

# Volente Voice

October 2010

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

It is Fall, Finally. I went out to walk with my dog this morning and it was actually brisk. Isn't it great to not get hit in the face with heat when you go out your door? Now it finally feels like football weather and back to school and high school football games. Can you tell that I am originally from Minnesota where the coolness starts just a little earlier than in Texas?

We have been blessed with rain this fall and the lake is above its average for this time of year. Things look beautiful from here, but there are a lot of things going on. First, the issue of water in our lake. You all are aware of the construction of Water Treatment Plant #4 and its pumping station along Bullick Hollow Road. Ultimately Austin will start drawing water out of Lake Travis for this plant and we are concerned about the impact on lake levels. Add to that the BCRUA plans for a pumping station somewhere around Volente and the future is a little unclear. Please read Judy Garci's report in the newsletter for the most current thoughts about the BCRUA.

The VNA has joined with the Village of Volente to become founding members in the North Lake Travis Neighborhood Coalition. We have now held two public meetings with representation from our elected officials and attendance by a number of the communities and associations around Lake Travis. We are all joining together to create a stronger voice about water quality issues, water level issues, and water availability issues. Join us if you can!

Finally, regarding roads and safety, it has come to pass just as we were concerned it would – work has started simultaneously on the last stretch of 2769 up to the Highway 620 intersection, as well as the work on Bullick Hollow and the large truck traffic hauling excavated materials from the location of the pumping station up the hill and on to numerous dumping locations. If you observe traffic issues with these two main projects please call Ryan Janda as he is the VNA interface to Karen Huber and Travis County and hopefully we can take action on your part and make things better.

See you at the Fire Hall. Remember that our monthly VNA board meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Guests are welcome.

~ Ken Beck, President ~ Volente Neighborhood Association

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## [WILDFIRES & OIL SPILLS – ARE CYPRESS CREEK AND COMANCHE TRAIL NEXT?](#)

Lost Canyons Resort, a new marina with projected space for 200 or more large boats, is in the planning stages for Cypress Creek Cove. The proposed marina may span *both sides* of the cove, with permanent water taxis running back and forth to serve owners and *residents* of possible "live-aboard houseboats." This could turn much of Cypress Creek Cove into a no-wake zone.

More troubling, if built it could also create an extreme fire hazard that threatens families who live on and above the cove and risk a raw sewage spill directly into the cove and Lake Travis. *As a result, immediate and strong opposition has formed. Perhaps you've seen the signs in area yards or the banners on boat docks:*

**StopTheMarina.com**  
**Save Cypress Creek Cove**

As part of the Texas Hill Country lakes system, Lake Travis is an asset and a resource that serves the many needs of Texans and their families. While actual plans have yet to be filed, *as understood so far this project appears inappropriate for Cypress Creek Cove as it threatens life and water quality. Read on for the details, and to learn how you can get involved in preserving safety and water quality in our area.*

There are two primary concerns: threat of fire, and threat to water quality. The threat of an uncontrollable wildfire is very real: There is no fire control access for the large southern-shore section of the proposed marina immediately adjacent to the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan ("BCCP") preserve that borders Cypress Creek Cove. *Were the southern section of the marina to catch fire, it would be essentially impossible to defend the sensitive BCCP preserve immediately adjacent to the proposed marina.* The southern shore is extremely rugged and very steep: There is no fire break nor any means of stopping a wildfire were it to climb the hillside. *The path of the fire would take it directly into the Comanche Trail residential neighborhood, very likely cutting off emergency vehicle access, blocking resident escape paths as it burned.*

This is not far-fetched fear: Windy Point has actually been featured in Forest Service documentaries as a prime example of an extreme fire hazard. The jointly maintained City of Austin/ Travis County Parks Departments have long recognized this very real hazard: To this day, camping and fires are prohibited in both Hippy Hollow and Windy Point Parks that run along the boundary of the same preserve and residential areas as would the proposed marina. The marina would introduce this exact same hazard in area that, were fire to occur, would be even harder to control than in the parks themselves.

With regard to the threat to water quality, the concern has to do with the potential for "live aboard" large houseboats: To serve these units, the proposed marina would necessarily include storage and pumping facilities on the southern shore, immediately adjacent to the BCCP preserve. There would likely be electrical lines running through the lake as there are no roads or other points of land-based service, and possibly sewage tanks and lines as well. Were these lines to leak slowly, or to rupture suddenly the impact to water quality could be severe.

If BP and the disastrous events in the Gulf of Mexico have taught us anything it's that accidents involving underwater pipes can happen, and that when they do the results are incredibly destructive and expensive to properly clean up, assuming clean-up is even possible. Lake Travis, thanks to the continued hard work and vigilance of area residents and citizen' groups including Protect Lake Travis is cleaner than ever, creating recreational and sport fishing opportunities enjoyed by many. *This proposed marina potentially threatens the water quality of Lake Travis:* Marinas in relatively shallow coves like Cypress Creek are often moved large distances as Lake Travis rises and falls, often multiple times during the course of a single year. This makes the design of an underwater sewage transport system expensive and prone to failure. In the event of a large-scale raw sewage discharge directly into Lake Travis, what would prevent an interim marina owner from simply declaring bankruptcy and walking away?

It is important to note that the early, strong, and united opposition to the proposed marina is *not* a challenge to progress, growth or development of Texas' resources. This opposition has formed because of the many obvious public safety issues, including wild fires and the potential threat to the quality of the water in Lake Travis--the same water that tens of thousands of residents who live along the Lower Colorado River basin rely on for household drinking water--that are present in the project as it has been currently envisioned.

This challenge is being mounted now so that the surrounding communities, recreational users and sportsmen who frequent the area along with the current residents and landowners have an opportunity to fully consider all potential uses of the area in question, and to engage all parties to the project, including existing homeowners in the immediate area, the LCRA and agencies responsible for the protection of the BCCP preserve, and Protect Lake Travis, all of whom have a significant stake in the outcome.

For more information, please visit [StopTheMarina.com](http://StopTheMarina.com). Get the facts, and participate. Lake Travis is a treasure for all, and it's important that we all act together to ensure that this treasure is preserved for future generations.

**~ Residents of the Cypress Creek & Comanche Trail Neighborhoods**

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

BCRUA President Mitch Fuller requested to be placed on the Village of Volente Council's Agenda to present their latest deep water intake due diligence report. The Council reviewed the report and found that it lacked the detailed information that Volente has repeatedly requested since March 2007. The Council responded that once it has the appropriate information to review, a public meeting for Mr. Fuller to present the information and answer questions to the Council and the public will be scheduled.

The BCRUA Board considers "a discussion concerning the dialogue with the elected officials and the Village of Volente" at every monthly meeting. There has been no discussion. If the BCRUA wants a dialogue with Volente why haven't they authorized the requested cost, impact, and benefit reports?

The BCRUA uses "cost" to require their using the Jackson neighborhood site. The economy of scale that the project touts works both ways, not only do three cities doing one project save money but the cost of an alternative site with no impact on Volente can be divided by three. The BCRUA due diligence report does not mention that the Jackson site is zoned residential. A detailed environmental field investigation was not performed. The cost of purchasing the Jackson site is unknown. No cost has been added for the potential opposition from the Village and its residents. No cost has been added for complying with Volente's zoning and ordinances.

The BCRUA should use the Starnes Island location for their intake, tunneling the pipeline to their pump station being installed at either the Cedar Park or Leander water treatment plants. These are all LCRA owned sites that would avoid all issues with the Village of Volente.

~ **Judy Graci, Membership ~ Volente Neighborhood Association**

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### **NO DISCHARGE IN THE NEAR FUTURE**

TCEQ approved a permit renewal for Grason Volente Investments' Volente Peak wastewater treatment facility that will handle in its final phase **175,000 gallons** of effluent a day in a drip irrigation field **1,742,400 square feet (40 acres)** or larger. Residents living below the probable field runoff who are dependent on the lake water in Gun Hollow Cove were considered "not affected persons".

The 7/28/2010 meeting of TCEQ netted a denial of a contested case hearing and sympathy but no hope for further actions through a phone call from Dick McWherter in the Public Interest Counsel Office.

In spite of this set back, two positive aspects have surfaced. Jim Rice of Dodd St. Docks has gotten details on an LCRA program that monitors water quality at public sites around Lake Travis. This would establish a baseline for Gun Hollow Cove and spot deterioration if problems occur.

The second aspect is a bad national economy. Keith Collins of K & E Engineering (Volente Peaks's developmental engineers) said that no design actions have been requested for the wastewater treatment facility or even the overall development at this point and does not expect it for 6 months to a year. When Section One platting begins for the subdivision, we should contact Greg Gullett of Waste Water Technologies with our concerns and request a bottom edge berm or retaining wall above Lime Creek Road be added to the design of the drip irrigation field as a safety precaution.

A final note on TCEQ environmental priorities is illustrated by \$5000 + fines, levied on three neighbors just down Lime Creek Road from the drip irrigation field site, for topsoil runoff. Which would bother you more — sewage effluent or topsoil in your front lawn and/or household water supply?

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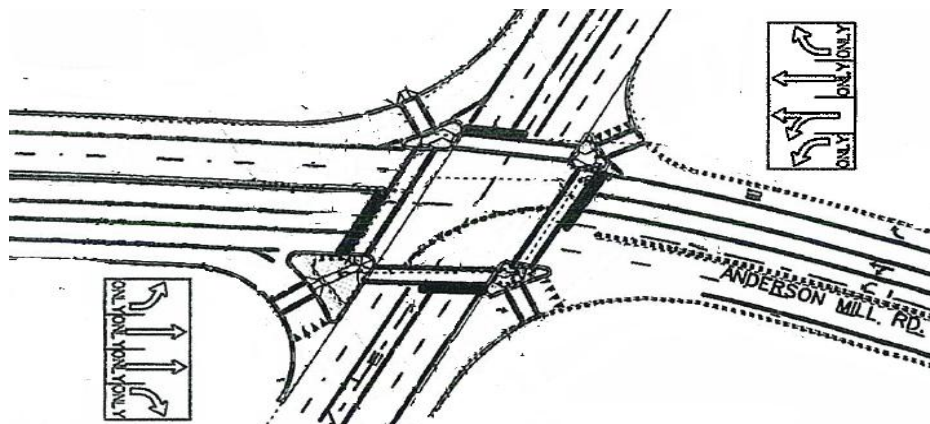
### **MULTIPURPOSE RESTAURANT & STORE BACK IN PLAY**

Through a long term leasing arrangement on the adjacent lots, the restaurant project proposed for the old V.J.'s site has come back to life. In the next few weeks a new Dallas area project manager will be solidifying plans for a combination Pizzeria/Deli/Convenience Store/Liquor Store and possible Bakery. No schedule has been established but the new design team is anxious to get their input to Volente Planning and Zoning and Council review as soon as possible.

~ **John Schlotzhauer, Business Development ~ Volente Neighborhood Association**

## ROADWAYS UPDATE

**Anderson Mill widening (2769 to 620)** - Work crews have started to convert a portion of Anderson Mill Road from two lanes into a four-lane divided roadway with median breaks and extra turn lanes. The project was funded with federal stimulus money. The project is being managed by the TxDot North Austin Area Office and will take about 12 months to complete according to Texas Department of Transportation estimates. The TxDot schedule shows completing the East bound roadway in late March of 2011, at that point they would be switching traffic to the completed East Bound side and start construction on the West bound side which will be completed by the end of September 2011.



~ Ryan Janda, Roadways and Safety ~ Volente Neighborhood Association

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### **VOLENTE FIRE DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST & BLOOD DRIVE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2010**

The VFD Auxiliary is sponsoring the annual pancake breakfast on Saturday, October 23, from 8:00 – 11:00 AM. Pancakes, sausage, Starbucks coffee & juice will be served for only \$4 per person. Funds raised through events like this go to support our community fire department so please join us for some good food; and even better company!

During the breakfast, the Central Texas Blood Bank will be accepting blood donations for Texans who need blood. The blood mobile will be parked in front of the fire hall located at 15406 FM2769 in Volente. Blood donations will be accepted from 8:00 AM until 12:00 PM; please bring identification. For donation appointments, call or email Mr. Al Blunt @ (512)336-1260 or [acblunt@austin.rr.com](mailto:acblunt@austin.rr.com).

~ Jacque Potts ~ VVFD Auxiliary

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### **ANDERSON MILL & MUSEUM**

Anderson Mill & Museums are maintained by Anderson Mill Gardeners. The historical site, once a powder mill, a cotton gin and a grist mill, is located right in our community – 13974 FM 2769 (Volente Road). Founded by the Anderson Family, this site contains history of Volente and the surrounding community.

Come visit the mill and museums on **Sunday, October 24, 2-5 pm**. The OPEN HOUSE includes a QUILT SHOW, a SILENT AUCTION, free tours of the museums and mill and free refreshments. It is a great way to learn more about your community and connect with some friends and neighbors at the same time.

Interested in the club? Check out [Volente.org/amgc](http://Volente.org/amgc) or call 258-2613. A member will return your call.

~ Dorothy Wilhelm ~ Anderson Mill Gardeners

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*Fall Is Here!*

**Saturday, October 23, 2010 9am-1pm**

**Volente Farmer's Market & Fall Festival**

COME join us for Volente's FIRST Farmer's Market on Saturday October 23rd!

**FRESH LOCAL PRODUCE / ART & HANDICRAFTS / LIVE MUSIC!**

Featuring: **The Allison Thrash Blues Band . Roland Perez** and more!!!

RESERVE your own booth for only \$20 (this is a bargain price!) to sell:

- Produce from your Garden
- Baked Goods & Specialty Foods
- Artwork & Handicrafts
- Hidden treasures from your garage & storage
- Services & More!

Booth Spaces are first come, first serve. We supply the space and you supply your own table, chairs, signage, and if desired, a tent no larger than 10' x 10' with tie-downs or weights.

This is YOUR opportunity to share your gifts & talents with Volente!

Contact Matthew Hammond at (512)428-8819 or email: [VolenteMarket@gmail.com](mailto:VolenteMarket@gmail.com) for more information.

Volente Farmer's Market . [VolenteMarket@gmail.com](mailto:VolenteMarket@gmail.com) . (512)428-8819

**!!!! 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: Alma de Moyer Center, Mattie Adams and Frederick Graber, Carlin and Jeff Blahnik, Carl Daw and Kerri Kraft, David Direr, Hacienda Del Lago - Tom Stevenson, Michael and Patti Gerentine, Chris and Melissa Griesbach, Matthew Hammond, Justine Blackmore Hlista and Brad Hlista, Russell and Cheryl Lynch, Sham Nasta, Park Place Open Air Storage, Louie and Joyce Raven, Karen Reeves, Gwen Ross and Gail Hagood, Jerry and Susan Shiever, VIP Marina, & Ralph and Graham Young!

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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 sofa (not cloth and easily cleanable), household cleaners (laundry detergent, disinfectants, and scouring agents), art supplies (paper, paint and paint brushes), socks, twin bed sheets and toiletries. **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 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.



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**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**

