



**Public Works Department
Monthly Town Council Report
May 2014**

1. A dangerous tree was removed in the creek near the first bridge in Coffin Park. Staff will remove another one in the creek once MMWD clears it is safe to work near an old water line.
2. During hot spells, staff have to cut up and remove many fallen branches; some can be large sections of trees. This is due "Summer Limb Drop". Perfectly healthy looking limbs fall during hot spells. The longer the hot spell the more limbs fall. A large oak tree fell across Norwood Ave and knocked down an adjacent large oak knocking down power lines and blocking the street. Citizens should be aware when parking under large trees during high temperatures, especially when high winds are blowing.
3. Ross Common large dry areas. This usually occurs later in the summer due to high temperatures, even though more water is applied. The wells start running low on ground water and cannot keep up with demand. Staff had the wells, pump system and controls adjusted a few weeks ago after the hot spell. Two of the wells were not pumping any water. Now all three are pumping however, one is already running low on ground water. It does not pump anything after the system has run for a period. For now, the dry areas are healing and greening up. Our landscape contractor is applying as much water as possible within the watering time windows. All should know there is a statewide drought and we cannot waste water even if it is our own well water and not MMWD water. It is not possible nor practical to keep the lawns looking winter perfect.
4. Staff has been working on the sprinkler systems at the Post Office Park, Public Safety and Town Hall buildings including repairing and replacing sprinkler heads, adjusting the heads and systems.
5. Staff also assembled the 8' teak bench, added additional support and did some customizing for the new bench honoring Officer Bob Besgrove for his years of service to the Town.
6. Staff have been replacing worn out and stolen street signs and have started summer curb painting and street marking.
7. There are many DED "Dutch Elm Disease" trees after the hot spell we had at the beginning of the month. This is a common occurrence when it gets very hot early or late in the growing season. Homeowners will be notified they need to remove them as soon as possible as it is their responsibility to remove the dead trees on their property and in the right-of-way.