

## Thank you to our Public Works Supervisor!

The Town Board is pleased to announce the recently renewed employment contract and new title of Public Works Supervisor for our full-time employee, Bob Ortnr. While the title may be new, the leadership, dedication, and expertise behind it have been evident for many years.

For the past 26 years, Bob has played the key role in maintaining the Martell Town roads and infrastructure. His extensive knowledge of our roads, equipment, projects, and history provides valuable continuity and practical insight for the Town Board and residents.

Bob serves as the Town's primary contact with the County, contractors, and neighboring townships. He coordinates shared equipment and labor arrangements, assists with project management, and provides the status reports and operational information needed for planning and state reporting requirements. He also works closely with other employees to coordinate additional labor needs for snow removal and other seasonal activities.

In addition to these responsibilities, Bob handles the day-to-day work of maintaining our town assets, including mowing, grading,

plowing, sanding, equipment and building maintenance, and countless other tasks that keep operations running smoothly. His proactive approach, reliability, and willingness to take ownership of issues have made him a valuable resource for our Town.

The title of Public Works Supervisor reflects and recognizes the broad scope of responsibilities Bob fulfills. We appreciate his service and look forward to continuing to work with him to keep the Town of Martell running smooth.

### 2026 Planned Road Work

- Replace culvert on 690th St @ 810th Ave
- Double Chip Seal 870th Ave (town line to 690th St)
- Single/Double Chip Seal 490th St (770th to 730th Ave)
- Single/Double Chip Seal 730th Ave (490th St to Hwy 63)
- Single Chip Seal Downtown Martell
- Spray Foam 780th Ave Bridge
- Install guard rail on new culvert on 870th Ave
- General maintenance and repairs including crushed rock and gravel, grading, ditch mowing, and tree trimming

Town of Martell  
W5581 800<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Spring Valley, WI 54767



# Martell Town News

Your quarterly update from the Martell Town Board

Volume IV

June 2026

## Letter from the Town Board

It is a privilege to serve on the Town Board. While navigating the layers of government can be an education, it is deeply rewarding to work at the ground level where we can directly hear and address your concerns. It has been encouraging to see so many of you attending our Board Meetings, which are held on the second Tuesday of every month.

I have found that in-person gatherings foster a level of civility often lost in digital discourse. These conversations, whether at Town Board meetings or with the Planning Commission are lively, informative, and essential for mutual understanding.

I hope you will continue to engage with us, and if you have an opportunity to serve, please consider it. Whether joining the Board or the Planning Commission, becoming an election poll worker, or simply picking up trash in the ditches, every contribution makes a difference.

My own journey here began in March 1979, when my husband and I moved to our farm. Though I was raised in St. Paul and

adjusting to country life took a little time, I cannot imagine calling anywhere else home.

As Ellsworth grows, it is more important than ever that we manage that development while protecting our water and open spaces. The survey conducted for the Town of Martell Comprehensive Plan confirms that these are top priorities for our residents. If you would like a copy of the Plan, which offers a thorough look at our township and its fascinating history, please reach out to us.

Finally, thank you to everyone who showed up to vote in April. We have a primary election coming up in August and another in November; you can learn more about voting at [www.myvote.wi.gov](http://www.myvote.wi.gov).

Dale, Ky, Robin, Heather, and I are committed to doing our best for you, and we hope to see you at our next meeting.

*Beth Kidd*

### Stray Animals & Barking Dogs

Please DO NOT pick up any stray animals in the township. The township is not responsible for any animals taken to an animal shelter or vet clinic. Please contact a town supervisor regarding stray animals and barking dogs that have become a nuisance.

### Your Board

**Town Chair: Dale Brathol**  
townchair@tn.martell.wi.gov  
715-307-1364

**Supervisor 1: Beth Kidd**  
supervisor1@tn.martell.wi.gov  
715-307-3873

**Supervisor 2: Ky Kaminski**  
supervisor2@tn.martell.wi.gov  
715-307-2480

**Clerk: Robin Boles**  
clerk@tn.martell.wi.gov  
715-317-1395

**Treasurer: Heather Sitz**  
treasurer@tn.martell.wi.gov  
715-821-0465

### Town Board Meetings

Regular town board meetings are typically held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7 PM at the Martell Town Hall  
W5581 800th Ave

~ July 14, 2026, 7 PM~  
Regular Town Board Meeting

~ July 11, 2026, 10 AM~  
Road Ordinance Conversation

~ August 4, 2026, 7 PM~  
Regular Town Board Meeting

## Protecting Our Roads: A Community Conversation

The Town of Martell's road system is by far our most valuable public asset. Maintaining rural roads, however, presents unique challenges that many Wisconsin communities are facing today.

Most rural town roads were designed decades ago for lighter traffic volumes and smaller vehicles. Today, they must accommodate larger farm equipment, commercial hauling, construction traffic, school buses, emergency vehicles, and increased daily commuters. At the same time, sky-rocketing construction costs, extreme weather conditions, and limited local funding make road maintenance increasingly difficult.

Communities across Wisconsin have responded by exploring road-use and road-protection ordinances designed to help preserve infrastructure investments, improve safety, and ensure that those whose activities create extraordinary wear on local roads contribute fairly to repair costs. Different ordinances have been adopted by towns throughout the county and state to address heavy hauling and protect local taxpayers from bearing the full burden of road damage.

The Martell Town Board is currently seeking to pass our own road protection ordinance, and we want to hear from residents, landowners, businesses, farmers, and road users before taking any official action. Though lofty, our goal is to develop a fair, practical policy that balances economic activity, private property rights, public safety, and responsible stewardship of taxpayer-funded infrastructure.

We're hosting a conversation about this on Saturday, July 11th. At that event, we encourage residents to share their thoughts, concerns, and suggestions with the Town Board. Your input will help shape an ordinance that reflects the needs and values of our community while committing to protecting Martell's roads for future generations.

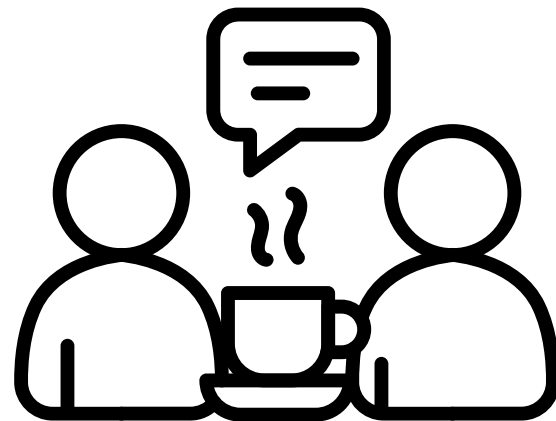
### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

For the public presentation of  
Draft Ordinance 2026-02:

An Ordinance to Establish Preventative Measures  
and Damage Assessment Policies to Protect Town  
Highways in the Town of Martell

**Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.**  
**at the Martell Town Hall**  
**W5581 800<sup>th</sup> Ave**

Please Join us for coffee, donuts, and conversation  
about this important issue for our community.



To view a DRAFT of the  
proposed ordinance  
Please visit  
[www.townofmartell.com/news](http://www.townofmartell.com/news)

## Important Reminder:

The second payment for property taxes is due by  
**July 31st!** Payment options include:

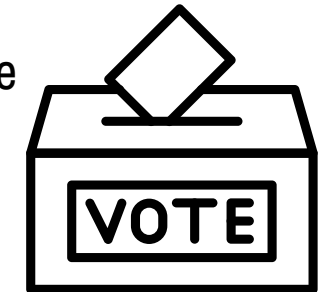
- In person at the Pierce County Treasurer's office between 8:00-4:30p.m.
- 24 hour payment drop box located on the back side of the Courthouse Building
- By mail sent to: Pierce County Treasurer, P.O. Box 87, Ellsworth, WI 54011 (please remember postage dates)
- Or online at the following link:  
[https://www.co.pierce.wi.us/departments/treasurer/online\\_tax\\_payment\\_information.php](https://www.co.pierce.wi.us/departments/treasurer/online_tax_payment_information.php)

If you have questions, please feel free to contact the  
Pierce County Treasurer's Office at 715-273-6743  
or e-mail [kathy.fuchs@co.pierce.wi.us](mailto:kathy.fuchs@co.pierce.wi.us) or contact  
Heather Sitz at [treasurer@tn.martell.wi.gov](mailto:treasurer@tn.martell.wi.gov)

Keep yourself informed!

Visit our website

[www.townofmartell.com](http://www.townofmartell.com)



Town Polling Place  
Martell Town Hall  
W5581 800th Ave  
Spring Valley, WI 54767

## August Partisan Primary Election: August 11th

Wisconsin voters will head to the polls on Tuesday, August 11, for the Partisan Primary Election. This election will determine the candidates from each party who will advance to the November General Election.

A partisan primary differs from a general election because voters choose among candidates within a political party rather than between parties. Wisconsin's partisan primary system requires voters to select candidates from only one party's ballot, **so voters may vote in either the Democratic or Republican primary, but not both.**

This is where some confusion can arise. If a voter marks partisan contests in more than one party's section of the ballot (cross-voting), the ballot is considered improperly marked for those partisan races and will not be counted. To ensure your votes are counted, **choose one party and vote only within that party's primary contests.**

If you make a mistake while marking your ballot, don't cast it; ask a poll worker for a replacement ballot, so your vote(s) will be counted; or better yet, use the electronic ballot, which eliminates the possibility of cross-voting.

This August's ballot may include candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Representatives in Congress, state legislative offices, and Pierce County Sheriff. Not every office will have a contested primary, so ballots may vary.

Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Voters should remember to bring an acceptable photo ID. If you have questions about voter registration, absentee voting, or polling place information, please contact the Town Clerk at 715-317-1395 or visit [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov).