



Get Involved in Novi

Even though we had, what seemed to be an extremely long and frigid winter, I can tell you it was one of the sunniest I can remember. And for that, I am grateful. I am certain everyone in Novi is as anxious as I am for spring. Soon, we will see the green return to the trees, children riding their bikes in the neighborhoods, and flowers lining sidewalks and roadways. I, for one, cannot wait.

While many were hibernating, I can assure you, your City Council has been hard at work. In February, the City of Novi hosted the annual State of the City Address. This is an event I especially look forward to, as I not only get to share significant accomplishments of the past year, but also detail upcoming projects and programs, all while having a bit of fun. I invite you to visit cityofnovi.org and take a look for yourself to see why our Novi "family" is so blessed.

I would like to thank my colleagues on City Council for their hard work and dedication to ensuring Novi remains on a quality path toward the future. I would also like to thank the members of every board, commission and committee, as well as every city staff team member for their tireless efforts to make Novi the very best it can be. Nothing we have accomplished would be possible without the concerted team effort put forth by each of these individuals.

And, now I challenge you, each and every resident, to become involved. Novi is the community it is, in large part, because of those I mentioned above. We are constantly seeking volunteers to serve on our boards and commissions. If you are interested in serving, please visit cityofnovi.org or contact the City Clerk's Office at (248) 347-0456 for more information.

I look forward to seeing you out and about this spring and hope you will consider becoming more involved in our Novi.

Bob Gatt is the mayor of Novi.

A Shining Example of Community Spirit

Mayor Gatt honors Twelve Oaks Mall's Dan Jones

Each year, the City of Novi celebrates an individual (or business) who truly embodies the sense of kindness and giving. At the 2015 State of the City Address, Novi Mayor Bob Gatt bestowed the honor on Dan Jones, general manager of Twelve Oaks Mall, presenting him with the annual Spirit of Giving Award.

"Ask anyone and they will tell you Dan is often recognized and known for his warm, friendly conversation, professionalism, business savvy, commitment to Novi -- and so much more. But today we are recognizing him for his giving spirit," Mayor Gatt shared in his remarks.

"Dan Jones is a shining example of a true community partner, ambassador, and friend. His commitment to, support of, and partnerships with area organizations have enriched the community," Gatt added.

A friend to Novi for 12 years, Jones relocated to Novi from Arizona to manage Twelve Oaks. During those dozen years, he has demonstrated over and over the value of partnerships and is highly regarded among Novi business leaders.

Jones is first to say "yes" to so many organizations in our community, like Novi Youth Assistance, because he recognizes there are less fortunate and he wants to help all Novi children to succeed. He also aids the Novi Police and Fire Benevolent Association because he values the importance of our public safety team and the role they play in maintaining our quality



Twelve Oaks Mall general manager Dan Jones (right) accepts the "Spirit of Giving Award" from Novi Mayor Bob Gatt at the 2015 State of the City event.

community, as well as the Novi Public Library, as he supports culture and education.

In addition, Jones also has a unique relationship with the City of Novi team, allowing for emergency preparedness training in the shopping center, communicating regularly with the administration during holidays to ensure a safe experience for all, and he plays an instrumental role in bringing new and unique shopping and dining experiences which we all enjoy.

"A heartfelt thank you to Dan Jones for all he does for our Novi," Mayor Gatt said.

We recently spent a few minutes with Dan Jones. We asked him a few questions to find out a little more about what makes him tick.

Why Novi?

Novi was a leap of faith for me. I left my residence in Phoenix, Arizona and came to Novi and Twelve Oaks Mall "sight unseen." I knew I wanted to work for the Taubman Company and had a tremendous amount of trust in the Taubman VP who recruited me to come here. I was promised a great shopping center and a great area to raise my family. He definitely delivered on both of those promises.

Businesses offer savings via library's partnership with MyCouponGenie

Each year, the Novi Public Library searches for new fundraising opportunities that will benefit the Library and the community. Last year the Library raised \$4,000 for new technologies when it launched its coupon book fundraising campaign and this year they are taking it digital.



A partnership began in late 2014 between the Library and MyCouponGenie with a goal to save Novi residents hundreds of dollars daily with local businesses in a digital format. The app is easily accessible with any iPhone or Android device, and gives the consumer a chance to select the categories and businesses they wish to see and save at.

Library Director Julie Farkas and MyCouponGenie CEO Michal Korson have already signed on almost 50 businesses, including restaurants Moe's on Ten, Guido's Premium Pizza, the Honey Tree Grille, Wasabi, Tony Sacco's, Bagger Dave's, Big Tommy's Parthenon, Pizza Marvelous, Steve & Rocky's and bd's Mongolian Grill.

Other participating businesses include Paradise Park, Big Frog Custom T-Shirts & More, Compass Self Storage, Club Z In-Home Tutoring Services, Play It Again Sports, Larson Jewelry Design, Sandstone Massage, Keford Collision & Towing, Glenda's Garden Center, Expressions Music Academy, Meadowbrook Picture Framing, CPR, Novi Firestone and Vibe Credit Union – just to name a few. For a complete list, visit novilibrary.org/MyCouponGenieMerchantPartners.pdf.

Farkas said the ultimate goal is to partner with 200 or more local businesses.

With new businesses being added daily, this gives the Library a chance to build relationships with Novi businesses and invite them to be a part of its free coupon club. Whether you are looking to try a new restaurant in Novi, tutoring for your child or interested in purchasing some sports equipment for the summer months, there is something for everyone.

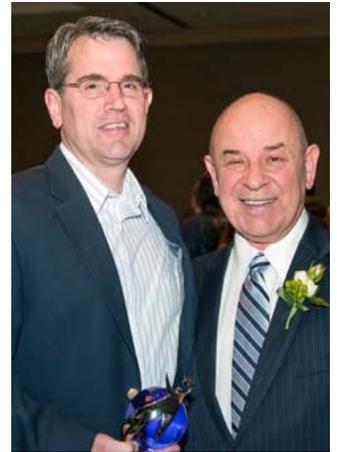
To sign up for the MyCouponGenie app visit MyCouponGenie.com/users/register and download from the App Store, Google Play or a desktop.

For more information on the Library's MyCouponGenie fundraiser visit novilibrary.org, call (248) 349-0720 or stop in at 45255 W. Ten Mile Rd. Novi, 48375.

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What road led you to mall management?

As a teenager, I went to work for a retail store at the local mall in Cincinnati, Ohio. The young lady who was the store manager happened to be married to the maintenance director for the mall. After working at the retail for a short time, the maintenance director offered me a position in the maintenance department of the mall, which I accepted. I worked my way through the ranks and eventually took over the department as the maintenance director for a number of years. Meanwhile, I went to school nights and weekends for more than a decade and eventually earned a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Cincinnati.



Dan Jones and Mayor Bob Gatt

About twelve years into my career I transitioned into the overall management role and have worked in this capacity at properties in Cincinnati, Ohio, Tempe, Arizona and, of course, Novi. I have been general manager at Twelve Oaks Mall since 2003.

What do you like best about your job?

In a word — variety. There are so many moving parts in this role and at a property like this. It keeps me challenged, engaged and entertained every day.

What is your favorite book?

For a traditional book, *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand (although my wife would tell you I have a short attention span with traditional books). That said, my go-to book is my U.S. atlas, as I still enjoy studying maps on a regular basis, in both book form and electronically.

What is something about you that would surprise people?

I'm pretty transparent, so not many surprises out there. Some may not know I grew up in South Carolina (until I was 12 years old). I'd like to think I still carry the same manners and chivalry I was raised on there.

If you were a super hero, what power would you most like to possess?

If I can be selfish, I'd gravitate towards Superman since he possesses a variety of super powers -- flight, super-strength, super-speed, etc. Why limit yourself to one super power?

Words to live by?

Stay positive!