

The Woodlands

Keeping You Informed For 50 Years

November 2018

Walnut Creek City Council Candidates

By Jared Asch

With Election Day approaching this week, we want to continue to invite our neighbors to get to know our local candidates a little better. There are five candidates running for two city council seats, including one incumbent. We have invited all the candidates to submit approximately a half page piece to our newsletter. The included statements are written by the candidates themselves. At the time of publication only four candidates have submitted their articles.

In addition to the city council elections, you have many other choices on the ballot in November.

This November will be highlighted by a Governor's race between Democratic Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom and Republican businessman John Cox. Two Democrats running for the U.S. Senate seat with incumbent Diane Feinstein running against former State Senator Kevin De Leon. Other statewide offices include Secretary of State, Lt. Governor, Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner, Attorney General, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Board of Equalization and State Assembly.

Mt Diablo United School District has put forth Measure J, a \$150 million bond which would cost property owners an average annual \$15 per \$100,000 assessed (not market) value. All funds would support repairing and improving our schools. The Measure has been endorsed by MDUSD representatives in the Northgate area, Board Member Brian Lawrence and Board Member-Elect Cherise Khaund, as well as the East Bay Times. Learn more about what the bond measure does <https://www.mdusd.org/localmeasure>. This funding will be assessed on your taxes and join other funding bonds currently on your taxes including the 2002 and 2010 bonds.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Woodlands candidate meet and greet on Saturday, October 20th. With much success, we hope to repeat the event every two years. We would like to congratulate Northgate area's Cherise Khaund who won a seat on the Mt. Diablo School Board without opposition.

Disclaimer: The Woodlands Association does not take sides in an election.

Please remember to vote November 6th or earlier by mail. Our polling place is at Valley Verde Elementary School.





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Walnut Creek, CA 94598

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(925) 256-6444

Who to Contact?

The Woodlands Association receives some emails and questions about many issues that are best resolved by contacting the following agencies directly. The following is a reference guide:

Walnut Creek Code Enforcement, 925-256-3508 or 925-943-5863

The Code Enforcement Division of the Community Development Department is responsible for enforcing provisions of the Walnut Creek Municipal Code involving quality of life and neighborhood quality issues. http://www.walnut-creek.org/citygov/depts/cd/nuisance_abatement_n_code_enforcement.asp

Walnut Creek Police Department, 925-943-5844

<http://www.walnut-creek.org/citygov/depts/police/default.asp>
To report a suspicious circumstance, call 925-935-6400

Oversized Vehicle Reporting, Sandy Mulligan: Parking Lead Services Officer, 925-943-5874

Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District (Pests and Insect Issues), 925-771-6196

http://www.contracostamosquito.com/programs_services_index.htm

Contra Costa Water District, 925-688-8000

Water conservation, information, gardening resources, moneysaving tips. <http://www.ccwater.com>

Allied Waste Services of Contra Costa County, 925-603-1144

<http://www.pleasanthillbayshoredisposal.com>

Valley Waste Management (recycling and yard waste service): 925-935-8900

Canal Maintenance, 925-313-2235

The canal is part of the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Maintained by the Public Works Department

Graffiti Reporting: City of Walnut Creek, 925-943-5854

Contra Costa County Animal Control, 925-335-8300

After business hours, contact the Walnut Creek Police through Dispatch Center at 925-935-6400. <http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=59>

Street Maintenance: 925-943-5854

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not just on
Thanksgiving.

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Susan Pfau ~ *Newsletter Editor*

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Upcoming Board Meetings

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
Saturday, December 1st
Saturday, January 5th

at Denica's,
2280 Oak Grove Road,
Walnut Creek
(in Citrus Marketplace)

Woodlands residents
are encouraged to
attend board meetings.

Holiday Lights - In October?

By Bill Gilmyers

I've read a lot about the idea of "Christmas Creep", in recent years, referring to the tendency of the holiday season to start earlier and earlier. No longer relegated to that period from Thanksgiving to New Years, now you're likely to hear carols playing right after Halloween; if not earlier. Now, we seem, as a culture, to have entered a new phase- holiday lights- for Halloween.

Now, to be clear, and before I get into my cranky old man screed, I'm a huge fan of Halloween. I love trick or treating with my daughter and her friends, and I especially enjoy those houses who put out great, spooky displays to make sure only the bravest of the 7-year-olds is going to knock on their door looking for a fun-sized snickers bar. That said, having just spent 3 hours hanging 8 strings of lights with dangling spiders, dancing ghosts and cackling witches, I am wondering where this all ends.



So yes, that's right, I'm writing an article complaining about a trend whose benefits I actually enjoy and to which I am personally contributing my own time, energy and money (lots of money- dangling spider lights don't come cheap). But I'd rather call out my own insanity than pick on anyone else for theirs. And yes, I probably should have waited until this evening, to appreciate how nice (hopefully) my house looks once it is all lit up purple and orange, before I sat down at my compute to type this for your reading pleasure. No time for that, unfortunately, the Woodlands Newsletter needs an article and I'll be darned if I'm not going to keep typing until I hit 500 words and it doesn't need one any more.

But I digress. I think I'm mostly saying- where does it end? I already go straight from m Halloween lights to our Christmas display, using the same extension cords, hooks and cable tie anchors I've already put up. Perhaps I can start the light hanging season even earlier, putting up Octoberfest lights (not invented yet) up in August, National Rum day lights (8/16, not a lot of holidays in August to choose from) in July and throw up 4th of July lights in May? Sure makes me glad we went solar a couple years back.



What do you think- mo' lights mo' problems, or you can't have too much of a good thing? What does your family do to decorate for the holidays, and are you doing more of it than you used to? I know what I'm going to do now, and that's go take a nap!

Happy Halloween!

Turkeys – Not Just For Thanksgiving...

By Ron Chesney



Over the last few weeks, you may have noticed our new neighbors...a rather scruffy looking flock of turkeys! It's quite a sight, and something to see, but up close, you don't want to be! Yes, they're cute, and such a display of nature, in an urban setting like ours, is certainly hard to find. Do be warned, don't get too close, as they're not as friendly as you might assume!

For us, what they leave behind, and where they spend the night, takes away the novelty. If you're like me, cleaning up their excrement, hearing them on your roof with a thud, or seeing them roost overnight in your tree or on the electrical wires, is not much fun at all.

So much so, that I called upon our local resources to get some help on a possible relocation strategy for our feathered friends.

Here's the scoop; if you're curious, since they are considered wildlife, they are protected. That is, unless you have a license, a rifle, and they're in an open space designated for hunting! So, if you were thinking fresh turkey for Thanksgiving, you'll still have to go to Whole Foods! There are no agencies, including the California Fish and Game Department, that can do anything about these uninvited Woodland guests...they will be here for Thanksgiving and likely through the cold weather months.

Some helpful hints from staff at the agencies I contacted focus on not giving the turkeys opportunistic reasons to visit; in other words, food! They suggest keeping garbage in closed cans, pet food inside, and refrain from feeding birds when the turkeys are in town.

If you have the urge to chase them away, they suggest letting your dog the lead, using a garden hose, or my favorite...waving your hands and yelling; however, just be careful not to scare your neighbors, or their kids, as I'm sure I have at times! Honking horns, and flashing headlights, I've been told, and know from experience, does not do the trick! Certainly, you never want to physically assault them, or perhaps wring their necks, as that would be against the law...in case you were wondering!

Happy Thanksgiving Woodlands...if you see one less turkey in the neighborhood flock, it wasn't me!

Cindy Silva, Walnut Creek City Council

Since my first election to City Council, I've been dedicated to sustaining and improving Walnut Creek's unmatched quality of life – and to ensuring that our community gets the results we deserve.

I've been a prudent steward of City finances and, as mayor in 2011, I spearheaded the Community Fiscal Health Task Force. **Results:** Balanced budgets, healthy reserves, no debt.

To protect our neighborhoods, schools and downtown, I've supported the investment in additional Police staff, new crime-fighting technology, body-worn cameras, the school resource officer team, and the partnership with Broadway Plaza. **Results:** Crime rates continue to drop. In particular, residential and non-residential burglary rates are at a five-year low.

Believing in the power of volunteers, I founded – and still chair – Community Service Day. **Results:** Since 2011, 30,000 volunteer hours; 50,000 pounds of food collected.

I played a key role in three community fundraising non-profit partnerships that raised nearly \$6 million. **Results:** The downtown Walnut Creek library; Heather Farm's All-Abilities Playground; the new Larkey pool and splash pad.

I've worked on regional and State solutions to local roadway, housing and homeless needs. **Results:** \$1.5 million/year in new funds for our roads. More than 300 affordable housing units built in my tenure. A comprehensive approach to addressing homelessness that includes Homeless Outreach Teams (CORE), Homeless Task Force, Winter Nights' Shelter, and increased services through the Trinity Center.

I'm a strong advocate for economic development, local jobs and business – and parking innovations. **Results:** \$250 million reinvestment by Broadway Plaza. Significantly lower vacancy rates at Shadelands Business Park. Shadelands Business Park shuttle to BART. Downtown, 1,500 long-term street parking spaces and increased garage capacity.

To ensure a sustainable environment, I've worked to preserve open space, build a creek walk, and install solar and EV charging stations. Also, I championed a new program that reinvests the proceeds from the sale of recyclables. **Results:** New community amenities (benches, shade structures) made from recycled materials. BigBelly trash and recycling containers downtown.

We've achieved much. But, we still face challenges – challenges I am tackling to get Walnut Creek the results it deserves.

I am grateful to serve as your Councilmember and would be honored to have your vote. Please visit www.CindySilva.org.



Matt Francois

Nearly 20 years ago, my wife Samantha and I came to Walnut Creek and found a desirable, welcoming community that was an ideal place to raise our two children. We have thrived here because of the great schools, the many youth activities and sports, and most importantly, the sense of community. As a family, we care deeply about preserving our neighborhoods, supporting our vibrant downtown, and protecting our parks and open space. We want to keep Walnut Creek the jewel of the East Bay.

However, new challenges confront the quality of life that we've come to know and expect. Growing traffic congestion, reactionary land use decisions, and increasing financial pressures could transform the character of Walnut Creek if we do not plan appropriately.

So many of the issues that face Walnut Creek today come from the lack of professional jobs available within our city. Most of our residents commute to work outside of Walnut Creek. I commute to my job. Though we make the best of it that we can, no one I know would choose to commute if given the choice to work closer to home. My highest priority is to create a climate that encourages companies to choose Walnut Creek as their business location, so our residents (and our children) don't have to leave town to find meaningful work. We can both attract new businesses and ease traffic congestion through programs like improved broadband that will allow us to work from or nearby our homes.

Traffic, particularly in the afternoon and early evening, is one of our community's biggest challenges. We need to improve traffic flow on Ygnacio Valley Road by improving signal timing and other infrastructure improvements and by promoting public-private partnerships like the Shadelands shuttle. I don't think there's a silver bullet that will magically solve all the congestion we face, but I believe we can try some new ideas.

We must ensure that Walnut Creek continues to move forward in a positive fiscal direction. In light of projected deficits, we need to act now to ensure we can continue to provide the high level of services our residents are accustomed to. Focusing on economic development is the key to making sure we stay in the black.

We need to make it easier for everyone (residents and business owners alike) to be heard by our City Council. It is especially important to me that we seek community input on our key facility needs.

I am proud to be supported by hundreds of my fellow residents as well as 13 former Mayors and 9 of my former colleagues on the Planning Commission. I would be honored to serve you on the City Council. If elected, I promise to work hard, to listen to your concerns, and to respond to them in a thoughtful and inclusive matter. I respectfully ask for your vote. For more information about me or my candidacy, please visit my website at www.matt4walnutcreek.org.



Spencer Dress



My name is Spencer Dress, and I'm running to serve you and our fellow residents as a member of the City Council. To prepare our city for the challenges of tomorrow we need bold, creative and visionary leadership, today.

As a member of the City Council, my first priority will be to ensure that our city is a vibrant, livable place for generations to come.

Enacting that vision will require dedication and hard work. As a community, there are specific areas that must be addressed to make our city one that works for all of us.

Some of these areas include:

- Keeping our families and neighborhoods safe.
- Improving our quality of life by fostering the creation of exciting and innovative economic opportunities.
- Maintaining and improving city services while keeping costs affordable.
- Making sure our arts, recreation, open spaces, and libraries are fully staffed and funded.
- Investing in our transportation infrastructure in order to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion.
- Listening to residents to make sure they have a voice in determining the future of our wonderful city.

As your City Council Member, I will work tirelessly to achieve this vision. Together, with your support, we can make Walnut Creek a city that we will all be proud to call home.

I would be honored to serve you and our fellow residents as a member of the City Council and respectfully ask for your vote.

If you have any questions, please send me an email: DressWalnutCreek@gmail.com or call me at my home (925) 433-2916.

Walnut Creek Needs A Fresh Perspective

By Iman Novin



The Bay Area economy is growing twice as fast as the rest of the country, and even in Walnut Creek we feel the effects of that growth. Just ask anyone in our city about traffic.

If we want to meet the challenges of our future, we have to be visionary. How can we plan for inevitable growth while protecting the unique character of Walnut Creek we all love?

Let's look at our traffic problem, for example. We should improve bike lanes and increase walkability downtown and in neighborhoods, but that won't make a big enough impact on our problem. To get results, we have to find real

innovative solutions. For Walnut Creek, that means we need to build more housing that is affordable to young families, teachers, veterans, seniors and our critical workforce. It also means we need to attract higher paying jobs to our city, so our kids can have opportunities to live and work here.

Homelessness is another challenge we can resolve if we work on solutions together. While housing is the obvious and primary need for homeless people and families, getting someone off the streets for the long-term requires wrap-around services to address a range of medical, mental health, and addiction issues.

I studied Urban Planning and Structural Engineering in college, graduating with degrees and honors in both fields. I own a business here in Walnut Creek, where my wife and I met and where we hope our young son will someday raise our grandchildren.


I am a member of the Walnut Creek Planning Commission, and the only candidate that is also a board member of the Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce, and a board member of the Trinity Center (our local homeless service provider), to name a few of my volunteer service activities I have the proven experience to help Walnut Creek face our future challenges. I have been endorsed by current and past Mayor's among a number of other community and civic leaders. I am also the only candidate endorsed by the 400 plus members of the United Firefighters of Contra Costa County.

Our city is special. We all want to keep it that way. But we have to do the work to grow in a smart and balanced way, and we have to understand the needs of our neighborhoods and communities. I will bring a fresh voice and vision to Walnut Creek City Council and the proven experience to get things done. I look forward to earning your vote on November 6th please visit www.novin2018.com to join our movement.

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16 Persimmon Ct.	4	2	1,781	\$900,000	\$900,000
3501 Bayberry Dr.	4	2	2,004	\$985,000	\$930,000
3673 Citrus Ave.	4	2.5	2,056	\$949,000	\$935,000
3676 Citrus Ave.	4	2	1,990	\$945,000	\$940,000
688 Persimmon Rd.	4	2	1,880	\$949,000	\$949,000
3422 Perada Dr.	3	2	1,445	\$899,000	\$950,000
3201 Primrose Ln.	3	2.5	1,931	\$969,900	\$950,000
561 Banyon Cir.	4	2	1,968	\$899,999	\$978,000
639 Sitka Dr.	3	2	1,602	\$949,000	\$980,000
310 Candleberry Rd.	4	2	1,885	\$979,000	\$985,000
3714 Citrus Ave.	3	2.5	1,990	\$979,900	\$985,000
632 Wintergreen Ln.	3	2	1,856	\$935,000	\$993,000
3428 Sugarberry Ln.	4	3	1,811	\$968,800	\$1,020,000
418 Dogwood Dr.	3	2	1,708	\$975,000	\$1,025,000
111 Kelobra Ct.	4	2	1,866	\$979,000	\$1,028,000
3201 Primrose Ln.	3	2.5	1,931	\$998,880	\$1,045,000
10 Primrose Ct.	3	2.5	1,931	\$980,000	\$1,080,000
3408 Sugarberry Ln.	4	2	1,842	\$989,000	\$1,108,000
654 Candleberry Rd.	4	2	1,866	\$989,000	\$1,200,101
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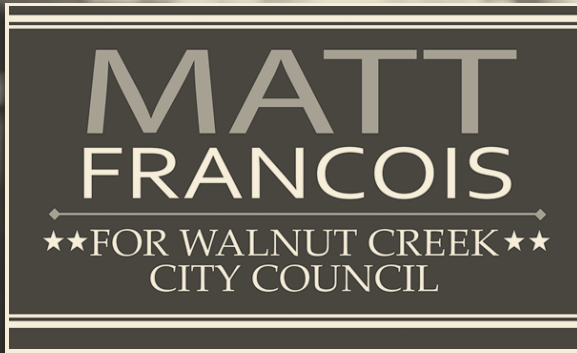
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– EAST BAY TIMES EDITORIAL BOARD,
“Editorial: Silva, Francois strongest Walnut Creek council candidates” (October 17, 2018)

MATT IS ENDORSED BY OVER 60 LOCAL ELECTED & APPOINTED OFFICIALS

including both legislative representatives, 10 board members representing Acalanes, Mount Diablo, and Walnut Creek school districts, and nearly every Planning Commissioner he served with during his tenure. www.matt4walnutcreek.org

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★ Creating good paying jobs for our residents so that they can work from Walnut Creek

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Dayna's time to shine: she oversaw most of this work while our family packed up and relocated. We left her in charge of the final touches and all the paperwork involved with offers and forms. She took care of showing the house, negotiating with potential buyers, and keeping us informed of the process and progress. She was amazing, we couldn't have achieved this without her help.

We stayed in touch through emails, phone calls and texts. Dayna listened to us and guided us through questions and concerns, and advised us in the negotiation process and explained the contracts and forms. We had absolute confidence in her, and we ended up with 3 offers on the house and a winning bid over asking price! Thank you, Dayna!" Katrine C. - Walnut Creek

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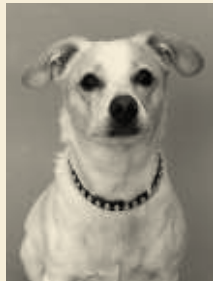
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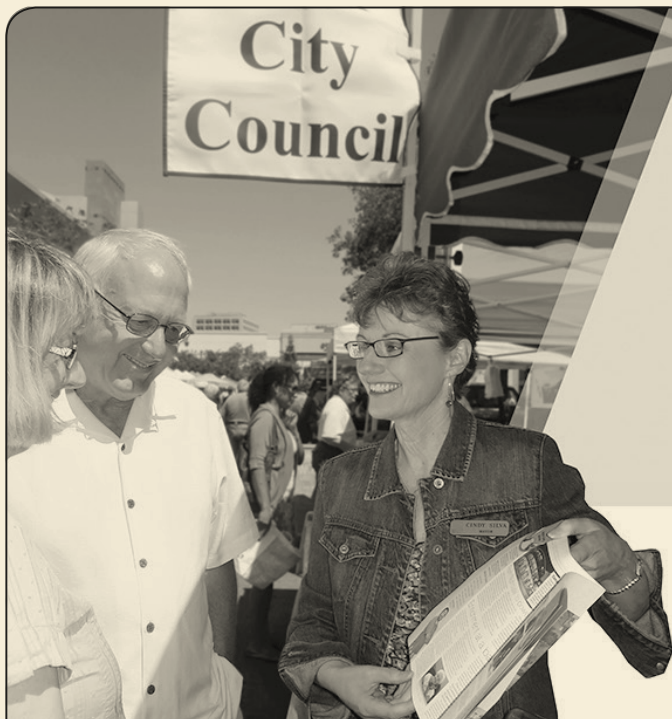
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– Former Mayor Kathy Hicks

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Paid for by Cindy Silva for Walnut Creek City Council 2018 #1365770

Autumn Maintenance CHECKLIST

- ☐ Stow away your mower.
- ☐ Store hoses and turn off outdoor water.
- ☐ Drain and shut down sprinkler system.
- ☐ Seal cracks around doors and windows.
- ☐ Clean your gutters.
- ☐ Inspect your roof.
- ☐ Direct drainage away from your house.
- ☐ Get your furnace serviced.
- ☐ Prune your plants.
- ☐ Look up chimney for blockages; check that damper is operating.
- ☒ Tish Kanat: your resource for helpful home and real estate-related info!

Winter weather will be here before you know it, but there is still time to tackle a few simple household maintenance tasks that will make winter more pleasant and prevent some nasty surprises next spring. Need additional tips or service recommendations? I have resources galore, and am always happy to offer guidance and suggestions to help keep your home running smoothly for the holidays.

.....

May blessings abound for you and your family this Thanksgiving!



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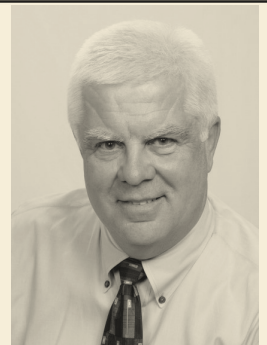
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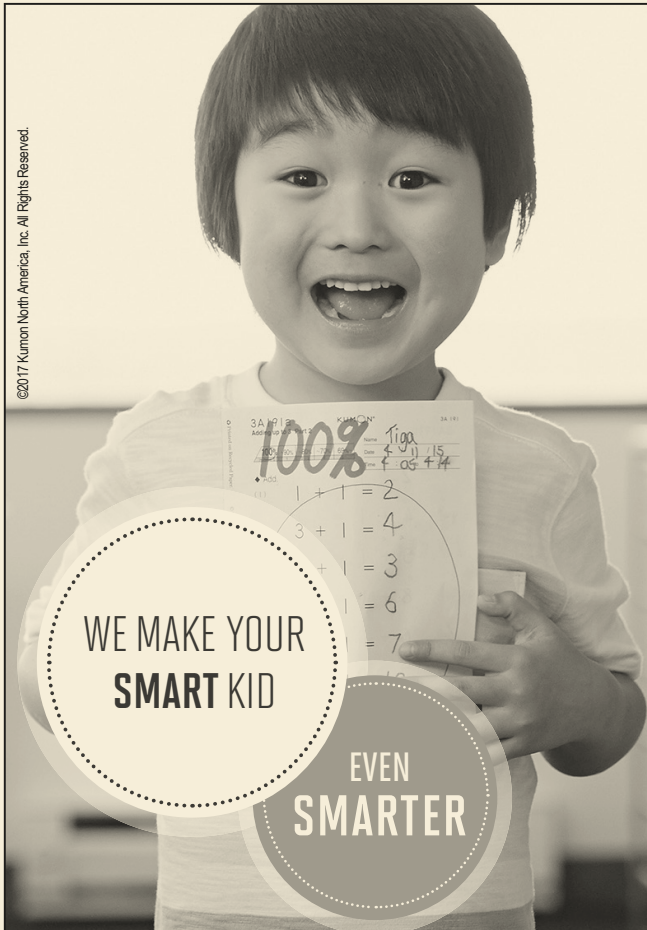
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