

November 2016



# West End News

**WENA Board 2016**

- Chris Leinbach, President  
 Vicki Fernandez, Secretary  
 Ben Negrete, Treasurer  
**Directors:**  
 Brian Walsh  
 Richard Cunningham  
 Dave Borton  
 Greg Reel  
 Daniel Alm  
 Emily Weissenberger



## President's Message....

*By Chris Leinbach, WENA President*

Our last event, the annual neighborhood picnic was a great success! Well over one hundred twenty neighbors came together to share food and company. We had many local businesses that donated to the event. Thank you to all who provided gifts for the raffle. I'd also like to thank Collie Auto Works for providing beverages and Charlotte Neal and Rose Curfman who provided their

amazing face painting skills. And, last but not least, to all of the neighbors who brought the delicious food. There's nothing better than having our community come together to make new friends and renew old friendships. I look forward to seeing WENA members at our upcoming holiday party. **JOIN NOW and support the West End**

**December 3, 2016 - Holiday Party**

**2017 Dates to Remember**

- |                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| March 2nd      | Annual Meeting     |
| May 20th       | Chili Cook-off     |
| August 1st     | National Night Out |
| September 17th | Block Party        |
| December 2nd   | Holiday Party      |

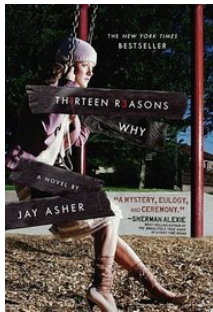
## Saving Upper Toyon Ridge from Habitat Destruction...by West End Neighbor Brian Walsh

Upper Toyon Ridge is viewed to the south toward Mount Tamalpais. It is a tree-lined ridge that runs east and west separating the West End of San Rafael from Ross Valley. The 10-acre area of concern is on this ridge. The San Rafael portion was annexed to Ross four years ago. On June 12th, 2016 the owner of this property submitted plans to build two homes on top of this ridge, each in excess of 8000 sq. ft. The plans require the removal of up to 600 heritage trees including redwoods, oaks and madrone. This habitat destruction will eliminate resources, nesting, and refuges for endemic and threatened native species including raptors, owls, fox, bobcat and many other animals and plants. This project, with the stripped hillside, will effectively close off this area, which lies adjacent to open space and the continuous hiking and moun-

tain biking trails enjoyed by members of our community.

Land Wilson, resident and member of the WENA, has been galvanizing the community to oppose this development in favor of maintaining the area as open space. He and his supporters have contacted and made allies with many agencies to support this alternative including WENA, Marin Open Space Trust, Audubon Society, Sierra Club, volunteer legal help, Federation of Neighborhoods, the IJ, and EPIC. The owner of this property has indicated that, failing to develop the property, he may be willing to sell it to be used as open space. A member of the WENA board, Vicki Fernandez, has been contacting numerous associations to purchase the property at a cost of 3.5 million and transfer to the Marin Open Space Trust. Currently the permit for the development of this property, including tree removal, is deemed 'incomplete' per Ross Valley Plan-

## Netflix Films TV Series in San Rafael..by West End Neighbor Daniel Alm



**“Thirteen Reasons Why,”** a New York Times best-seller by Jay Asher was adapted for screen by Brian Yorkey. Since June, Netflix film crews have been filming in San Rafael’s many idyllic neighborhoods and

wrapped up on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Two WENA households had the honor of being featured as film locations in the Netflix Original Series.

The film is due to be released March 2017. Below is my Q&A with Ryan Wylie, Netflix Location Scout. Ryan started scouting San Rafael for the series in April.

**Daniel:** Why was San Rafael and surrounding areas selected as the film location for the series?

**Ryan:** As the scout, I was not privy to every factor that went into the decision of casting so many locations in San Rafael, but I can tell you what they liked about San Rafael; tree covered hillsides. Hillsides make for a cinematic backdrop, but if covered with grass, continuity becomes an issue, as they turn from green to yellow-brown and back. We found the City and its agencies exceedingly hospitable to our project, and it is a good size city for our story. There are many beau-

tiful homes and neighborhoods, and a universality, as these neighborhoods look like they could be set in almost any geographic region of the U.S.

**Daniel:** In your scouting process, is there an aesthetic you are attempting to create for the film?

**Ryan:** The aesthetic features of a home add to a general presence that it will offer the camera. This presence will either match the character or not which is decided by the production designer and director. I try to find options that will match based on my reading of the script and direction given to me from the production designer and director. It is also imperative that the location fit the utility of the actions that are to take place in the film. While reading the script, the scout must take notes on how the characters come and go from the house; these factors will help determine how the front door needs to be justified to the street, if there is a fence around the yard, a 2nd floor, a garage, etc. A multitude of other story factors are also considered, like the occupation of the occupants, and how the home would reflect that in scale and design, etc.

I am grateful Netflix had the courage to take on a sensitive and heartbreaking subject. The issues of teen bullying and suicide need exponentially more visibility.

- 28% of 6-12 graders experienced or are feeling bullied.
- 70% of teens have seen bullying occur in their school.
- Suicide is the **SECOND** leading cause of death for teens.
- 4 of 5 teens who attempted suicide have given clear warning signs.

What can you do? Here are some resources.

Get informed:

- [www.jasonfoundation.com](http://www.jasonfoundation.com)
- [www.nobully.org](http://www.nobully.org)

Get involved:

- [www.theovernight.org](http://www.theovernight.org)

Get help:

- Family Service Agency of Marin [www.fsamarin.org](http://www.fsamarin.org) 415-491-5700  
24 hour Suicide Prevention & Crisis Hotline 415-499-1100

## Saving Upper Toyon Ridge...continued

ning Dept, pending a possible environmental impact report, and approval by the City of Ross town council.

### Please help!

- Join WENA, our Board is working hard to support this mission.
- Sign the petition at [www.change.org/UpperToyonRidge](http://www.change.org/UpperToyonRidge)
- Discuss with your neighbors, spread the word.
- Contact Land Wilson [land@landwilson.com](mailto:land@landwilson.com) and stay informed on his mailing list.
- Attend upcoming Public Hearings that will be announced.
- Write a letter expressing your concerns to Heidi Scoble, Planning Manager, City of Ross, P.O. Box 320, Ross, CA, 94957.
- If anyone has any contacts or suggestions with potential funding sources, please email Vicki Fernandez at [bubba22@aol.com](mailto:bubba22@aol.com)
- Volunteer!