



Martell Town News

Your quarterly update from the Martell Town Board

Volume V

September 2026

Letter from the Town Board

As one of your Supervisors, I get more questions about roads than any other topic — no surprise, as roads are the most visible, most expensive infrastructure any small town owns. This quarter, let's take a look at what our roads actually cost and why they wear out — plus a preview of two related conversations you'll find on the next page.

Martell maintains 54.21 miles of town roads. Our 2026 road budget is \$445,784 — roughly 44% of the town budget— about \$8,225 per mile. State transportation aid covers about a third of that (\$158,835); the rest comes from you. Budgets vary widely across Wisconsin townships, depending on how much of the network is gravel versus paved and how aggressively it's resurfaced.

That's why preventative maintenance matters. A chip seal runs about \$25,000–\$30,000 per mile and can add years of life to a road while it's still in fair shape. Wait too long, and you're looking at full reconstruction instead — \$200,000–\$350,000 per mile for asphalt or chip-sealed roads. The state's PASER rating system (1–10 scale) helps us track which roads are still in that fair-to-good window where modest investment goes a long way, versus which ones need major work.

Staying ahead of that curve is one of the most important jobs the Board and our Public Works Supervisor, Bob Ortnier, do all year.

This year, those investments include chip sealing approximately 5 miles of road, including sections of 870th Ave, 730th Ave, 490th St and “downtown Martell”, at an expected cost of \$160,000.

Last issue, we told you about a community conversation on a proposed road protection ordinance. That meeting, and the follow-up discussions it sparked in July and August, gave us a lot to think about — and changed our approach. Turn the page for a full update, including a new voluntary road-use notification system we're testing.

Heavy hauling isn't the only regular traffic wearing on our roads, either. Garbage trucks travel our roads every week, year-round, and the Board is looking at whether a different collection approach could ease that wear while serving residents better. You'll find that update on the next page too, along with a short survey — we'd genuinely like to hear from you.

Roads are expensive, essential, and something we can only get right together. Thank you for staying engaged — keep the questions coming.

Ky Kaminski

Your Board

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715-317-1395

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715-821-0465

Town Board Meetings

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

~ Oct 13, 2026, 7 PM~
Regular Town Board Meeting

~ Oct 14, 2026, 4:30 PM~
Budget Workshop Meeting

~ Nov 10, 2026, 7 PM~
Budget Hearing & Levy Approval Meetings

~ Nov 10, 2026, after Budget Mts~
Regular Town Board Meeting

Town of Martell
W5581 800th Ave
Spring Valley, WI 54767

Meet Companion Animal Care & Control

When most people think of animal control, they picture picking up stray dogs. In reality, modern animal control is much more than that. Every day, Companion Animal Care & Control (CACC) works alongside local law enforcement and communities to protect both animals and people through professional, compassionate, and responsive service.

Since 2011, CACC has grown to become one of the region's largest municipal animal control providers, proudly serving more than 90 cities and townships throughout Minnesota and western Wisconsin. Our team responds to calls involving stray, lost, injured, abandoned, and at-risk animals, investigates animal welfare concerns, assists with ordinance enforcement, and provides a safe, secure impound facility for animals that need temporary care.

Our operations are based at the Companion Animal Center in Oakdale, a purpose-built facility designed with separate, secure areas for municipal impound animals and community pet services. Every animal entrusted to our care receives clean housing, nutritious meals, daily enrichment, Fear Free–informed handling, and individualized attention while we work to reunite

them with their owners whenever possible. Animals that are not reclaimed are transferred to trusted nonprofit rescue partners to begin their journey toward adoption.

For residents, knowing who to call can make all the difference. If you find a stray pet, encounter an injured animal, or have concerns about an animal's welfare, residents should contact Pierce County Dispatch, 715-273-5051, which will coordinate transport with CACC

At Companion Animal Care & Control, our mission is simple: provide professional animal care, support public safety, and ensure every animal has a safe place to land. Whether we're helping reunite a beloved family pet, responding to an emergency, or partnering with local agencies to protect animal welfare, we're honored to serve the communities that place their trust in us.

To learn more about our services, report a lost or found pet, or view the communities we serve, visit www.companionanimalcontrol.com



Exploring Options for Garbage Collection in Martell

The Town’s recent work on protecting our roads from damage caused by heavy hauling has prompted us to take a closer look at the impact of garbage collection on town roads. Garbage trucks are large, heavy vehicles that, unlike most heavy hauling traffic, travel the same rural roads regularly, year-round, sometimes backtracking over vulnerable roads during a route. Aside from the Town Transfer Station, Martell residents can currently choose between at least four separate garbage haulers, which means potentially four different routes are traveling Martell roads each week. Over time, that repeated heavy use can contribute to road deterioration and increased maintenance costs for the Town.

The Board encourages residents to consider using the **Town Transfer Station and Recycling Center** as a practical alternative to curbside pickup. Centrally located at W5437 780th Ave and with disposal fees only **\$5 for a 32-gallon bag and no charge for recycling**, this option remains the most economical choice for households with modest waste. Furthermore, choosing the transfer station over curbside pickup helps minimize the frequency of heavy truck traffic on our rural roads.

The Board is currently investigating the possibility of transitioning to a single-provider garbage collection system

for those residents who desire curbside services. This model would involve implementing an *Exclusive Franchise Ordinance*, allowing the Board to solicit proposals and award an exclusive contract to one hauler for those residents. Potential advantages for the Town include a reduction in heavy vehicle traffic, optimized collection routes, and decreased road wear. For residents, this could offer more reliable service and potentially lower rates through hauler consolidation.

To do this, the Town will need to study how such a system could work including costs, contracts, service areas, and resident interest and participation. In any case, rest assured we will NOT be eliminating the Town Transfer Station and Recycling Center as any part of this process.

No decision has been made. Before moving forward, we need to understand how residents currently use garbage and recycling services and what they would consider important in any future arrangement. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey on the opposite page. Your feedback will help guide the Town as we explore practical options for protecting our roads while maintaining convenient and affordable waste disposal for residents.

An Update on Town Roads and Heavy Hauling

You may have heard about the Town’s proposed Road Protection Ordinance. The Town Board has tabled the ordinance for now while we take a closer look at some of the questions and concerns raised during our July and August meetings.

We’re doing our homework. The Board has consulted with legal counsel about Wisconsin law and is talking with garbage service providers to better understand their routes and how heavy vehicles affect our roads. We want any future proposal to be fair, practical, and based on good information.

One thing we heard loud and clear was that communication matters. Many farmers told us they would be willing to let the Town know when unusually heavy hauling is planned.

So, we’re going to give our new road use notification system a test run. For now, participation is completely voluntary as there is no ordinance requiring notification.

The goal is simple: help us coordinate routes when possible, document road conditions, test the system, and

learn what works before making any future policy decisions.

Farmers and any other operators planning unusually heavy hauling are encouraged to participate. The form is easy to complete from a cellphone and can be accessed at www.townofmartell.com/notification_form or by scanning the QR code below.

Questions or need help? Contact Town Clerk Robin Boles at 715-317-1395 or clerk@tn.martell.wi.gov.



Scan the QR code to fill out the heavy hauling notification form

MARTELL HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE & RECYCLING SURVEY

1. How do you currently dispose of household garbage and recycling?

- ☐ Town transfer station/recycling center
- ☐ Private curbside service (who is your provider): _____
- ☐ Both
- ☐ On-site dumpster
- ☐ Other: _____

2. How would you feel if the Town required residents who want curbside garbage pickup to use one town-approved garbage hauler in order to consolidate routes to protect town roads?

- ☐ I would support this
- ☐ I would probably support it
- ☐ I would probably oppose it
- ☐ I would strongly oppose it
- ☐ I would need more information
- ☐ My concerns are _____

3. Please rank the following factors in order of importance if the Town were to select a single curbside provider (1 = most important):

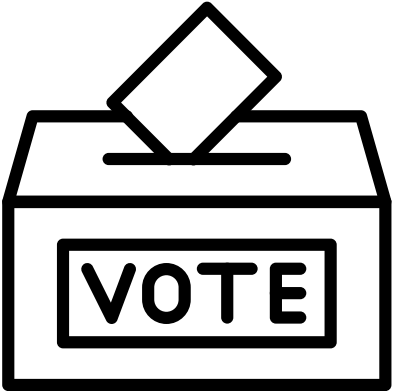
- ____ Cost
- ____ Pickup schedule
- ____ Container size and options
- ____ Reliability of service
- ____ The provider selected
- ____ Recycling options
- ____ Other: _____

4. Do you have any other comments or suggestions to improve garbage and recycling services, and/or reduce associated impact to town roads?

Please take our survey and return it to the Town of Martell. You can complete this form and

- take a photo and text it to 715-317-1395
- mail it to: Town of Martell, W5581 800th Ave, Spring Valley, WI 54767
- scan and email it to: clerk@tn.martell.wi.gov
- **OR visit townofmartell.com/garbage_survey to complete it online**

or Scan the QR code to take the survey →



Town Polling Place
Martell Town Hall

W5581 800th Ave
Spring Valley, WI 54767

Keep yourself informed!
Visit our website
www.townofmartell.com

2026 November General Election

Voters will head to the polls on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, for the General Election. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Remember to bring an acceptable photo ID when you vote, whether it is on election day or early in-person absentee.

Questions about voter registration, absentee voting, or polling place information? Contact Robin Boles, your Town Clerk, at 715-317-1395 or visit myvote.wi.gov for more information.