

# Volente Voice

**The Newsletter of the Volente Neighborhood Association (VNA)**

**October 2009**

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

As I'm writing this message it has been raining for three days. I can't tell you how welcome this rain is. This has been a summer of records – the number of days over 100 degrees, the complete lack of rain, and Lake Travis dropping to its third lowest level in history

The VNA wants to thank each and every person who assisted in the Clean Up Lake Travis effort. Lonnie Moore and Al Blunt took leadership positions in making this happen and the results have been amazing. Many industrial size dumpsters were filled with material taken out of our lake and its coves. With the water level at record lows it was a perfect time to remove debris to ensure safe and healthy use of the lake going forward. Regarding our lake levels, please read Judy Graci's update on the activities of the BCRUA. They continue in a singular focus to move forward with construction plans for the water line up Trail's End Road. We must stay vigilant in an effort to get them to seriously consider other alternatives.

Regarding our roads, please read the update provided by Ryan Janda. As your representatives we are trying to stay very updated on the construction plans for WTP#4 and its impact on Bullick Hollow Road, as well as the right of way acquisition progress along 2769 leading up to 620. We will have some interesting traffic concerns once construction starts.

Don't forget to stop by regularly and peruse the new lighted information sign in front of the Volente Fire Station next to the Mailbox. There are three sections – one for the Village of Volente, one for the Volente Fire Department, and one for the VNA. We will all try to have pertinent and helpful information posted there. Many thanks to Lonnie Moore for taking the lead on making this happen and providing a very nice upgrade to the Village.

We also need your MEMBERSHIP in the VNA in order to do the community activities that benefit you all. We have approximately 60 paying members out of a population of near 400. We need your interest, and we need your annual payment of only \$15 per family to give us the wherewithal to do our work.

Best to you all,

~ Ken Beck, President ~ Volente Neighborhood Association

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## [BCRUA WATER INTAKE FACILITY AND PIPELINE THROUGH VOLENTE UPDATE](#)

With all the media attention on the drought, there has been no mention of the BCRUA's proposed plans to start construction on their Lake Travis project this fall. Where would the lake be if the BCRUA was pumping their maximum capacity through the summer? In August of 1950, Lake Travis was at 637msl and in one year it fell to 617msl. With 2010 usage, where could the lake be next year?

With all the media attention on the drought, there has been nothing on the Simsboro Aquifer. Instead of developing this huge second source of water, the BCRUA is planning another project into the same single, over-promised source. These Williamson County Cities don't need another interbasin transfer. The Simsboro Aquifer is in their basin and it is considered drought-proof. The BCRUA should bring a second major source of water to Central Texas. A private water corporation with permits for 51,000af out of the deep Simsboro Aquifer in Milam and Burleson Counties can pipe treated water down Hwy 79 to the SH 130 intersection just east of Round Rock. Why is the BCRUA allowed to use more Lake Travis water?

The LCRA/Leander interbasin transfer permit for an additional 17,600af is pending at TCEQ with many requests for contested case hearings. The TCEQ is in technical review of the application responding to the public meeting information. Leander's Mayor Cowman has no concern in starting construction of the project although this permit is Leander's water right for the BCRUA. 75% of Phase 1 construction would be built to the project's planned capacity. Since Leander is almost 50% of the BCRUA project, what happens if the permit is denied? Leander's City Engineer said that there could be a moratorium on building in the Brazos Basin. Water rights permits should be obtained before constructing the facilities and pipelines.

BCRUA President Mitch Fuller stated that the Village of Volente would have responsive reports in August, but Jacobs Engineering was only authorized to start the due diligence report on the Jackson intake site in July. Jacobs Engineering has not been authorized to work on the cost/impact and benefit reports for the Village.

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

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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.

~ **Jessica Janda, Newsletter ~ Volente Neighborhood Association**

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**ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS**

**BULLICK HOLLOW RD** - a contractor was chosen in August 2009 and work will begin this fall and will take about four months. The improvements will include left turn lanes and widening the existing road pavement in locations to accommodate construction traffic at the secondary entrance into the plant, which is located just west of the intersection of RM 620 and Bullick Hollow Road. A climbing lane will also be constructed at the entrance of the raw water pump station to accommodate heavy truck traffic turning out of the pump station and onto Bullick Hollow Road.

**ANDERSON MILL RD** – the widening of Anderson Mill Road from FM 2769 to FM 620 has been funded and TX DOT is in the process of right of away acquisition.

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

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**TRAVIS COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES & VETERANS SERVICE**  
**2009 STRATEGIC PLANNING SURVEY**

The Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service Department is engaging in a strategic planning process to help us continue to improve our programs and services and best serve the community. To better inform this work, we want to hear from community members. How do you think we're doing? What suggestions do you have for us? This information will be used to guide our efforts toward improving our programs, services, and processes. The survey should take no more than 10 to 15 minutes to complete. We welcome any feedback so please feel free to share this survey with others. Please follow this link to begin our brief survey: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey-intro.zgi?p=WEB229EVTYCTQ9>. Thank you for your time and input.

~ Courtney Lucas, Planner, Research and Planning Division ~ Travis County Health and Human Services

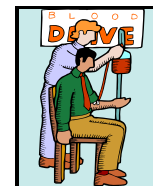
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**VOLENTE VFD AUXILIARY SPONSORS**  
**PANCAKE BREAKFAST & BLOOD DRIVE**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24**

VVFD Auxiliary is sponsoring the annual **Pancake Breakfast** on October 24. Pancakes, sausage, Starbucks coffee & juice will be served 8-11 AM for only \$4 per person, old or young. Come join us for some good food and even better company.



**Blood Mobile** will be set up in front of VVFD 8AM-Noon for blood donations. If you can donate, call or email Jacque Potts @ 468-7685 or [gpotts2@austin.rr.com](mailto:gpotts2@austin.rr.com). Come show your community spirit and donate. Our own Flo Adams and Mary Peacock will be there giving out cookies for your effort



~ Dorothy Wilhelm ~ Contributing Member

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**CURBSIDE RECYCLING IS AVAILABLE IN OUR AREA**



Still using IESI for your trash service? Switch to TDS (Texas Disposal Systems) which offers both curbside trash and recycling services. Please call TDS at (512) 421-1360 to switch services now. **Recycling** involves processing used materials

into new products to prevent waste of potentially useful materials, reduce the consumption of fresh raw materials, reduce energy usage, reduce air pollution (from incineration) and water pollution (from landfilling) by reducing the need for "conventional" waste disposal, and lower greenhouse gas emissions as compared to virgin production. Let's set a positive example for our kids and grandkids when it comes to reducing wasteful consumption habits and conservation.

~ Jessica Janda, Newsletter ~ Volente Neighborhood Association

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**LEANDER FILES TCEQ PETITION TO DISCHARGE SEWAGE EFFLUENT INTO LAKE TRAVIS**

The cities of Leander and Granite Shoals filed a Petition for Rulemaking at TCEQ that would do away with the current restrictions preventing discharges of sewage effluent into Lake Travis and the other Highland Lakes. Leander wants to build a new wastewater plant that would discharge into a creek that flows into the Sandy Creek arm of Lake Travis, which should be of special interest to Volente.

Granite Shoals would dump into Lake LBJ which, during normal flow years, would result in the effects of their discharge also reaching Lake Travis where water (and contaminants) get stored.

Even worse, the petition does not seek special permission for limited situations, but rather asks for an entire repeal of the rules which protect the Highland Lakes, allowing sewage effluent discharge into the lakes by any number of existing and future operators. Because this threat is imminent and so important, more detailed information will be coming directly from the [Protect Lake Travis Association](http://www.protectlaketravis.org) (<http://www.protectlaketravis.org>) via their new electronic newsletter rather than the Volente e-News. Subscribers to the e-News will automatically receive this information, but can elect to opt-out at any time.

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## RESULTS FROM SHORELINE CLEANUP



Results are in from the Volente Shoreline Cleanup and they are indeed impressive:

- 1) Debris: Six 30-yard dumpsters for a total of 180 cubic yards, weighing at total of 18 tons;
- 2) Recyclable steel: One 30-yard dumpster was filled with steel weighing 4.5 tons;
- 3) Tires: 76
- 4) Batteries: 31

We impressed the heck out of the folks at Keep Austin Beautiful and Colorado River Foundation that organized the lake-wide 15th Annual Underwater and Shoreline Cleanup. They normally see a total of 1-2 dumpsters filled during the event.

Lakeway made a similar effort, also organized by [Protect Lake Travis Association](http://www.protectlaketravis.org). They ran a close second, also with 180 cubic yards of debris. However, their total tonnage was only 12 tons compared to our 18 tons - they just did not pack their dumpsters the way we did in Volente (photo).

We need to single out and thank: Jan Yenawine (top photo) for extensive use of his time and barge to transport materials; Frank (photo right) and Carrie Carter of [Highland Lakes Marina](http://www.highlandlakesmarina.com) who let us use their location, boat ramp and equipment; Todd Kahler of [Anderson Mill Marina](http://www.andersonmillmarina.com) for use of his facility and personnel; Don Green and his company, [Central Texas Refuse](http://www.centraltexasrefuse.com), for their donations, reduced pricing and cooperation; [Waste Management](http://www.wastemanagement.com) for donating two dumpsters at Anderson Mill Marina; the city council of Village of Volente, which provided the much-needed contingency funds which allowed us to keep going long after we exceeded the donated dumpster capacity; [Volente Neighborhood Association](http://www.volente.org) for additional funds and support; Robert Nelson of R. Nelson Concrete who brought his backhoe/loader to help load and pack dumpsters; Al Blunt for providing planning and coordination; and Walt Thompson, who was the first to take charge of a cove cleanup and showed us all how it could be done. And a big THANK YOU to all of you who participated.



Be sure to take a look at photos of the event at: <http://volente.phanfare.com/4356399> . There are even more photos reachable from [www.volente.org/gallery](http://www.volente.org/gallery).

~ Lonnie Moore ~ Contributing Member

## 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: George & Kissian Carlson, Larry & Cheryl Audette, Mark & Gwen Pharr, Cass & Scout Hook, David & Margaret Winter, Sam Love, Richard & Stacy Wood, Jim Rice, Robert & Carol Long, Linda Olson, Jon Potcinske, Barry Boriski & Elaine Newton

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## A SPECIAL THANK YOU NOTE FROM SAFE HAVEN

On behalf of the Safe Haven, I would like to thank you for your generous donations to the shelter. Each of your members can take pride in knowing you are a wonderful source of generosity to people who really need your help. Your continued interest and support are of value to the population we serve. Items like the large-sized coffee pot, the toaster, mirror, books, etc all contribute to the effort of sustaining a strong, effective shelter. Your donations play an integral part in the success of the Safe Haven. Thank you for your generous support of our efforts to help homeless individuals living with mental illness.

~ **Carol Eaton, On-site Manager ~ Safe Haven**

Five 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.

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## VNA BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION

The contact information for the 2009 VNA Board officers and members along with their respective areas of responsibility can be found below:

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

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 ~ Volente Neighborhood Association**

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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 fill out the form below and mail it along with your check (payable to the Volente Neighborhood Association) to the address on the form.

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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**2009 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**