

Volente Voice

September 2011

[A MESSAGE FROM YOUR VNA PRESIDENT](#)

Dear Greater Volente Neighbors,

It's fall 2011 but it sure doesn't feel like it. College football has started but the days are HOT – a record 85 days of 100 degrees or better., its DRY – virtually no rain in or around Austin since last October, and all of us are tired and cranky. Fires have broken out all around central Texas and we may all know friends, neighbors, and /or relatives who have been directly impacted by those blazes. It sure makes me thankful for the firefighters who man ESD #14's Volente fire station as they have been called out many times to assist in fighting all of these fires.

One consistent challenge that the VNA has on an ongoing basis is membership. We charge members just \$15 per year for a private family and \$30 for a commercial business to fund our activities through the year. I'd like to try to tell you what you get for that very small investment:

1. Roads and Transportation – the VNA represents all of you on a regular basis interfacing to both Travis County and Texas Department of Transportation on issues impacting all of us such as the rework of Anderson Mill and the 620 intersection as well as the City of Austin's plans to dig up Bullick Hollow road to install a "duct bank" from the new Water Treatment Plant to the Raw Water Pumping Station. Read Ryan Janda's update in this newsletter.
2. Fire and Medical Emergency – the VNA has worked over the past two years with the ESD #14 board and the VVFD board in a variety of ways to address a complex set of issues regarding services delivered to subdivisions adjacent to Cedar Park that are certain targets for annexation eventually. We will continue to work with both boards as well as the Village to ensure the best solution for service is pursued.
3. Interface to our elected officials – the VNA regularly interfaces with County Commissioner Karen Huber, State Representative Donna Howard, and members of the Village of Volente Council. In fact three of the members of the VNA board hold key positions within the Village of Volente. In the past the VNA has held candidate forums in order to educate our voting population prior to elections.
4. Representing all of you in items such as the planned construction of a deep water intake and pumping station within the boundaries of Volente by the BCRUA. It was the VNA working with the Village that uncovered the original efforts to build this facility on an obscure small lot on Booth Circle.

We represent all of you each and every day giving you all a contact point to ask for help. Now we need your help – join us by sending in your membership it's a great deal because we sponsor an annual dinner at the Fire Station for the membership fee. Help us to help you.

Yours Truly,

~ Ken Beck, President ~ Volente Neighborhood Association

WATER NEWS

City of Austin Water Treatment Plant #4: As early as the week of September 19th, construction will begin on the raw water intake system for WTP4. This system will be located underwater in Lake Travis below The Oasis restaurant. By mid-October, crews will have finished constructing three temporary, floating work platforms at Keller Marina. Crews will then focus on construction of the permanent structure for the intake system during November and December. Throughout the course of the project, three large barges will be used to transport construction equipment, cranes and the intake system from Keller Marina to the lake site. The equipment will be dismantled and moved out of Keller Marina by February 2012.

BCRUA: There has been no contact from the BCRUA to the Village of Volente in 2011 regarding locating their regional water intake facilities in our neighborhoods. The BCRUA is still evaluating alternatives at this time.

State Water Plan: A future expansion of the BCRUA project for Williamson County is a water management strategy in the 2011 Regional Water Plan. The strategy states that there are sufficient quantities of uncommitted stored water in the Highland Lakes for an additional allocation of 118,000afy for its projected 2060 shortages. The BCRUA has not answered what are the total potential capacity of the water intake facilities and pipelines.

LCRA: Because of the severe and ongoing drought, the Lower Colorado River Authority's Board of Directors will consider asking the state for permission to reduce or cut off water from the Highland Lakes to farmers next year. This comes as new projections show that the combined storage of lakes Travis and Buchanan, the region's water supply reservoirs, could drop to 640,000 to 680,000 acre-feet by January 1.

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

EMERGENCY SERVICES EDITORIAL

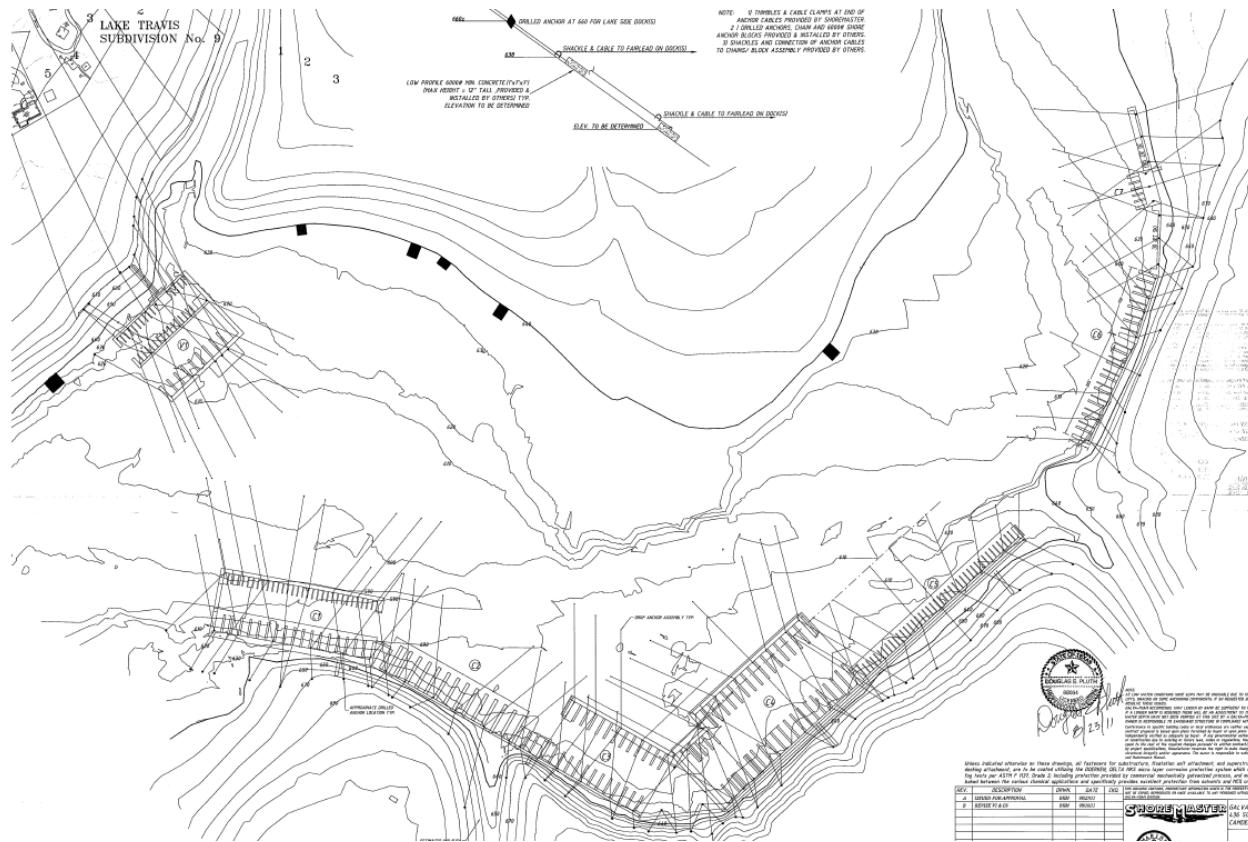
Over this past year Volente has struggled to find the right solution for providing fire and medical emergency services to our area. ESD #14 was formed many years ago for this purpose, but it remains one of the smallest of the Travis County ESD's with only a single fire station, that being in Volente. The station is manned and managed by the Volente Fire Department board, a remnant of the time prior to ESD's being formed when the Volente Volunteer Fire Department was the only game in town, a laudable history that we are celebrating as the 50th anniversary this October.

The ESD has struggled to properly respond to the needs of several subdivisions that have grown at our Eastern border next to Cedar Park. The majority of the tax revenue comes from these subdivisions and puts us at risk to their being annexed by Cedar Park, a process that has already started. This has also become much more complicated by the impact of multiple brush fires in Travis County over the past month. It has become obvious to me that Travis County's network of independent emergency districts is not adequate for responding to multiple emergencies such as these. When an independent group of advisors made recommendations to the ESD earlier this year as to how to deal with the service needs of the aforementioned subdivisions, we recommended that what was needed was a cross county integrated intelligent system with single point dispatch. It is time that Travis County considers a single county wide emergency services system, and that consideration be given for integrating that system with Williamson County as well. I'd say the sooner the better.

~ **Ken Beck, President ~ Volente Neighborhood Association**

UPDATE ON MARINA FOR CYPRESS CREEK ARM OF LAKE TRAVIS

* * We were alerted Thursday evening that an official full marina application has been filed with LCRA.



To give you an idea of the large expanse of this marina here is some data from the plans:

1. The marina size is for 303 slips total (which includes slips on both sides of the cove)

116 ski boat slips	60 jet ski slips
5 ferry boat slips	122 houseboat slips

2. The marina plans for the Pochontas Trail side show 40 slips, with a size of approx. 256' wide x 225' deep, which is 57,600 square feet.

3. On the other side of the cove, the preserve side, the slips start near Riviera Marina, and line that side of the cove for about .7 miles. There would be 263 slips on the preserve side of the cove.

It is not known now what the next step will be concerning this issue and the whole marina issue in itself. We will keep you apprised as updates become available.

We sincerely appreciate everyone's support these past two years, and we shall stay diligently working on this. Go to www.stopthemarina.com for more info!

ROADWAYS UPDATE

Anderson Mill - The widening of Anderson Mill has run into some complications getting driveways completed on the westbound side of the road and they have also had to make some drainage revisions to handle the water near Windy Terrace road. These changes have delayed the completion date into early to mid-November. TX Dot will be separating the eastbound and westbound traffic starting the weekend of the 8th; this is being done so they can finish the paving process on each side of the road.

Bullick Hollow

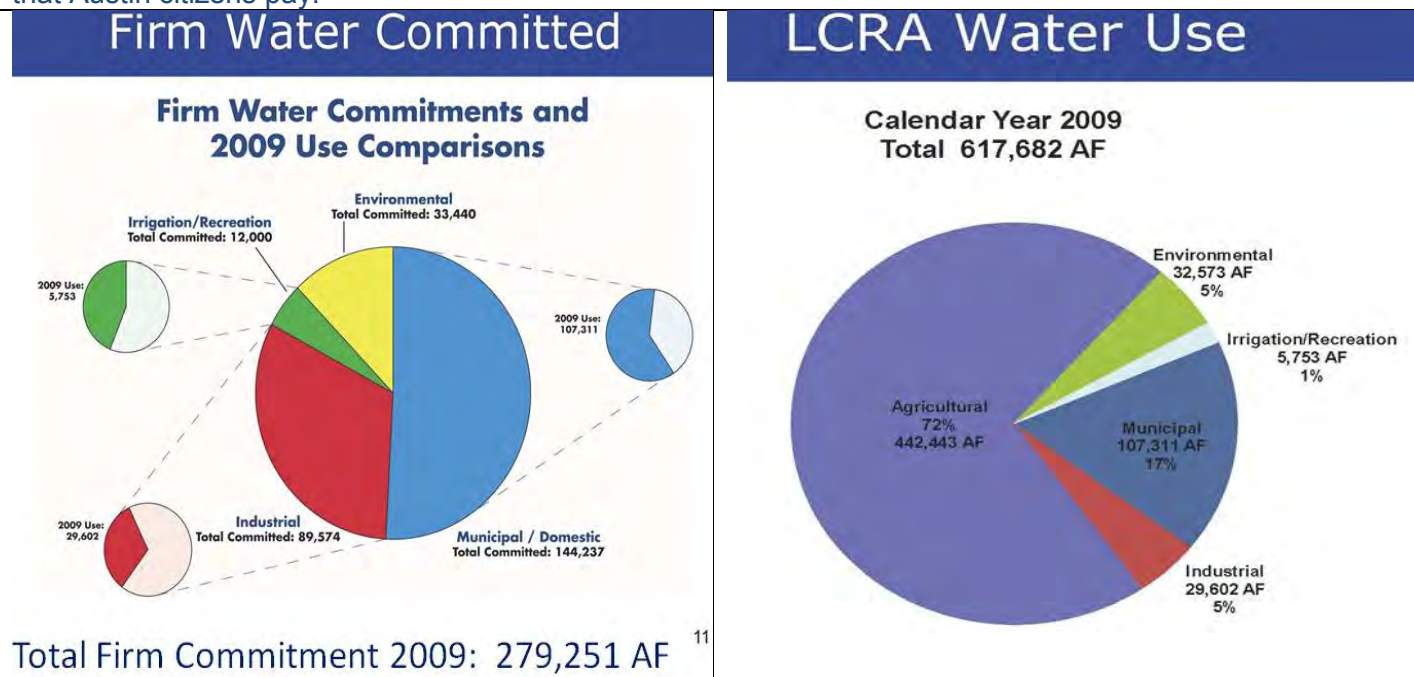
Duct Bank Construction - WTP4 is currently completing design and will be starting the permitting process for the duct bank construction. The schedule for the start of construction is highly dependent upon the permitting and procurement of the work. It is anticipated that the construction would begin in November and will be conducted at night between 9:00 pm and 6:00 am, at which time the portion of Bullick Hollow Road between RR 620 and Oasis Bluff will be closed.

Widening Climbing Lane - Plans to extend the climbing lane are proceeding. The plans are currently in the final stages of permitting through the City of Austin and Travis County. Construction on that work will begin as soon as possible. WTP4 will alert neighbors about the beginning of that construction before it begins.

~ Ryan Janda, Roadways and Safety ~ Volente Neighborhood Association

CENTRAL TEXAS WATER COALITION: WHERE'S THE WATER GOING?

The LCRA has not been forthright about the rice industry usage of water this year. They do not regularly post the amount of stored water released, however, they are estimating that the irrigation districts (rice farmers) will use about 450,000 AF of water this year, a new record. The rice farmers are also having one of their best years ever, with TWO bumper crops of rice, while our area businesses are getting killed and the Cities have gone to mandatory curtailments (see 2009 usage chart from the LCRA below). This year, the numbers will even be more skewed. In '09, ag used 72% of the water, and paid 1/20 of the price per AF that Austin citizens pay.



ANDERSON MILL GARDENERS UPDATE

The Anderson Mill Gardeners have begun the process of rebuilding the old Mill Wheel that fell apart this summer. We hosted a very successful Ice Cream Social Fundraiser and were recently featured on KVUE. We are investigating design improvements to increase longevity while staying true to the history of our replica. The last 2 open houses of the year, the **Plant Sale Sept.25 and Quilt Show Oct. 23**, are good opportunities to see the wheel before it is torn down. We are seeking donations to the Mill Wheel and Plant Sale. Contact AMGC@Volente.org

!!!! WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS !!!!

WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!! 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 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 with the word SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. Special thanks to **Lonnie Moore** for managing the community email distribution 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: Roger Tyler, Kip Lewis, Lucy Oxberry, Steve & Lindy Hamblin, Felix Deherrera and Joseph Goodson

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:** gift cards, new bed pillows to give to the residents to keep even when they leave the shelter, twin size blankets for them to keep, twin size sheets w/pillowcases, backpacks, clock radios, pocket calendars to help residents keep up with their doctor appointments, towels-bath & washcloths, umbrellas, lotions, shampoo, conditioners, sunscreens, spiral notebooks, art supplies, first aid kits, large Ziploc freezer bags, lamps and light bulbs. **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.

VNA BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION

The contact information for the 2011 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.** 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



2011 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

