

Proposed Center Makes Progress

The Charles Houston Advisory Council teen members organized a dance to raise money for a new teen center at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. Nearly 90 neighborhood teens turned out and contributed over \$200 on Saturday night, March 11.

According to Paul Hamilton, the Advisory Council's president, the goal is to raise \$70,000 to develop and outfit the new center. To date, \$45,000 plus pledges totaling \$12,500 have been raised.

Two open visioning meetings with the teen center management and then with teens are to be scheduled in the next month. The Advisory Council members want designs completed in May and all approvals by July to have the teen center open in the fall of 2017.

To make a donation, visit the Advisory Council's Go Fund Me site at www.gofundme.com/chrc-teen-center-renaissance-2vhnqxw

Or find the Go Fund Me link on www.charleshoustonrec.com

— RIKKI GEORGE



PHOTO BY RIKKI GEORGE/GAZETTE PACKET

What do today's teens want? According to a graffiti board with teen comments at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, teens want a space of their own with new technology to do homework and have fun.

All Alexandria Reads Focuses on Art Crime

The Alexandria Library will celebrate All Alexandria Reads from April 1-May 9. This year's featured title is "Priceless: How I Went Undercover to Rescue the World's Stolen Treasures," an account of the experiences of Robert K. Wittman who tracked down and negotiated the return of priceless works of art as an FBI agent. Wittman will discuss a number of his cases including tracking down the Bill of Rights as well as works of art by Rockwell, Monet and Rembrandt.



Robert K. Wittman

The All Alexandria Reads program is designed as a community event to create shared experiences through reading. This year it is focused on the Whitman book with

companion books chosen for younger readers and the events will focus on art and artifacts as well as crime scene investigations.

Programs will include book discussions, art classes, lectures, story times, an escape room, film screenings and music programs. On April 27 the author will visit Alexandria to speak to students at T.C. Williams High School and will present a community program at 7 p.m. This is the 10th year for this signature event at the library and is made possible through a grant from the James M. Duncan, Jr. Library Foundation, Inc.

— SHIRLEY RUHE

Supporting ALIVE!

Garrison Miller, manager of the Giant Store on Duke Street in Alexandria, and Diane Charles, executive director of ALIVE! Inc., launch "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" March 4 to support ALIVE!'s hunger relief campaign. Within less than four days, donation boxes and grocery carts were overflowing. Miller said, "With one in five families in Alexandria struggling to put food on the tables, Giant is committed to this partnership." As part of this effort, Giant donated a \$1,000 gift card to ALIVE! to purchase food from Giant for ALIVE!'s food program.



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