,715	0.30%	22%
Year	South Carolina Population	Berkeley County Population	Mount Holly District*	Mount Holly % State	Mount Holly % County
1960	2,382,594	38,196	11,573	0.50%	30%
Year	South Carolina Population	Berkeley County Population	City of Goose Creek Population	City Percent of State	City Percent of County
1970	2,590,713	56,199	3,656	0.10%	7%
1980	3,120,729	94,727	17,899	0.60%	19%
1990	3,486,703	128,776	24,692	0.70%	19%
2000	4,012,012	142,651	29,208	0.70%	21%
2010	N/A	N/A	39,064 [^]	N/A	N/A

The table shows census tract counts for selected years. The United States Census Bureau did not use the St. James, Goose Creek Parish tract after 1950, but divided the enumeration area into divisions, with most of the St. James, Goose Creek Parish included in the Mount Holly Division.

*The 1960 Mount Holly District included all of Berkeley County west of the Cooper River and south of Moncks Corner.

[^]Count based on 2010 Census estimate.

Mayor Malvin Mann

It was during these difficult years that Malvin Mann, the “controversial Mayor,” emerged. He won the race in 1968 by a large margin,¹⁵ but he entered a political hotbed. A special census conducted that year revealed a population exceeding 6000 people and that number grew at an average pace of ten families per week. Felkel’s private system was sorely inadequate, and it put great demands for action upon the elected officials.

Many frustrated citizens criticized Malvin Mann, while others enthusiastically supported him causing some print media to label Mann the “controversial Mayor.” Sadly, negative publicity frequently found outlet in the various Charleston media and the Mayor’s “blunt” retorts often made matters worse. Mayor Mann directed verbal and printed criticism that often left bruised egos and wider divisiveness, until Goose Creek attracted a state-wide reputation for contentiousness. Individuals at first, then interest groups, and finally the Council as a whole called for his resignation. However, the “controversial Mayor” persisted for three two-year terms, providing stewardship to the fast-paced City during turbulent times.

The municipal minutes referred to the “City of Goose Creek” for the first time at the 260th meeting of Council on September 14, 1971.¹⁶ Mayor Mann announced the name change and reported that new City limit signs must read “City,” instead of “Town.” Also, City staff relocated from the tiny 12 by 24 foot structure to a more spacious commercial establishment on the eastern corner of the lot at the intersection of Farm Road and St. James Avenue in 1974. The building served as a laundry for six years, but workers converted it to city use because it was centrally located and sufficiently large to house the growing staff. The spacious lot included several small outbuildings for police, fire, sanitation offices, storage sheds and parking. Many hailed the move and during the dedication of the third City Hall, Mayor Mann stated, “This is the finest office building in Berkeley County and...compare[s] with any other office building in South Carolina.”

Mayor Mann worked toward a municipally owned water and sewer system. He proposed issuing \$800,000 in municipal general obligation bonds to purchase the substandard private system, but although voters approved the bond referendum, the vote was contested in court and declared null. Consequently, Mayor Mann’s third term (1972-74) ended without a City-owned system, and although he did not seek re-election at that time, he offered sound advice to the incoming leadership. In his farewell comments to City Council he cautioned, “I feel that the next administration should take immediate steps to get a City manager...”¹⁷ This was timely departure advice, but it was not his political farewell. Voters returned him to office two years later with an overwhelming count.



Figure 12: The photograph shows the façade of the third Goose Creek City Hall, after workers installed front windows in 1989.



Figure 13: The photograph shows the facade of the first City of Goose Creek Courthouse.



Figure 14: The photograph shows from left to right: Congressman Mendel Davis, Goose Creek City Councilmen Jack Etling and William Infinger; Mayor Malvin Mann and the first Mayor Hilton Waring Bunch at the dedication of City Hall, at 125 St. James Avenue, on February 12, 1974.



Figure 15: *The image shows the site of the second and third City Hall at the corner of Farm Road and St. James Avenue. The author produced the image December 31, 2010. It is among his collections.*

Mayor James M. Richards

Voters hotly contested the 1974 election. Four residents pursued the Mayoral position and nineteen sought Council seats. When James M. Richards emerged to lead, he brought a considerable amount of personal energy, farsightedness, and common sense to the Mayor's office, but he served only one two-year term, because impatient citizens insisted upon quicker resolutions to a broken water and sewer system. Mayor Richards wisely focused on pacing the rapid building program in new subdivisions such as Foxborough and he rectified many serious drainage problems, but disputes fumed over sanitation, water, and sewer fees. Citizens complained that the sanitation fees were too high, even though the department suffered a \$28,000 deficit in 1974.¹⁸ The frustration spread the following year when City Council purchased the privately owned water and sewer system for \$1,400,000. The new City-owned system successfully competed for federal assistance through various environmental and community development grants, but improvements arrived too slowly to mollify rising impatience with inadequate service. Widespread discontent returned Malvin Mann to the Mayor's office in the spring of 1976.

Severe challenges plagued Mann's last term as Mayor culminating when the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) declared Goose Creek a "severe and urgent health hazard" due to its substandard and inadequate water and sewage systems. As a result, DHEC imposed a moratorium on new water and sewer taps onto the City-owned system, halting all construction and sending builders and business owners clamoring to City Hall. Encouragingly, the same DHEC action also declared Goose Creek the highest priority for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) wastewater facilities construction grants. Subsequently, Goose Creek borrowed its 25% share of the \$1.3 million total, and commenced the rehabilitation of its dilapidated sewer system.

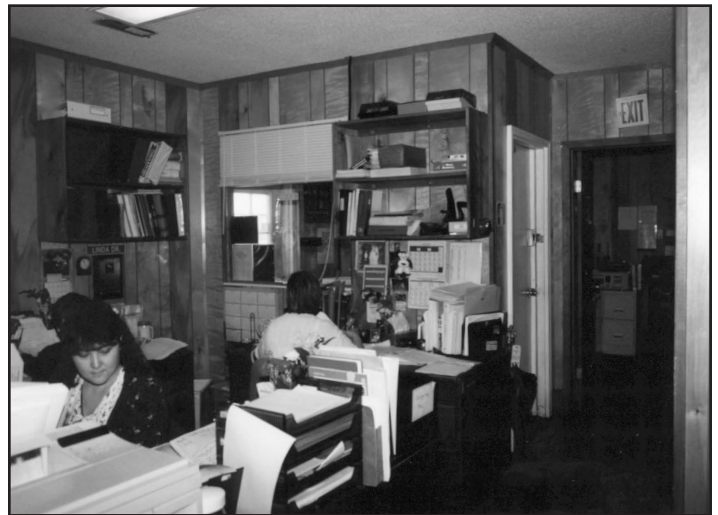


Figure 16: *Barbara Faas (left of center) worked in crowded conditions at the City of Goose Creek Police Department until moving to the new facilities. The rapidly expanding municipality overwhelmed the facilities and prompted City Council to build the Marguerite H. Brown Municipal Center in 1999.*

A Leading Municipality

Michael Heitzler challenged Malvin Mann in the 1978 election. The resounding contest brought a record number of voters to the polls and many believed the results forged a significantly new direction for the City. Michael Heitzler showed enthusiasm and promise, but lacked experience. Thus, he surprised many when he and his entire slate took office in 1978 but the cautiously optimistic citizens watched skeptically as the months tallied into years and as left-over frustration pummeled City Hall from many directions.¹⁹

Mayor Michael Heitzler and his six City Council running mates stabilized the turbulent political arena. Each of the newly elected officials calmed a previously raucous and angrily divided City Hall with a non-critical message focused upon teamwork and patience. Additionally, the voters elected the Mayor for a four-year term for the first time in the City's history, and choose six Council members for two and four-year terms. The longer tenures contributed to the stability of the rapidly changing City and allowed the council time to engage and excel. Notwithstanding the unified approach to municipal management challenges ominously loomed as the leaders sought new approaches to old problems. City Council employed a full-time City Administrator to bring day to day order to the burgeoning operations. City Administrator, Dennis C. Harmon arrived July 31, 1978 and progress shone soon after, in the form of courteous and efficient service.

During the Heitzler early terms, the reputation of the City steadily improved. The leaders reinvested available resources into the municipal enterprise, and the most skeptical observers recognized improvement in the delivery of sanitation, police and fire services.²⁰ Consequently, the Naval Weapons Station, the Polaris Missile Facility, and the Woodlawn Heights subdivision joined the City of Goose Creek in 1978. Fairfax and most of the Crowfield lands joined in following years. Highway infrastructure grew in the 1990's with the widening of lanes on Highways 176 and 52, and in 2000, City Council improved the quality of life for residents by adding hiker/biker trails.

Trained and experienced, City Administrator, Dennis Harmon earned much recognition during his many years with the City. The South Carolina City and County Management Association awarded him the Palmetto Management Award. This recognition for excellence sent a resounding message that lifted the reputation of the City among the rising communities in South Carolina. Harmon recalled, "I knew Goose Creek had potential, but I didn't know it had this kind of potential."²¹

The City of Goose Creek emerged the largest City in Berkeley County with nearly 17,000 residents in 1980 and by 2000 it was the eleventh most populated municipality in South Carolina. In response to the expanding boundaries and greater customer expectations, City Council relocated the municipal offices in 1999 to the Marguerite H. Brown Municipal Center on North Goose Creek Boulevard. The move was timely because the population burgeoned by 33% during the first decade of the new millennium.



Figure 17: *The photograph shows some of the City's police officers in 1991. Standing from left to right Kyle Smith, Bob Bright, Stephen Kellar, John Grainger, Chris Dutton, Police Chief Harvey Becker, Richard Rice, John Robinson, Tracy Tokarsky, Danny Johnson, Kim Spears and Grady Scott.*

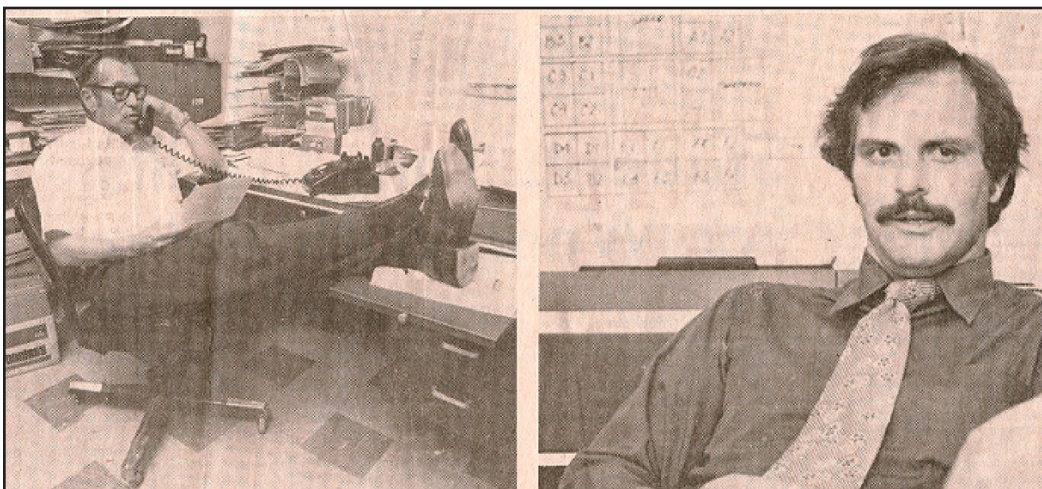


Figure 18: *The photograph showing the incumbent Mayor, Malvin Mann (left) and challenger Michael Heitzler appeared in the Charleston News and Courier in May 1978.*

2011 City Council



Figure 19: City of Goose Creek 2011 Senior Staff photo. Pictured left to right: (seated) Finance Director Ron Faretra, City Administrator Dennis Harmon, Assistant City Administrator Jeff Molinari (standing) HR Director Joellyn Robbins, Public Works Director Steve Price, IT Director Ryan Byrd, Golf Course Manager Troy Sanders, Recreation Director Gary Stuber, Planning Director Daniel Ben-Yisrael, Fire Chief Steve Chapman, Public Information Officer Jesica Johnson. Not pictured: Police Chief Harvey Becker

“I have lived to see a dream fulfilled...people are proud of Goose Creek...”

Councilmember Marguerite H. Brown (1975 - present)

“Goose Creek is a great place to live, work and play!”

Mayor Pro-Tem Kimo Esarey (1998 - present)

“There’s a big difference since I moved here. Council works well together. I’m proud. We put a lot of effort toward our City.”

Councilmember Sal Gandolfo (1996 - present)

“I discovered resources here that are richer, deeper and broader than I ever imagined.....”

Councilmember John McCants (1992 - present)

“A majority of Goose Creekers come from afar, my family included, but its our home sweet home now!”

Councilmember Mark Phillips (1986 - present)

“Our city has continued to grow to a point that I am honored to be a part of one of the largest cities in South Carolina. The leaders, both past and present, have provided the citizen’s of Goose Creek a place to call home that we can be proud of.”

Councilmember Jerry Tekac (2008 - present)



Figure 20: 2011 City Council. Standing left to right: Councilmember Jerry Tekac, Councilmember Sal Gandolfo, Councilmember Mark Phillips, Mayor Michael Heitzler; Councilmember Marguerite H. Brown, Councilmember John McCants, Mayor Pro Tem Kimo Esarey.

Today and Tomorrow

Today, almost forty thousand residents come home to the City of Goose Creek. The neighborhoods are safe, attractive, and near the amenities of Charleston as well as the beckoning Berkeley County countryside. Since incorporation fifty years ago, the City boundaries absorbed the old neighborhoods near the rail stops and the name “Goose Creek” displaced numerous tags to assume the identity of much of south Berkeley.²² No trains stopped at the railroad stations during the second half of the 20th century, and after 1986, the locomotives that slowed everyday to snatch the mailbag off its hook at the tiny Mount Holly Post Office ceased that duty when a regional mail delivery complex in the center of the City, supplanted the Mount Holly office. Soon the last general stores at the three train depots closed too and most remaining structures vanished when locals salvaged the wood.

The people of Goose Creek surged into the new century with resilient optimism. Ten thousand newcomers joined the municipality during the first decade of the new millennium. Some filled-in well-established neighborhoods, others joined their unincorporated satellite communities to the corporate limits, and more built along new streets and cul-de-sacs until the City limits reached twelve miles from the Cooper River to Carnes Crossroads and beyond. During this era of steady expansion, the City identified its unique context as a touted show-place, featuring a golf and country club, community center, miles of pedestrian trails, rising commercial centers and a clear appreciation for the citizens who came before. In 2006, hundreds of residents converged at the St. James, Goose Creek Church to commemorate the tri-centennial founding of the old parish and in 2011, grateful citizens returned to the site of the first City Hall to recall the birth of the municipality. Looking back and ahead, Goose Creekers cherish the stable, prosperous and reliable civic foundation that preserves their heritage and a place where families thrive.



Figure 21: *The photograph shows Mrs. Marguerite H. Brown at the dedication of the Marguerite H. Brown Municipal Center, June 9, 2000. Standing from left to right Council members Sal Gandolfo, Kimo Esarey, John McCants, Mark Phillips, Mrs. Brown, Joseph Daning and Mayor Michael Heitzler. Image is courtesy of the City of Goose Creek.*

Notes

¹ United States Enumeration Census, St. James, Goose Creek Township, 1930.

² Eloise Gowder interview February 21, 1982 and interview with Eugene Bryan at his home near Strawberry on 6-7-05. The State Highway 52, kept a gravel surface on some sections of the parish into the 1950s.

³ Author interview with M.C. Cannon at the Philippine Hut Restaurant, October 20, 1974.

⁴ Gowder interview.

⁵ Gowder interview. The General South Carolina Highway Map, 1951 shows 10 structures at Casey including a church and school

⁶ Berkeley Democrat 9-14-32.

⁷ Walter Edgar, South Carolina, A History, (University of South Carolina Press, Columbia, 1998), 57.

⁸ Jack Etling interview with the author at the Etling residence in Pineview Subdivision, October 12, 1982 and Goose Creek Gazette, August 29, 1972. He recalled, "There was nothing in Goose Creek except a store at Mt. Holly and a dirt road [Highway 176] that connected a few houses together."

⁹ Jack Etling interview and Mayor Hilton Waring Bunch, Jack Etling, and Orvin Thompson interview with the author at Thompson Trailer Park, July 20, 1980.

¹⁰ Berkeley Democrat, 3-22-61.

¹¹ Town Council Minutes, 5-5-64

¹² Town Council Minutes, 7-9-64.

¹³ Town Council Minutes, 3-1-66.

¹⁴ Town Council Minutes, 3-7-68.

¹⁵ Town Council Minutes, 6-4-68.

¹⁶ Town Council Minutes, 9-14-71.

¹⁷ City Council Minutes, 10-10-74.

¹⁸ City Council Minutes, 10-10-74

¹⁹ The News and Courier, 5-10-78.

²⁰ John Barnette interview with the author at the Philippine Hut Restaurant July 14, 1990.

²¹ Dennis C. Harmon comment at Margaruite H. Brown Municipal Center, July 31, 2003 at the occasion of his 25th year as City Administrator of Goose Creek.

²² Alumax (later Alcoa) bought most of the Mount Holly property in two transactions in 1978 and 1979 from H. Smith Richardson Jr. who acted as trustee for his father. Since then, Alcoa Mount Holly created the Mount Holly Commerce Park in its northern sector as a showcase for modern industry.

Sources

City of Goose Creek, Minutes of City Council, among the collections of the City of Goose Creek at the Marguerite H. Brown Municipal Center, North Goose Creek Boulevard, Goose Creek, South Carolina.

The Berkeley Democrat Newspaper, on microfilm at the Berkeley County Library, Moncks Corner, South Carolina.

The Goose Creek Gazette Newspaper, on file at the Marguerite H. Brown Municipal Center, North Goose Creek Boulevard, Goose Creek, South Carolina.

The News and Courier Newspaper articles are among the personal collections of the author. The News and Courier is published in Charleston, South Carolina.

Jack Etling interview with the author at his residence in Pineview Subdivision, October, 1982. Notes are among the collections of the author.

M.C. Cannon interview with the author at the Philippine Hut Restaurant, October 20, 1974. Notes are among the collections of the author.

Orvin Thomason interview with the author at Thomason's Trailer Park, July 20, 1980. Notes are among the collections of the author.

Malvin Mann interview with the author at City Hall, September 4, 1977. Notes are among the collections of the author.

Hilton Waring Bunch interview with the author at the home of Orvin Thomason, Thomason's Trailer Park July 20, 1980. Notes are among the collections of the author.

John Barnette interview with the author at City Hall, July 14, 1990. Notes are among the collections of the author.

Eloise Gowder interview with the author, at the Goose Creek Library, February 21, 1982. Notes are among the collections of the author.

Eugene Bryan interview with the author at his home near Strawberry, June 7, 2005. Notes are among the collections of the author.

Dennis C. Harmon interview with the author at the Marguerite H. Brown Municipal Center.

Applicable South Carolina Social Studies Standards

Grade Eight

South Carolina: One of the United States

Standard 8-1: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the settlement of South Carolina and the United States by Native Americans, Europeans, and Africans.

Indicators

8-1.4 Explain the growth of the African American population during the colonial period and the significance of African Americans in the developing culture (e.g., Gullah) and economy of South Carolina, including the origins of African American slaves, the growth of the slave trade, the impact of population imbalance between African and European Americans, and the Stono Rebellion and subsequent laws to control the slave population. (H, G, P, E)

8-1.5 Summarize the significant changes to South Carolina's government during the colonial period, including the proprietary regime and the period of royal government, and the significance of the Regulator movement. (G, P)

8-1.6 Explain how South Carolinians used natural, human, and political resources to gain economic prosperity, including trade with Barbados, rice planting, Eliza Lucas Pinckney and indigo planting, the slave trade, and the practice of mercantilism. (H, G, E)

8-1.7 Summarize the military and economic involvement of South Carolina in the French-British colonial rivalry. (H, G, P, E)

Standard 8-2: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the American Revolution—the beginnings of the new American nation and South Carolina's part in the development of that nation.

Indicators

8-2.2 Compare the perspectives and roles of different South Carolinians during the American Revolution, including those of political leaders, soldiers, partisans, Patriots, Tories/Loyalists, women, African Americans, and Native Americans. (H, G, P, E)

8-2.3 Summarize the course and key conflicts of the American Revolution in South Carolina and its effects on the state, including the attacks on Charleston; the Battle of Camden; the partisan warfare of Thomas Sumter, Andrew Pickens, and Francis Marion; the Battle of Cowpens; and the Battle of Kings Mountain. (H, G)

8-2.4 Summarize events related to the adoption of South Carolina's first constitution, the role of South Carolina and its leaders in the Continental Congress, and the ratification of the United States Constitution, including Henry Laurens's actions, Charles Pinckney's role, and the importance of issues debated during the Philadelphia Convention for South Carolina. (H, P)

8-2.5 Explain the economic and political tensions between the people of the Upcountry and the Lowcountry of South Carolina, including the economic struggles of both groups following the American Revolution, their disagreement over representation in the General Assembly and the location of the new capital city, and the transformation of the state's economy that was caused by the production of cotton and convinced lowcountry men to share power with upcountry men. (H, G, P, E)



City of Goose Creek: History in its Own Backyards

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