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By: Tom Wiknich

Happy New Year! Any New Year’s resolutions anyone?

Here we are starting 2016. Wow! Are you ready for the New Year? Is there anything to get ready for? Will you be making any New Year’s resolutions? Is there anything you will do to improve yourself?

How about this news year’s resolution? I resolve to make 2016 a better year than 2015. I think that is a pretty safe resolution. It should be an easy one to keep. We all know the statistics of people that make New Year’s resolutions. Almost all of them are broken within the first two weeks in January. I want to accomplish one. So, I resolve to make 2016 a better year than 2015. Of course, we should probably define how it will be judged. How will I know I made 2016 a better year than 2015?

In looking back at 2015, I have things that happened that I want to do different. One, I work too much. It’s not that I don’t like work. It’s just that at 66, I want to work less, and play more. Shannon and I are running two businesses. That is way too much to do at my age. I want to figure out a way to work less and have more free, happy time. I’ll have to figure a way to do that. I want to spend more time with my family. They are the most important thing to me. Next, I want to volunteer more of my time to the community. I am a volunteer with the Ridgecrest police department now. I want to do more of that. I just joined the rotary club. This is a very worthwhile service club doing great things for the community. I should also state that this city is filled with so many great service clubs, doing great things for the community. My hats off to all of them and the work they do. Shannon and I would like to travel more. We have an RV that hasn’t left the driveway for 2 years. It’s time for us to start using it again. We both want to vacation back east to see our childhood homes where I grew up, and where Shannon’s family started their lives in the U.S. Shannon’s family goes back to the revolution. So, there is much she wants to see. Now, don’t get me wrong, we have no plans on moving anywhere. Ridgecrest is our home, and we’re here to stay. Like so many other long-term residents, I moved here in 1979 for a year after getting a job on the base. They paid my move here completely. It was great. So, i’m still here. I love this town. I’ve recently had to do some minor medical work here, and am so satisfied in the treatment I have received. I have a great internal doctor, I have been treated with pure excellence at Ridgecrest regional hospital, and I have a great eye doctor. Thanks to all the medical professionals here in Ridgecrest.

Know what else I want to do? I want to plant a garden in my backyard. I actually started getting ready for a garden two years ago now, but never finished it, or planted anything.

You see, we have lots of rabbits that like to come into the yard and graze for food. Shannon loves seeing them come into the yard. My dog, Brenda, loves chasing them out of the yard. A garden would be a smorgasbord for them. So, I have to build a fence to keep them out before I plant anything. Now, understand this. All those things, I want to do are not new year’s resolutions. They are just things i want to do this year. I would bet that many of you around my age are thinking that I have things on my list that you’d like to do as well. Younger people may have different ambitions, which is the way it should be. Middle-aged people may have some similar ideas, but are also looking ahead to when they get older. There are those that are older than I am. Nice people that want to be happy too. We you see another person in the store or on the street, give them a smile. Say hi. You have no idea how that can make a person feel. Remember, there is always someone out there having problems. They might not be visible to you. They could be having problems with family, medical, or financial problems. It can be occurring and depressing for these people. When you share a smile, you can light up another person’s day. You might not even know that your smile changed someone’s outlook on the day. Do something nice for someone. A few months ago, I was out in a Ridgecrest police department call as a volunteer. I swung into the drive-through dairy to get a soda to drink. It was hot out that day. When I pulled up to the window to pay, the clerk said the car in front of me paid for me already. They said to just thank me for my service to the community. I sat there kind of in a daze. Really? I said. She said yep, they paid and said thanks. It then hit me and I wanted to catch the person and thank them for what they did. As I pulled out of the drive-through, I looked down the road and they had vanished. To whomever that was, I say thank you. You made my day that day. I want 2016 to be better that 2015. We’ll have a lot of news to cover next year. Lots of things will happen. We’ll even be electing a new president. So, let’s move into 2016 positive. We all can make our lives better. We can make others people’s lives better. We can do this together.

In conclusion, I’m making a resolution to make 2016 a better year than 2015. I want to accomplish that goal. I don’t like failure. I have things that I want to do in 2016, and I have a whole year to do them. I think I can do it.

I’m Tom Wiknich, and that’s what I think. I’d like to know what you think. If you have any comments about this editorial, or would like to discuss or recommend a topic, I’d like to hear from you. Please email them to [info@kzgn.net](mailto:INFO@KZGN.NET).