

The only good thing about going 5th is that I am not 6th or 7th.

It is that “out with the old and in with the new time of year” and while much has been said about both, I would like to add just a couple of shout outs to some folks as we close out 2015.

- As the Recreation Liaison, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the fine job they did this year. We had the longest possible summer – 110 days between Memorial Day and Labor Day – and over 115,000 visitors to the pool complex. I cannot emphasize how much work and preparation went into ensuring that everyone was safe – always our highest priority. We approved about \$80,000 worth of capital improvements for 2016, which will enhance the pool and tennis complex. We installed some terrific new water fountains at locations around the municipality, and we will have two new fountains with bottle fillers at the pool this summer.
- Our Historic Preservation Commission has taken on the huge job of updating the information on the Witherspoon Jackson neighborhood. Whether or not it eventually becomes a historic district, we have a valuable record of an important part of our town's history that will be available to all in the years to come.
- I want to thank Deanna Stockton for her help as we began our work on Mary Moss Playground. I also want to acknowledge the contribution of Holly Nelson, a Princeton resident and Rutgers Professor, who brought students from her landscape design class to make a presentation on the possibilities for Mary Moss Playground. It was very informative and advanced our thinking about what the possibilities for the park might be.
- I would like to give a shout out to our staff. Our Monday night meetings mean that we are often emailing staff with questions over the weekend, and I know I speak for everyone on Council when I say how much we appreciate the effort they make to respond in a timely fashion.
- Last winter I received a complaint over the weekend from a resident regarding the Avalon Bay construction. Whatever it was seemed important enough to reach out to Bob Kiser, and he answered from atop a ski slope! Within an hour, someone from the town was on site. Bob always goes above and beyond the call of duty.
- Bob Hough and Jeff Grosser have been incredibly responsive to issues related to health and safety in the Central Business District. Without fail, they will investigate trash and garbage violations when notified. And when one of the garbage haulers in town leaked something that left the Witherspoon area smelling of dead fish the day before the Library Benefit, Bob Hough looped in Bob Gregory, who had the Fire Dept. spray down the street. It is a testament to great team work.

- Kathy Monzo, Sandy Webb, Scott Sillars, Patrick Simon and the rest of CFAC deserve a huge shout-out for their work analyzing consolidation. It was a lot of work, but incredibly important.
- It is difficult to put into words the appreciation I have for the fact that I can represent with confidence the work that stands behind what we do on the dais.
As we acknowledge the incredible contribution of Marvin and Ingrid Reed, I would like to thank all of the volunteers and staff who make Princeton a great place to live. It is an honor to represent such a terrific town.