



WHERE WE LIVE: Novi/Oakland County

June 24, 2007

APPEAL: Novi is a vibrant city known to many as a major regional shopping mecca. It continues to experience rapid growth with residential, commercial and industrial developments.

Several large projects under construction include the addition of a new retail wing at Twelve Oaks Mall along with additions to several outdoor malls.

The new St. John Providence Park campus off Grand River Avenue will include a 200-bed hospital and hotel. It's expected to open next summer. Several companies also are building their headquarters in the city, according to Cheryl Walsh, community relations manager.

"Housing ranges from affordable condominiums to stately, custom-built homes," says Debra Drummond of Re/Max 100 in Northville. "With several builders in the area, there is a broad range to choose from."

Novi is a growing, dynamic, prosperous community, Walsh says, that is centrally located with educational excellence from its four public schools.

FACTS: This 31-square-mile city was incorporated in 1969. I-96, I-275, I-696 and M-5 intersect in and adjacent to Novi. The city is about 35 minutes from downtown Detroit and about 25 minutes from Metro Airport. Visit www.cityofnovi.org.

PREVALENT ARCHITECTURE: Homes range from colonials and ranches built from the 1970s to new custom-built multimillion-dollar houses. Condominiums and apartments also are in Novi. Last year, houses sold from less than \$100,000 to more than \$1.4 million, according to multiple listing services.

POPULATION: 47,386 in the 2000 U.S. Census; about 87% white, 9% Asian, 2% black, 2% Hispanic. The population increased 43% between 1990 and 2000. A mid-decade census counted 53,000 residents, Walsh says.

EDUCATION: Math and reading MEAP scores for the Novi Community School District run about 20% above state averages. Other districts are South Lyon Community Schools (14% above), Walled Lake Consolidated Schools (14% above) and Northville Public Schools (17% above).

TAXES: \$37.86 per \$1,000 of a property's taxable value in the Novi district, \$34.64 in South Lyon, \$33.03 in Walled Lake and \$31.39 in Northville. A \$358,965 (average price) house with a taxable value of \$179,482 would have annual property taxes of \$6,795 in Novi, \$6,217 in South Lyon, \$5,928 in Walled Lake and \$5,633 in Northville.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION: Novi Senior Transit, 55 and older or handicapped, 248-735-5617

PUBLIC SAFETY: Novi police reported 105 burglaries, 42 vehicle thefts, 16 cases of criminal sexual conduct, 11 robberies and no homicides in 2006.

SHOPPING, DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT: Plenty of shopping and dining, especially in the I-96 and Novi Road area.

Seven city-owned parks include playground equipment, tennis and basketball courts, ball fields, more than 8 miles of hiking and biking trails and a beach on Walled Lake. More than

two-thirds of Walled Lake is in Novi. There's also an indoor soccer arena and an ice arena.

MAJOR EMPLOYERS: Providence Hospital, Husky Injection Molding Systems, Intier Magna Corp., Trinity Health

WHY I LIVE HERE: Denise Smith, 56, has lived in Novi since 1986. Her family originally moved to Novi because it had good schools and thought it would be a great community to raise a family. "Novi has grown by leaps and bounds. When we moved here there was a four-way stop at 9 Mile and Meadowbrook." She likes the convenience, too. "Everything I need is very close, the dentist, doctor and shopping are all within five miles."

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