

# Volente Voice

**A Joint Newsletter between the Volente Neighborhood Association (VNA) & the Volente Volunteer Fire Department (VVFD)**

March 2008

**ANNUAL VNA MEETING & DINNER**  
**SATURDAY - APRIL 5<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00 PM**

The Annual VNA Meeting & Dinner will be held on Saturday April 5, 2008 at the Volente Fire Department beginning at 4:00 pm. This year's dinner will be fully catered by the **Fajita Warehouse** so you definitely do not want to miss it! VNA members and their immediate family will enjoy this excellent dinner for free. If you would like to join us for dinner but are not currently a VNA member the annual membership fee is \$15 per household / \$30 per business. Members of VNA Board will be at the Fire Station ready to take your annual renewal fee and to sign up new members.



This year the VNA Board is very excited to announce that representatives from the LCRA are scheduled to present their Lower Colorado River Basin water management plan as well as their strategy to manage water flow into, through, and out of the Colorado River with an emphasis on Lake Travis. This will be a great opportunity for all of us to ask questions and learn more about the LCRA. They most certainly will bring valuable insight on water issues near and dear to the Volente Community and we are certainly looking forward to hearing what they have to say. So please plan to join us for their presentation!

Also, our local representatives (**Senator Kirk Watson District 14, Representative Donna Howard District 48, and County Commissioner Gerald Daugherty Precinct 3**), while not scheduled to formally present, have all been invited to meet with you and answer any questions you may have.



Kirk Watson



Donna Howard



Gerald Daugherty

## **A MESSAGE FROM YOUR VNA PRESIDENT**

Dear residents of Greater Volente -

It's been a very busy start to 2008 as we continue to try and influence the cities of Round Rock, Cedar Park, and Leander to NOT install a deep water intake and a pumping station in the middle of any of our residential

neighborhoods. I want to give you a quick update on what has transpired, and I want to make you aware of upcoming activities that you will not want to miss. First, what has gone on so far in 2008:

1. Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> - Mattie Adams, Justine Blackmore-Hlista (VoV) and I visited with Rep. Donna Howard and Sen. Kirk Watson to keep them updated and ask for their support. They did write a letter to the three cities strongly urging them to provide the information requested by the Village of Volente in March of last year.
2. Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> - The Texas Water Development Board met to consider a request by the BCRUA for \$305M of funding to pay for Phases I and II of their project. There was strong attendance and participation from Volente residents at this meeting. The TWDB did approve funding for Phase I but made the funding for Phase II conditional on another hearing and verification that all permits and commitments were secured.
3. Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> - Mattie Adams and I met with Daryl Slusher, the director of the water utility for the City of Austin. He remains willing to consider a joint solution with the three cities for a shared deep water intake, but the three cities have to request it fairly soon.
4. Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> - Mattie Adams and I met with Suzanne Zaring, the Director of Water Resources for the LCRA. In the end it was clear that the LCRA did not "have a dog in this hunt" and would not proactively be involved with the plans for water intakes.
5. Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> - the BCRUA held their monthly board meeting in Round Rock. Several Volente residents were present and made statements. On the agenda were two major items; 1) a motion for the board to approve construction on and under Sandy Creek Park and Veteran's Park (in Cedar Park). Board Member Cobby Caputo asked a lot of excellent questions of both Chris Lippe and the engineers working in support of BCRUA. He tried to get the item removed from the agenda unsuccessfully, and then later voted against the motion to approve the construction in the parks – which caused the motion not to pass. We need to continue to watch this. Secondly, at Board member Caputo's suggestion, the BCRUA board voted to instruct the BCRUA staff to contact the Village of Volente council and ask for a working session to be scheduled between the council and the BCRUA board, and instructed Chris Lippe to prepare a response to the Volente Mayor's request for information made in March of 2007. This written response has just been received. This is a big deal as the BCRUA board is acknowledging that they have created a lot of negative reactions in and around Volente and have not acted in full integrity with the Village.

There are two meetings scheduled in the near future that I want all of you to put on your calendars and plan to attend:

1. Mar. 6<sup>th</sup> - By the time you receive this newsletter the BCRUA will have held their first public meeting at the Volente Fire Station to update all Volente residents about the progress being made by the BCRUA to evaluate the seven (7) potential locations for a deep water intake and pumping station in and around Volente. Many of us continue to strongly push for and recommend that the three cities work with the City of Austin to share in a single water intake and pumping station. Look for an email update on this meeting.
2. April 5<sup>th</sup> - the Volente Neighborhood Association annual meeting at the Fire Station, which will include a public meeting, a vote on officers for the upcoming year, and a dinner provided by the VNA. This is an important meeting. Remember, it was last year at this meeting that we all became clearly aware of the plans of these three cities, and the potential impact on all of us. Our intent is to have LCRA management be in attendance to present their water management plans in the Colorado River and in Lake Travis, and to respond to questions from the attendees. Please make plans to be there.

I also want to solicit the formal membership of all of you in the VNA. This group of local residents has played a key role in acting on your behalf to address and fight the intrusion by these three cities into and around our village boundaries. We create a quarterly newsletter working in conjunction with the Volente Volunteer Fire Department, and we regularly send out emails to keep all of you informed. We also represent you in numerous meetings as you can see from above. It would be very helpful if you would fill out the attached membership form, complete the form and mail it back to us with your check for annual membership or bring it to the annual meeting. This will allow you to attend the annual meeting and dinner at no additional cost and will ensure that we can continue to actively represent you on issues of importance to our extended community. Memberships in the VNA will run from April 1<sup>st</sup> to the following March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Thanks to you all!

~ Ken Beck, President ~ Volente Neighborhood Association

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

One year ago the residents of Volente found out about the water project's plans of using our neighborhoods for their industrial intake facility. At the first public meeting the Village asked for an intake site study, and a cost/impact and benefit study. These studies have not been provided. Now the Project is asking the area residents to do the studies themselves, and evaluate the intake sites for input on the short and long term community and environmental impacts. The Volente area residents are again requesting that they have an independent engineering firm review their plans.

No cost estimate of sharing the redesigned Oasis Intake and Pump Station has been done. This option would save Lake Travis and the lake communities from a second, invasive, and destructive deep water intake facility. Why did HDR use almost double the pipeline costs in the estimate of the original Oasis Intake option? Why does the Trails End route use half priced pipeline costs?

No cost estimate of a regional aquifer plan has been done. One of the aquifer companies wrote that HDR over-estimated its plan for just Round Rock by \$180M. This would give Leander and Cedar Park a second source of water.

Over 1,100 letters have been sent to each of the cities councils objecting to this project. Go to <http://www.draininglaketravis.org> to join DELTA and send in your letter today! The Volente residents and the rate payers of these three cities need honest answers.

~ Judy Graci, Membership ~ Volente Neighborhood Association

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### **VOLENTE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT FISH FRY SATURDAY – APRIL 26<sup>th</sup>**

Loosen your belts, dust off your dancing shoes, and reserve the last Saturday in April for Volente's annual Fish Fry and Dance. On April 26, VVFD Auxiliary and volunteers will fry up the best tasting fish this side of Bullick Hollow! And after the food disappears, *Silver Saddle* will entertain us with great music for dancing the night away.

If you are interested in volunteering at this fun event, contact Nancy Carufel at [njccar@msn.com](mailto:njccar@msn.com).



~ Jacque Potts ~ VVFD Board & VVFD Auxiliary

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### **SECOND ANNUAL COMMUNITY – WIDE GARAGE SALE SATURDAY - MARCH 29<sup>th</sup>**

The VVFD Auxiliary will be sponsoring Volente's Second Annual Community-Wide Garage Sale on Saturday, March 29 from 8 am – 2 pm. Last year 52 families cleaned out their garages and sold items in their driveways or at the fire hall.

**BUYERS** - The Auxiliary will advertise this community event through various outlets and publish maps to homes with sales. Maps and lists of items-for-sale will be available at the fire hall for all shoppers; along with Starbucks' coffee and Krispy Kreme donuts.

**SELLERS** - A \$7 donation to the VVFD will get your sale listed in these various advertisements. Or participants may rent tables at the fire hall for \$10 each and sell items there. The Auxiliary will also offer garage sale signs with stands for \$5.00. The signs are 18" x 24" and made of durable, reusable material. Visit the garage sale website at [www.volente.org/garagesale](http://www.volente.org/garagesale).

**Please Note: The VVFD Auxiliary is NOT selling any items - we are hosting, coordinating and promoting the event only. Please do NOT try to drop off items at the fire hall for others to sell - your items will be turned away.**

**DONATORS** – The VNA will be on site and will be accepting certain types of items (only) on behalf of its adopted charity, Safe Haven. Go to <http://www.volente.org/garagesale/safehaven.html> for a list of acceptable items. Members of the VNA Board will be there to inspect large items such as furniture and kitchen items to insure they are in good usable / working condition. If you have questions about Safe Haven and what items the VNA can / will accept on their behalf, contact Al Blunt at 336-1260.

Interested garage sale participants should contact Lonnie Moore either via email at [lonnie@lonniemoore.com](mailto:lonnie@lonniemoore.com) or by phone at 258-0892.

~ **Jacque Potts ~ VVFD Board & VVFD Auxiliary**

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### **ROADWAYS UPDATE**

As you may have noticed from all the wonderful new pot holes along FM 2769, there are several roadway improvement projects currently underway in our area. Below you will find updates of each roadway improvement project along with their estimated completion dates:

- **Anderson Mill Road (between 620 and 183)** – This project consists of widening the existing two-lane roadway to a four-lane divided roadway starting at 620 and ending at Spicewood Parkway. Construction on the northbound lanes is already underway. The project is scheduled to be completed by the beginning of fall 2008.
- **FM 2769 Shoulder Addition** – The project has been completed except for the re-striping of the road in a few sections. I have talked to them about the current condition of the road after the shoulder addition. They stated that the project budget only consisted of adding the shoulder and not resurfacing the entire road. TX DOT stated that they usually like to resurface the entire road after work like this, however they did not have the money in the budget to do so. I also discussed the uneven road surface in certain areas around Rivera marina and the section between The Crossings and Twin Creeks Country Club. TX DOT is looking into the situation and I am waiting on an answer from them.
- **Bullick Hollow Road** - A project to resurface this road is scheduled to begin in 2009.

~ **Ryan Janda, Roadways & Safety ~ Volente Neighborhood Association**

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### **VOLENTE WOMAN'S LUNCH GROUP**

The Volente Women's Lunch Group meets for lunch at 12:30 p.m. on the 4th Tuesday of each month at a nearby restaurant. All residents of Volente are invited and are welcome. Call for reservations to Barbara Gay at 249-6553, 659-3457, or email to [barbarag@austin.rr.com](mailto:barbarag@austin.rr.com) or to Nancy Carufel at 335-3596, 587-7969 or email to [njccar@msn.com](mailto:njccar@msn.com). Can you join us?

~ **Barbara Gay ~ Volente Neighborhood Association Newsletter Contributor**

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### **!!! WELCOME NEW VNA MEMBERS !!!**

The VNA Board would like extend a special welcome to the following new VNA members: the Yeater Family, Jo Kimbro, the Macari Family, the Elkins Family, and the Cullins Family! Thank you for your recent support of the VNA!

## SAFE HAVEN

Three 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 always in need of the following items:** new pillows or blankets (twin size), socks, backpacks, clock radios, cooking pots and pans (starter sets), dishes and silverware, bath towels, wash cloths, umbrellas, plastic clothes hangers, lotions (sunscreens, aloe vera, and antibiotic ointment), paper notebooks (school rule and pocket size), art supplies (paint brushes and markers), large zip-lock bags, small sewing kits, and first aid kits. **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. **We will also be accepting donations during the community wide garage sale schedule for Saturday March 29<sup>th</sup>.**

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## VNA BOARD NEWS AND UPCOMING ELECTION

**We have several posts to be filled on 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 2008, 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 4/5. **If you are interested in joining the VNA Board please contact either of the following board members:**

\* **Ken Beck, President**

**Ph. 331-0298**

\* **Al Blunt, Vice President**

**Ph. 336-1260**

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## VNA BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION

The contact information for the 2006 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**

\* **Anthony DeMichielli, Treasurer**

**Ph. 250-1857**

\* **Judy Graci, Membership**

**Ph. 257-8626**

\* **Jessica Janda, Newsletter & Community Relations**

**Ph. 577-1148**

\* **Al Graci, Lake Travis**

**Ph. 257-8626**

\* **John Scholtzhauer, Business & Development**

**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@yahoo.com](mailto:VNAFeedback@yahoo.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.

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## 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 make checks payable to the Volente Neighborhood Association and send your contact information (including your mailing and email addresses) and payment to the following address:

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

**TELL US!** Give us your comments, suggestions via this form or by e-mail at: [VnaFeedback@yahoo.com](mailto:VnaFeedback@yahoo.com)  
If you use this form, please give to any board member or mail to the Fire Department, Attn: VNA Board  
**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ ↓

Street \_\_\_\_\_ ↓

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ ↓

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ ↓

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide us with your phone number so that we can call you to address any concerns and answer any questions you may have. We are here to serve you!

Volente Neighborhood Association  
Anthony DeMichielli, Treasurer  
15406 FM 2769  
Volente, Texas 78641

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