John grew up in a very small town in the Santa Cruz Mountains. John was raised in a family where it was expected that you served and gave back to your community. After attending school in East Texas, John returned to the Santa Cruz area and eventually settled back in his home town and gave back to his community as a Firefighter/EMT for the Felton Fire Protection District; an all-volunteer fire department; learning what it meant to literally put his life on the line for his community.

In 1997, John moved his family to Redwood City to work for Peninsula Covenant Church (PCC) & Community Center in Facilities/Operations and was introduced to the Redwood City Planning Department and Planning Commission through a housing project he built that provided affordable housing units to PCC staff families.

It didn't take long to decide Redwood City was "home" and John began getting involved in the community. John was appointed to the Planning Commission in 2001; reappointed unanimously in '04 and '07 and served two back-to-back terms as Chairperson.

In 2009, John was elected to his first term on the City Council and re-elected in 2013. John was recently selected by his colleagues as Mayor of Redwood City in December, 2015. As the Mayor, John serves on several local and regional boards and committees including:

- Chairman, Silicon Valley Clean Water
- Utilities Committee
- Personnel Committee
- City Owned Property Committee
- 101/Woodside Road Interchange Committee
- RWC/YMCA Partnership Committee
- Airport Land Use Committee
- Belmont/Redwood Shores School District 2+2+2 Committee

John's "day job" is as the Director of Facilities & Transportation at Crystal Springs Uplands School in Hillsborough, where he is involved in helping them develop a new middle school campus in Belmont.

John lives in Redwood City with his wife, Donna, and has 3 amazing daughters, Jessi, Heather, and Megan. When John isn't at a meeting or an event he loves to cook, drink wine, golf, ski, hike, and watch just about any sport on TV.