

# Volente Voice

March 2010

**\*\*\*\*ANNUAL VNA MEETING & DINNER\*\*\*\***  
**SATURDAY - APRIL 10<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00 PM**

On behalf of the VNA Board, we would like to extend a big invitation to all of you to join us for our annual meeting at the Volente Fire Station on Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, starting at 4:00 pm in the afternoon and ending with a catered dinner from Berry Hill from 6 to 7:30. We are very excited to announce that both Travis County Commissioner Karen Huber and Representative Donna Howard as well as a representative from TX DOT have confirmed their attendance at this year's annual meeting. We have a full schedule for our meeting.



We have asked Karen to touch on the various roadway projects affecting our area including Bullick Hollow Rd, agreements made between Travis County and the City of Austin during the construction of Water Treatment Plant #4 and the widening of the 620 and Anderson Mill intersection. The representative from TX DOT will be able to expand on the roadway issues pertaining to the portions of the surrounding roadways managed by them. We will also get her take on responsible growth in Travis County and how she plans to guide it in a sustainable way. We have asked Donna to touch on what her priorities are for the upcoming legislative session, the Texas budget deficit, access to and use of stimulus money for Travis County, health care improvements in Texas, and as the Vice Chair of the Committee on Culture, Recreation, and Tourism how she thinks the LCRA should be managed going forward.

After the presentations and the Q&A session, the VNA board will hold a meeting of all members to elect the board members for this coming year. All current board members are running for an additional term, but we are always looking for additional members to join us. If you are interested please call Ken Beck at 512-917-5188. See you on Saturday April 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm.

~ Jessica Janda, Newsletter Editor ~ Volente Neighborhood Association

## [A MESSAGE FROM YOUR VNA PRESIDENT](#)

Can you believe that our lake is now only about 6 feet below its normal level for this time of year? It's been raining for two days straight as I write, and it sure feels good. The weather forecast is for wetter than normal conditions for the next three months, and we may see the lake back to above normal conditions.

The biggest activity in our surrounding area sure seems to be roads. The City of Austin has begun construction on their pumping station for Water Treatment Plant #4, and are upgrading Bullick Hollow road to accommodate this. While the road work was to have been done in December, it appears that this project is like all others – late. The big impact to us is the large “Ranger” trucks hauling the dirt and spoils from the site on a daily basis across Bullick Hollow and 2769 before they turn on Anderson Mill for their run to the quarry. These trucks present both a traffic challenge as well as a major stress to our road surfaces. See the section by Ryan Janda for more information as we continue to track the TXDOT plans to finish their work on Anderson Mill Road up to the intersection of 620.

We are also seeing signs of an improving economy. A local resident is developing plans to upgrade and open a Volente Village restaurant, convenience store, and liquor store in the building where VJ’s had resided. These plans are going through a lot of development as well as review time with the Village Planning and Zoning board as well as the Village council. Please stay tuned with the Village about public hearings that will be scheduled for your review and input. There are also rumors floating around about the former “Roscoe’s” restaurant at the intersection of 2769 and Bullick Hollow Road. Let’s hope that potential buyers can work through the myriad of details with the City of Austin and Travis County in order to reopen that facility as well.

As an update to our earlier communication to you all – plans have fallen through for a combined quarterly newsletter by the VNA, the VVFD, the Village of Volente, and the Anderson Mill Garden Club. Therefore the VNA is going to cut back to two newsletters a year, and use other means of communication such as post cards and email newsletters to get the word out to all of you.

Finally, our annual meeting will be held on Saturday April 10<sup>th</sup>. You will see much more about it in this newsletter. Our guest speakers will be the two elected officials that impact us the most – Rep. Howard and Commissioner Huber. Please attend our annual meeting to hear them. Please join the VNA as a member for the ultra low \$15 per year – and you will even receive a meal at our annual meeting. We need you there to express your concerns about our area, be they roads, taxes, services, or a state income tax.

~ Ken Beck, President ~ Volente Neighborhood Association

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## **CEDAR PARK, ROUND ROCK AND LEANDER WATER INTAKE FACILITY AND PIPELINE THROUGH VOLENTE UPDATE**

It has now been three years since the Village of Volente discovered plans by Cedar Park, Leander and Round Rock to build an industrial intake facility in our neighborhoods. Since February 2007 the BCRUA has not authorized the cost, impact, and benefit reports that the Village Council and its residents have repeatedly asked for. Despite constant public promises, they have never produced answers to our fundamental concerns, instead publicly touting how they are “communicating with the Village of Volente”.

**The December 2009 Deep Water Intake Status Report has an intake option at Starnes Island with the pipeline tunneled to either a pump station at the LCRA/Leander Sandy Creek Treatment Plant or the Cedar Park Treatment Plant!!!** This option was suggested by Volente residents a long time ago. The report cost estimated this “lowest impact” option at \$35M more than the “cheapest option”. The BCRUA has saved \$60M on Phase 1 due to lower construction costs and interest rates.

The “cheapest option” for their ratepayers has the greatest impact to Volente. The intake and pump station are located in the Jackson St. neighborhood with an open-cut trenched pipeline. The buffer area is 100-150'. Can you imagine the current construction of the City of Austin pump station on Bullick Hollow happening in your neighborhood? Hundreds of Volente residents have responded to the BCRUA that industrial facilities in our neighborhoods are unacceptable. The Village in January 2008 passed a resolution against the construction and operation of industrial intake facilities and pipelines within its municipal boundaries. The Village stands on its belief that the BCRUA needs Volente's consent.

Further, the elephant in the room continues to be whether they have the right to force an industrial facility into Volente. On 12/24/2009, The Cedar Park Citizen reported Councilman Cobby Caputo wanting to know if Jacobs Engineering had examined the impact of potential opposition from the Village of Volente and any adjacent property owners. “I haven't seen anybody quantify trying to do something in the middle of Volente,” Caputo said. He added later, “There's not a good way to put a dollar sign to there being a lawsuit that we could lose.” Councilman Caputo is an attorney with

an Austin law firm that specializes in municipal law. The BCRUA doesn't know if the Jackson site is legally feasible. No cost has been added to the "cheapest option" for the potential opposition from the Village and its residents.

On 1/1/2010, the American Statesman reported, "We are going to do everything we can to ensure that the impact on Volente is minimized." said Mitch Fuller, BCRUA President. Take a drive down Trails End Rd to see how the BCRUA has minimized the impacts for the residents. A week later, The Hill Country News, whose readership is primarily Leander and Cedar Park, reported Fuller as stating that the final decision will likely come down to cost. Considering both statements, shouldn't the BCRUA be authorizing a study on the potential benefits and impacts to Volente residents? If it is purely a matter of the "cheapest option", they also need answers to the true costs.

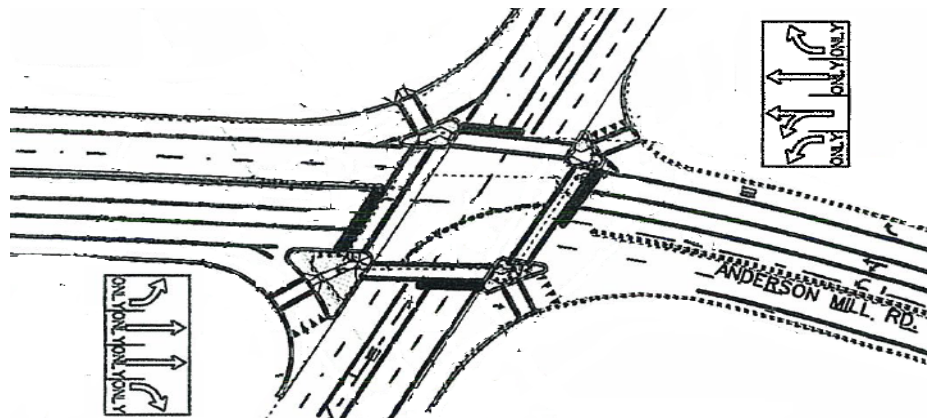
~ Judy Graci, Membership ~ Volente Neighborhood Association

## ROADWAYS UPDATE

**Bullock Hollow Road Improvements** – The addition of a climbing lane to support Water Treatment Plant #4 during construction is scheduled to be completed by the end of February, weather permitting. Once improvements are complete, traffic barriers will be removed and the contractor will finish off-road project-related items. They anticipate that the construction and re-vegetation to be complete by March or April.

The excavation on the project work site will continue for the rest of the year. The spoils are being hauled to a quarry off Anderson Mill to meet a sustainability (reuse) goal by Ranger. The Ranger trucks will continue to follow the current route during this process (south on bullock hollow, right onto 2769, left onto Anderson Mill) for the remaining of the work. The hours of construction are 7-7 Monday through Saturday, and the project manager stated that they usually try to stop the trucks by: 4:30pm as not to interfere with rush hour traffic.

**Anderson Mill widening (2769 to 620)** - The project for widening the 1 mile section of Anderson Mill road between 2769 and 620 has finally been funded by TX-dot. They still have to finish up right of way acquisition and utility easements and they think that construction should begin by the beginning of the summer. The intersection at Anderson Mill and 620 heading east will have a left turn only lane, two straight only lanes and one right turn only lane. Heading west across 620 the intersection will have a right turn only lane, straight only lane, one straight/left turn lane and one left turn only lane.



~ Ryan Janda, Roadways and Safety ~ Volente Neighborhood Association

## FOURTH MARINA TO FILL UP CYPRESS CREEK ARM OF LAKE TRAVIS!

You may think this article is about a bunch of waterfront homeowners that do not want a large marina sitting in their front yard - well it is about that - BUT it is also about SO MUCH MORE. Having a fourth marina in Cypress Creek Cove, and having it potentially line both sides of our cove affects all of the Lake Travis boating community. This cove is used by MANY families to come in off the busy main channel of the lake to have a safe place for boating, tubing, wakeboarding, and water skiing with their friends and families. People also like to anchor by the cliffs to float and relax. That available water space could be gone forever with this new marina added. We do not want our cove to be turned into a "boat harbor" and this combined with the no wake zones will effectively squeeze out the available water

space for the public to enjoy these activities in this area anymore. This cove now is a clean, natural and beautiful part of Lake Travis. Add 100-300 boats and things here are going to change drastically. When the lake level drops, we will be in a real mess with all these boats as our cove got VERY SMALL and NARROW this past summer. Part of the marina could line the cliffs, which are next to the Balcones Canyonland Preserve. This preserve and the Comanche Trail Neighborhood above could be threatened if an explosion or large fire started and embers drifted to the hillside, and the sprinkler system got overwhelmed as there are no roads to the part of the marina that would line the cliff side, and no fire boats on the lake.

If you enjoy boating off the busy main channel of the lake and enjoy calmer water with less boating traffic, then this could affect you. When the developer files a formal Marina Application with LCRA, there will be a Public Meeting held about 3-4 weeks later, that you can attend. Please visit our web site for updates. [www.stophemarina.com](http://www.stophemarina.com)

~ **Members of the Cypress Creek Neighborhood**

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### **HOW TO FIGHT THE FLU**

We are now in the midst of the seasonal flu season, and have also just been through the first pandemic flu we have seen in 40 years. A flu pandemic occurs when a new influenza virus appears that spreads quickly around the world because no one has previously been exposed to it. H1N1 exploded on the scene in April of 2009 and by November nearly 50 million Americans had been infected. Seasonal flu affects an estimated 5-20% of the population each year and complications from the flu cause the deaths of about 36,000 Americans annually. The H1N1 pandemic caused nearly 10,000 deaths as of last November, and it is possible we will see another wave of severe illness this year. With these two flu's on the scene, we need to do everything we can to prevent them. The primary ways are through vaccination, basic hygiene, and staying home when you are sick.

Mom was right when she stressed the importance of hand-washing. It is the single-most significant behavior to minimize the spread of the flu and other harmful diseases. Scrubbing vigorously for 20 seconds with soap and warm water is the key. In public facilities, use a paper towel to turn off the faucet and to open the door. You can also use alcohol-based hand sanitizers to remove germs. Since viruses and germs are spread by hand onto surfaces which are then touched by others, the new "cough etiquette," can help limit the spread of the flu. Instead of coughing into your hand, cough into your sleeve or into a tissue and then throw it away and wash your hands. And avoid touching your face—mouth, nose, and eyes—where germs and viruses can enter your body.

Free vaccines are available through the Health Department. Call 972-5520 for an appointment.

The primary symptoms of the flu are high fever (100° or more), body aches, severe fatigue, and cough. If you do get sick, stay home until you have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medicines. Drink plenty of fluids, take acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (Advil), and rest until you feel better. Warning signs that you need medical attention include difficulty breathing, severe vomiting, or severe dizziness.

The Austin/Travis County Health & Human Services Department wants to help you fight the flu. We offer presentations to community groups and have an exhibit for community events; contact us at 972-5048 for scheduling. For more information about the flu, visit [www.cityofaustin.org/pandemicflu](http://www.cityofaustin.org/pandemicflu) or [www.austinflu.org](http://www.austinflu.org).

~ **Linda Cox ~ Austin/Travis County Health & Human Services Department**

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### **!!!! SIGN UP TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY !!!!**

In an effort to reduce the costs and environmental resources associated with printing this newsletter on a quarterly basis we will be moving towards an electronic version that will be delivered via email. We plan to continue the paper version until sufficient word gets out to the community and before every annual VNA meeting. To opt in to receive this newsletter electronically please go to [www.volente.org](http://www.volente.org) and go to "[Click Here](#) to subscribe to email announcements from VNA and VVFD" located on the top of the page and enter in your email address. If you prefer you can also send an email to [news@volente.org](mailto:news@volente.org) with the word SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. Special thanks to **Lonnie Moore** for managing the community distribution email lists and keeping us all up to date with things happening in the area with the "Volente e-News" emails.

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO NEW & EXISTING VNA MEMBERS

The VNA Board would like to personally thank all existing VNA members for your continued support. We would also like to welcome the following new VNA members: Andy and Susan Fogarasi, Gene Schneider, Dottie Wagner & Mike Hutchins, Dr. & Mrs. Sid Steadman, Bernie & Cindy Larson, Robert Nelson, George & Susan Lowell, Charles & Sylvia Betts, and Wynn Estes

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## SAFE HAVEN

Four years ago the **VNA** adopted **Safe Haven**, a local 24 hour a day low demand shelter for persons who are homeless and are living with symptoms of a mental illness. The goal of Safe Haven is to ensure a safe and accepting living environment, while providing qualified staff to establish a trusting relationship, and to guide each resident to review the choices in their lives. Safe Haven offers sixteen beds and eight semi-private rooms, three meals a day, and laundry facilities to all of their residents. It also provides a place for residents to heal and prepare for re-entry into society. **Safe Haven is in need of the following items:** a large dining room table and chairs, twin sheet sets, men's pants size 36 and above, sneakers for both men and women, warm jackets for both men and women, men's underwear, SOCKS, and easy reading books. **If you have any of the items listed above and are willing to donate them please drop them off at the Fire Hall in the white basket marked "Safe Haven".** We will make sure they get delivered to Safe Haven.

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## VNA BOARD NEWS AND UPCOMING ELECTION

**Interested in becoming more involved with the community? Join the VNA Board.** The VNA Board meets once a month on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm at the Volente Fire Station. Please consider volunteering as a member of the VNA Board. Because of all the new growth expected and all of the exciting changes coming in 2010, we encourage you to be a vital part of serving your community. The new VNA board election will be held by proclamation immediately following the annual meeting on 4/4. **If you are interested in joining the VNA Board please contact Ken Beck at 331-0298.**

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## VNA BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION

The contact information for the 2010 VNA Board officers and members along with their respective areas of responsibility can be found below:

* Ken Beck, President	Ph. 331-0298
* Al Blunt, Vice President	Ph. 336-1260
* Connie Curtiss, Secretary	Ph. 258-7646
* Bill Connors, Treasurer	Ph. 422-8344
* Judy Graci, Membership	Ph. 257-8626
* Jessica Janda, Newsletter	Ph. 577-1148
* Al Graci / John Scholtzhauer, Lake Travis	Ph. 257-8626
* Babs Yarborough, Community Relations	Ph. 656-6667
* John Scholtzhauer, Business Development & Public Relations	Ph. 258-8136
* Ryan Janda, Roadways & Safety	Ph. 789-0260

Feel free to contact any of the VNA Board Members with your thoughts and suggestions as many people in the community have already done. **Questions, comments or concerns can also be directed to the VNA board e-mail inbox at: [vnafeedback@gmail.com](mailto:vnafeedback@gmail.com).** This email address is a convenient way of letting us know your thoughts. If you would prefer, write your comments on the feedback form provided at the end of this newsletter and mail or drop it off to the Fire Department. The Board invites you to attend our monthly meetings, held on the first Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Hall. **Our meetings are open to the public.** Feel free to come share your thoughts and **TELL US** what we can do to help. Our role is to serve our community and all of you who live here.

~ Jessica Janda, Newsletter Editor ~ Volente Neighborhood Association

**VNA MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

Interested in joining the **Volente Neighborhood Association**? Benefits include an annual dinner, a quarterly newsletter, monthly board meetings, and a great opportunity to be involved in community issues that affect us all. The annual membership fee is \$15 per household / \$30 per business. Please fill out the form below and mail it along with your check (payable to the Volente Neighborhood Association) to the following address:

**Volente Neighborhood Association (Attention: Membership)  
15406 FM 2769  
Volente, Texas 78641**

Want to know more about what's happening in the Volente area? To receive updates on local news and events via email subscribe to the VNA / Volente Fire Department distribution email list at [www.volente.org](http://www.volente.org) and follow the directions there.



**2010 Volente Neighborhood Association (VNA) Membership Form**

**Yearly Dues:**                      **Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**\$15 / Household**                      **Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**\$30 / Business**

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Alt Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail To:**                                      **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**VNA - Membership**                      **Comments & Suggestions:**

**15406 FM 2769**

**Volente, TX 78641**



Volente Neighborhood Association  
Bill Connors, Treasurer  
15406 FM 2769  
Volente, Texas 78641

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