

## Project Valentine Seeks Volunteers, Donations For Chemotherapy Centers

To brighten the day for more than 700 men, women and children receiving cancer treatment in the Cherry Creek Valley, *Project Valentine* is seeking volunteers to donate their time to create and deliver gift bags to local chemotherapy centers.

Colleen Anderson founded the project in February 2002 with the mission of making Valentine's Day a "little sweeter" for individuals going through cancer treatment. Since that time, *Project Valentine* volunteers have recruited donations, assembled hundreds of goodie bags and delivered these treats to men, women and children undergoing treatment on Valentine's Day.



**Volunteers Needed:** Project Valentine, a non-profit that provides care packages on Valentine's Day to cancer patients, seeks volunteers to create and deliver gift bags.

Anderson passed away in 2007, but her friends have carried on with her dream, led by Amy Smeester.

Volunteers are needed to make gifts, sort donations, assemble and deliver the completed bags. The deadline to create and collect all materials is January 30. Packages will be compiled on February 7 and distributed on Valentine's Day. No set time commitment is required. Handmade gifts are not only appropriate; they are often the most appreciated items distributed.

In addition to the service of volunteers, the project relies on donations to fill the treasured bags. These can include everything from cozy socks and

scarves to soft hats, bookmarks and decks of cards. Crossword puzzle books, unscented hand creams, new paperback books for kids and DVDs for teens are among the endless list of possible items. A crafting day is scheduled on January 24, a fun day to learn for non-crafty people, or a chance to make your favorite craft in good company.

Unfortunately the project cannot accept used items or homemade food items. "Due to the sometimes delicate medical conditions of recipients, we can't expose them to any risk of infections through these items," project leaders explain.

Send contributions to *Project Valentine*, c/o 695 Dahlia Street, Denver, CO 80220. If you are sending a financial contribution, make checks payable to Corona Presbyterian Church and write *Project Valentine* in the memo line. For additional information e-mail [amycrashed@hotmail.com](mailto:amycrashed@hotmail.com).



**Crafty Help:** Create crafty items for donation to cancer patients either at your home or during a crafting day scheduled for January 24.

## ARTalk

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For the video *City Light*, Chinese artist Yang Fudong follows a young man and his doppelganger on a day in the city. The work opening January 13 in the *New Media Gallery* at the *Museum of Contemporary Art* (MCA) tells a timelessly hip detective story in alternating black & white and color with glimpses of tempered humor. The plot is detached from the loveliness of the cityscape to make scenes that are serenely beautiful yet humorous.

For her residency at *MCA Denver*, Ana Marie Hernando will mount colorful petticoats, created and worn by Peruvian women, to form *La Montana* in the *Project Gallery* opening to the public January 30. Information: 303-298-7554.

## Guest Editorial

### Past, Present And Future Of Lowry Vista

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This is a basic plan for the infrastructure on the site, such as roads, sewers, etc. There is already a Metro District in place, so only property owners within the Lowry Vista development, not Denver taxpayers, are saddled with the cost of the new infrastructure. The City and other reviewing entities will request changes to the GDP before it can be approved. After that, IRG will probably file zoning applications, which is when City Council officially weighs in.

There are dissenting views and genuine concerns that surround any development, and Lowry Vista is no exception. The increasing density along the Alameda corridor is transforming the eastern edge of the city into an extension of Denver's urban character. Lowry Vista will add to this change, and traffic in the area will undoubtedly be affected. But increasing density from Cherry Creek to Aurora could put Alameda on the radar for mass transit. Additionally, higher density mixed-use communities allow people to live, work and shop within a smaller space, meaning fewer car trips per person.

The future of the wildlife in the region is another valid concern. The wetlands ad-

acent to the landfill are protected by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for wildlife habitat, so the herds of deer and birds you see in the area today will still have a home. As it exists right now, most wildlife cannot access the fenced-off landfill.

It is the responsibility of my colleagues and me to consider what types of development are appropriate in a given area. Councilmembers must carefully weigh citizen input — between those who vocally dislike a project and those of the often "silent majority." Some people may prefer to do their shopping a little bit closer to home; some people may prefer to have an easier way to access the Westerly Creek wetlands and dam; and yes, some people may prefer things to stay exactly as they are.

I want to make my role in this situation perfectly clear. I am not an agent of IRG, of the LRA, nor of the City's Planning department. I work for the citizens of District 5, and I will continue to do my best to accurately represent their interests.

I want to hear your voice. Please e-mail me with your thoughts — both positive and negative — on this potential development: [Marcia.johnson@denvergov.org](mailto:Marcia.johnson@denvergov.org).

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1001 East Yale Avenue  
Denver, CO 80210  
303-765-6800  
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