



Novi named one of 50 'Best Places to Live'

A few months ago, the City of Novi was named one of the 50 “Best Places to Live” in 2016 by *MONEY Magazine*.

The magazine praised Novi for its rich diversity – both in business and people – as 25 percent of the 60,000 residents are non-white and more than 1,000 of the 3,000 companies are of the international variety.

They appreciated the focus on community, highlighting events like the Japan Festival, the Festival of Chariots, India Day and the Ethnic Taste and Tune Fest. The quality of the Novi Community School District also played a major role for all it offers students, including the ability for those in grades 5-12 to learn five different languages.

Of course, Novi’s location and retail offerings have long been gushed about. Access to the airport and downtown Detroit is relatively seamless, and Twelve Oaks Mall remains the premiere shopping destination in the state.

Then there is the low crime rate and a public safety department that embraces its motto of “Partners with our Community.” Police officers and firefighters are regularly seen engaging residents, and the department’s focus on data-driven approaches to crime and traffic safety is one that has been modeled by others.

Recreation opportunities are abundant as well, and just a few months ago, the Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department received accreditation by the Commission for

Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies. Novi is now just one of four accredited agencies in Michigan and one of 155 nationwide.

Factor in, according to *MONEY*, “the cherry on top,” of a below average cost-of-living index and relatively affordable housing, and it’s easy to see why Novi was the lone city to represent Michigan on the list.

But it’s one thing for a magazine to tout Novi and another to hear it from the people who call the city home.

This is Kim Nice’s second stint living in Novi, moving away in the mid-1990s but always champing at the bit to come



back. She loves that the city is not just a community for young, growing families but also young professionals and seniors, too.

“As soon as you walk out of the house you are living in a community that is joined together with many activities,” she said. “We have a government that means what it says. The services are wonderful and there are so many activities you could fill your calendar with events.”

Chet Roaden chose Novi as home in 1980 and says the only way for people to truly understand why Novi is such a “terrific” place to live is to experience it firsthand.

“It’s the residents,” Roaden said. “I think everyone who lives in Novi appreciates Novi, and it’s residents helping residents. It’s a super place to live.”

Janet Flores, a resident of 17 years, loves the diversity in both the schools and neighborhoods.

“It’s a very mixed culture and my kids have friends with different names and that is something a lot of people aren’t exposed to,” she said. “Being exposed to it so young it just comes natural to them.”

Doug Bauss initially chose Novi for its location but then fell in love with so much more.

“There’s a mix of great neighborhoods, great schools and great businesses and shopping,” he said.

Newcomer Luke Wolf, who has lived in Novi for nearly two years, said strong schools, an engaged community and growth is what brought him and his wife here.

“There’s a lot Novi offers, whether it’s employment and industry or places to have fun like the mall or restaurants,” he said. “We really enjoy the people and the sense of community. We moved here from a smaller town and we get that same vibe here.”

Why do you think Novi is the best place to live? Share your reasons with us at communityrelations@cityofnovi.org or on Twitter @cityofnovi.