

UPDATE FROM INTERIM TOWN MANAGER JULY 2025

As I complete my fourth week as your “Interim” Town Manager, I want to say, I am extremely impressed with White Springs. I understand all the turmoil that has gone on recently and feel it is my responsibility to again instill in the residents of the Town that not all government officials are not corrupt, lazy, or do not have a clue as to what it takes to make the Town government work. Small towns are required to make the same reports to the State and Federal authorities as most large towns and cities, but without the staff to do so, and those in small localities must wear several hats to accomplish the goal of providing the best possible service to our customers, the residents. I ask you to give me a little time to understand everything that went on and suggest or implement the changes needed to make our town the best in Florida. That is my goal and for the current Town Council and employees.

I have a few pet peeves and White Springs is similar to all the other small, rural towns in America. I hate seeing trash, dilapidated vehicles, old appliances, and other debris just thrown around the yard, and even on the sidewalk so that pedestrians cannot utilize them when walking. I ASK EACH OF YOU TO GO ACROSS THE STREET AND SEE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE YOUR NEIGHBOR. All it takes is a little effort and you can see how much you can clean up and make things look better. I will attempt to set up an amnesty day(s) later in the year so that you can utilize those days to get your yard and residence cleaned up and not be an eyesore for your neighbors and the visitors who visit our town. Assist me by starting now so that we will not have to use Code Enforcement to require such. I also ask you to look at the upkeep of your residence and do your best to bring it up to standards and codes. You only have one chance to make a “first impression.”

We are addressing the public safety of our citizens with the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners regarding fire and EMS, along with the Sheriff for police service. Please be as patient as you can while we go through this process, which I hope will go fast and provide you with the best service we can provide. I assure you that we can work with Hamilton County and ensure a better standard of safety and security for you all. Hopefully, we can be back in Town Hall soon and everything can get back to normal operations and have all our meetings back at council chambers.

Again, I want to thank the Town Council for giving me the opportunity to guide the town during this period of re-settlement and thank all of you for your support. My door is always open for comments, both positive and negative, but I hope most are positive. Let you know more about activities and the future in my next memo to the public.

LEE GARNER, INTERIM TOWN MANAGER