

## From the Mayor

### Kindness is contagious

I cannot believe 2016 is already upon us. I remember when I was young and older adults complained about how quickly the time passes. I didn't know what they meant then, but I sure do now.

When I think about the passing time I reflect on my time here in the City of Novi. I think about how fortunate I have been to call this city home for so many years, fortunate to have formed lifelong friendships here and fortunate to be a small part of our city's success.



Novi has achieved greatness because of all the people who live and work here. We embrace our diversity and have created a culture of togetherness. In our neighborhoods, schools, business and government, people accept each other for who they are without regard to race, religion, political party or anything else. What stands out the most is how kind we are to each other.

As mayor, and one of those older adults, I know this: kindness is contagious. There are so many kind people in Novi who give freely of their time and money to help others. When someone comes upon hard times, people rally to their side. I've watched in amazement as Novi residents who never knew the victims of a tragedy stop by with food, gift cards, clothes and anything that could help. I've seen our police officers and firefighters work tirelessly to assist those in need that they encounter on the job.

And the beauty of performing these acts of kindness is that others tend to follow. When we see someone else help another person, it gives us a good feeling and makes us want to do the same. We here in the city want to hear about how you were impacted by kindness, and you can share your stories on Facebook in the group "Novi Spreads Kindness" or on Twitter and Instagram by using the hashtag #RAKNovi.

So as we enter yet another new year in Novi, let's not only give thanks for what we have but continue to seek new ways to have a positive impact on someone else's life. I sincerely hope that each and every one of you has a great year ahead. And remember, at all times, BE KIND to one another. Because, kindness is contagious.

*Bob Gatt is the mayor of the City of Novi*

# NOVI Today

**Publisher** Paul Borg  
**Editor** Kurt Kuban  
**Vice President, Sales** Frank Cibor  
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**Community Publishing & Marketing**  
26955 Northline Road  
Taylor, MI 48180  
866-822-0101

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