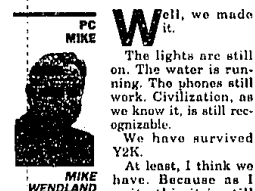


What's next for Y2K, civilization as we know and love



MIKE WENDLAND

Well, we made it. The lights are still on. The water is running. The phones still work. Civilization, as we know it, is still recognizable. We have survived Y2K.

At least, I think we have. Because as I write this it is still 1999 and I am hoping to get a late New Year's Eve flight home from Washington, D.C., where I have been covering the Y2K chgowever for NBC television stations around the country.

But from all indications, the \$600 billion repair job to get corporate and governmental computer systems to be able to accurately process a date in the year 2000, has held.

To be sure, there will be some surprises in the work week ahead as this or that goes wrong because some simple hardware or software function we thought was insignificant turned out to be something more.

The technological disaster predicted by so many, however, appears to be not much more than a few bumps in the information highway.

We're okay in Y2K. And so, as we relax in our warm homes on this first Sunday in the Year 2000, as we watch the college bowl games on TV and think about how

crowded the health club will be tomorrow when we and everybody else starts to keep those New Year resolutions, let me share with you my predictions on where technology will take us in the months ahead.

E-COMMERCE SHAKEOUT COMING

Let's start with e-commerce and the Internet. Watch the TV commercials during the weekend football games. How many advertisers have dot com in their name? Just about every one, right? Here's my first prediction: By the end of 2000, there won't be so many. I see a huge shakeout coming in many of these noisy Internet companies now hawking their Web sites.

The Internet will not support every business, every enterprise that thinks it will instantly prosper by putting a www in front of its name. Being a successful e-commerce venture is going to take a new kind of marketing expertise that is based on a new reality.

The balance of power has shifted. It is the buyers who now have the power. They now can easily comparison shop between thousands of online merchants who have what they want.

The retailers no longer have a captive audience of shoppers inside brick and mortar stores who are basically insulated from knowing what else is out there. Few e-commerce Web sites realize this. Yet.

INTERNET AS MASS MEDIA

The Internet is still evolving. We're not sure exactly where it's going. But

we do know that it is becoming an increasingly important source of news and information. In Toronto, a local TV station has changed its newscast so it looks like an Internet Web site. The net is routinely now out-scoping newspapers, radio and television. Watch it become much more influential as a medium of its own.

DSL/CABLE MODEM ACCESS

By the end of the year, broadband will be poised to overtake the slow, cumbersome dialup Internet services most home users are still saddled with. Digital Subscriber Line technology will improve and more residential users will be located close enough to telephone substations to connect. As broadband becomes more accessible, competition will lower access charges.

THE CONNECTED CAR

General Motors now has a division called e-GM. They talk about "e-vehicles." Ford is doing the same thing. So is Visteon. Intel and Microsoft have invested millions in micro-processors and operating systems tailored specifically for the automobile. Over the next year, I predict that the next high tech status symbol will be having e-mail and Internet connectivity behind the wheel.

WIRELESS PHONES WILL RULE

The wireless phone revolution is in full motion. Though there are still some protocol issues the industry needs to straighten out, this year will see the end of cellular and the total domination of digital wireless phones. Many of us will soon use a wireless phone as our

main phone. And they'll replace pagers, too, offering up e-mail retrieval and "Web clippings" of stock prices, sports scores and breaking news from the Internet. The technology is already in place. This will be the year it catches on.

HANDHELD COMPUTER WARS

The battle between Windows CE and the 3Com-Palm operating system for handheld computers and personal digital assistants will rage back and forth all year. Microsoft won't give up easily as it tries to rescue its moribund e-System. Palm will counter with more powerful applications written specifically for handhelds as it also releases its first color screen. Handspring, a new company started by the couple who invented 3Com's Palm, will sell lots of its new Visor handhelds, further bolstering Palm's marketshare because it uses the same operating system.

PC PRICES WILL HOLD STEADY

They can't get much lower. The so-called free PC trend will slow down as consumers balk at having to sign up for long-term Internet access contracts.

PC SPEEDS WILL SKYROCKET

By late summer, we'll see 1,000 Megabyte, or 1 Gigabyte, Pentium III processors from Intel. Advanced Micro Devices, Intel's chief rival, will still struggle to keep up, but will secure a loyal following of users who know when enough is enough and that most PC users don't need anything faster than 500 MHz.

IMACS AND BOOKS WILL SELL FAST

Apple Computer will continue to turn around and make money because of the growing popularity of its innovative and gaudily-colored, delightfully uncomplicated machines.

MICROSOFT, AOL AND TECH STOCKS

Microsoft won't be broken up but will voluntarily spin-off some of its many operations. Its stock will split yet again before summer. AOL will hit 30 million subscribers. Prodigy, CompuServe and MSN will falter and barely hang on. Tech stocks will cool off dramatically.

VIRTUAL WORK

By the end of the year, ten percent of the workforce will do their jobs from virtual offices, at home or on the road, using the Internet, collaborative software and two-way video to do much of their work. Many of us will spend a day or two a week working out of home offices.

Y2K promises to be as exciting as this year. But making it even better will be the fact that now that we've made it into 2000, we will be spared all the Y2K computer bug hysteria.

Happy New Year everyone.

Mike Wendland covers computers and technology for NBC Television stations across the country. He also hosts a weekend call-in radio show called "PC Talk" on WXYT, Talkradio 1270. He can be reached through his Web site at www.pcmike.com

Datebook from page C3

their families. Meets from 7-8 p.m. William Beaumont Hospital, Administration Building, Lower Level - Classroom 2, 3601 W. Thirteen Mile Road, Royal Oak. Call (248) 551-9200.

DIABETES EDUCATION
Five-class educational series to help people with diabetes and their families control the dis-

ease. Offered Jan. 4, 6, 11, 13 and 18 from 6-9 p.m. at William Beaumont Hospital, Administration Building (lower level - classroom 4), 3601 W. Thirteen Mile Road, Royal Oak. Call (248) 551-0952 to register.

WED, JAN. 5

CHILD BIRTH REFRESHER

A review of the labor and delivery process, and relaxation and breathing techniques for expectant couples. Class is offered Jan. 6 and 12 from 7-9 p.m. at William Beaumont Hospital, 44201 Dequindre, Troy. Cost is \$25. Call (800) 633-7377.

FERTILITY CHALLENGE

Fertility Challenge Support Group helps individuals or couples cope with the emotional consequences of infertility. Meets from 6:30-8 p.m. Beaumont Medical Building, Suite 344, Beaumont Center for Fertility and Reproductive Endocrinology, 3635 W. Thirteen Mile Road, Royal Oak. Call (248) 551-0523.

EATING DISORDER

Eating disorders support group for patients, their families and friends. Meets Jan. 6, 12, 19 and 26 from 7-8:30 p.m. William Beaumont Hospital, 10th Floor, classrooms A & B, 3601 W. Thirteen Mile Road, Royal Oak. Call (248) 551-9200.

William Beaumont Hospital, 44201 Dequindre Road, Troy. Cost is \$60 per couple. Call toll free (800) 633-7377.

INFANT MASSAGE

A program provides infant massage techniques to promote relaxation and positive interaction between parent and child. Class is offered from 7-8 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 6, 13, 20 and 27 at William Beaumont Hospital, 44201 Dequindre, Troy. Cost is \$30/family. Class is limited to either families. Call (800) 633-7377.



2000 DOG & CAT LICENSES CITY OF FARMINGTON

2000 Dog & Cat licenses are available at Farmington City Hall, 23600 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan, Monday through Friday, 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
Licenses are issued through Friday, March 31, 2000, at a fee of \$2.00 for each dog or cat six months old or older. Beginning Saturday, April 1, 2000, delinquent licenses are \$10.00. The license fee for neutered dogs and cats is \$3.00 less.

A current, original Certificate of Vaccination for rabies signed by an accredited veterinarian must be presented when applying for a license. To obtain a license by mail call 474-5500.

PATSY K. CANTRELL, City Clerk/Treasurer

Published January 2, 2000

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN

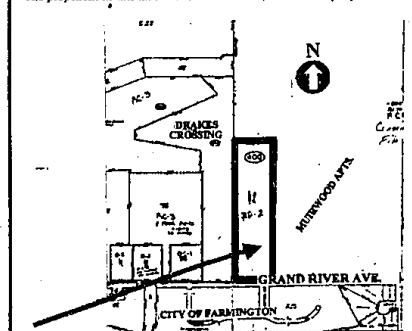
PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ZONING MAP AMENDMENT

DATE: JANUARY 20, 2000
TIME: 7:30 P.M.
PLACE: Farmington Hills City Hall
31555 Eleven Mile Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48336
ITEM: Rezoning Request 9-11-99

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Farmington Hills Planning Commission will give formal consideration to a proposed amendment to the official Zoning Map of the City of Farmington Hills by amending Section 34.32 of the City Code by changing the zoning classification of the following parcel of property as follows:

Rezone from RP-2, Planned Residential District classification to RC-2, Multiple-Family Residential District classification:
Sidwell #23-20-400-007
A part of the East 1/4 of Section 20, T1N, R9E, City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, Michigan, more commonly known as 36130 Grand River Avenue (Historic District Site 4314).

The proponent in this matter is Fritz Fransted, Dectak Company.



Any person who is interested in this proposed zoning map amendment is invited to participate in the discussion of the proposed zoning change at the public hearing above mentioned. Copies of the Zoning Text, Zoning Map, and Application for Rezoning may be reviewed at the Planning Office, Farmington Hills City Hall at 31555 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan on any business day between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

DALE A. COUNTEGAN, Director
Planning & Community Development
City of Farmington Hills

Item: ZR 10-11-99
Phone: (248) 473-9543
E-Mail: dcountegan@ci.farmington-hills.mi.us
Published: January 2, 2000

THUR, JAN. 6

CHILD BIRTH EDUCATION

An educational program for expectant parents is offered Thursdays Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27 and Feb. 3 from 7-9:30 p.m. at

CAR ACCIDENT RECENTLY?

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CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ZONING MAP AMENDMENT

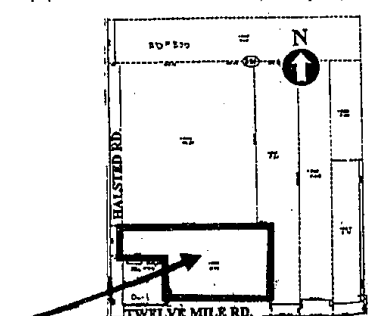
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Rezone from RA-1, Single-Family Residential District classification to OS-1, Office Service District classification:
Sidwell #23-08-351-032

A part of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 8, T1N, R9E, City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, Michigan. The parcel is located on the north side of Twelve Mile Road, east of Halsted Road, containing 5.79 acres.

The proponent in this matter Robert D. Wineman, Elkin Equities, L.L.C.



Any person who is interested in this proposed zoning map amendment is invited to participate in the discussion of the proposed zoning change at the public hearing above mentioned. Copies of the Zoning Text, Zoning Map, and Application for Rezoning may be reviewed at the Planning Office, Farmington Hills City Hall at 31555 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan on any business day between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

DALE A. COUNTEGAN, Director
Planning & Community Development
City of Farmington Hills

Item: ZR 9-11-99
Phone: (248) 473-9543
E-Mail: dcountegan@ci.farmington-hills.mi.us
Published: January 2, 2000

REFLECTIONS
on a year
gone by

This has been a difficult year for some... a merciful year for others. We ask you to join us in expressing our sympathies to the families we have served during the past twelve months. May the coming year be a blessed one for you and your family.

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(248) 474-4131