

From Mayor Clint Folsom, March 2022

Dear Superior Residents,

On behalf of the Town of Superior Board of Trustees and the entire Town staff, our hearts go out to everyone who has experienced losses from the Marshall Fire on December 30th. None of us ever imagined that we would experience such a horrific event and lose nearly 10% of the homes in our community on that fateful day. As we start to move into the cleanup and re-building phases, we recognize there is a tremendous amount of work ahead for all of us. Please know the Town Board of Trustees and the Town staff have been working continuously for the past two months on the recovery efforts and will continue doing so in the months and years ahead.

The remainder of this message was originally drafted for the January Sentinel but was postponed during the immediate response to the fire. Each year I like to start with a quick recap of the past year and highlight a couple of new things for the coming year.

2021 Accomplishments

This past year was a busy one and here are some of the highlights. The Town was able to complete the renovations and open Superior's first Community Center. This new facility, creates new possibilities for community building, recreation, meeting space, events and entertainment. The Town continued with significant investments in infrastructure, repairing and rebuilding roads, updating the Water Waste Treatment Plant, among many other projects throughout the year. We ramped up Economic Development by hiring dedicated staff and launching a new Economic Development website to support existing businesses and attract new ones. On the cultural side, Superior established our first-ever sister city relationship with Khandbari, Nepal. We also welcomed the return of our favorite community events and saw some new events and several public art installations thanks to the efforts of our town staff and volunteer advisory groups.

Looking Ahead to 2022

During the next couple of weeks, the Marshall Road bridge will officially open, providing another access point into Downtown Superior from the north. Adjacent to the bridge project, Parks 1 and 2 will also be completed to provide additional recreation and lighted multi-purpose field space. The Main Street plaza and commercial buildings will see substantial progress with vertical construction already underway. Downtown residents will also have another park and playground in the southern section of the development known as Tract H, opening mid-year. In Rock Creek, the Purple Park playground equipment will be completely replaced. The Town's <u>Sustainability</u> Plan focusing on climate action, energy, waste reduction, air and water quality, and transportation was recently approved. Ongoing work in <u>Economic Development</u> will continue with approved incentives and a strategic approach to attract new businesses to Superior. 2022 will also be filled with many events including the 4th of July Parade, Chili & Beer Fest and many others hosted by the Town and our volunteer advisory groups. Keep up with the upcoming events on our <u>events page</u>.

Once again, my deepest sympathies to all of you who have experienced losses or hardships from the Marshall Fire. For many residents, 2022 will be consumed with trying to put your lives back together following the events of the Marshall Fire. Please make sure you are taking advantage of the many resources that are available and are being updated on a regular basis on the Marshall Fire Recovery webpage. One of the best parts of Superior has always been our strong sense of community spirit and togetherness. Fortunately, that spirit remains and is stronger than ever. A big part of everyone's healing will be all of us getting back together again and I look forward to seeing you around town. I am thankful for the hard work of my fellow members of the Board of Trustees, committee volunteers, our dedicated Town staff, and of course, you, our residents. Please continue to stay.connected and involved which will help in the healing process. Feel free to reach out to me at clintf@superiorcolorado.gov or to the entire Board of Trustees: townboard@superiorcolorado.gov with any comments, questions or suggestions.

In closing, I want to let you know that 2022 will be my final year as mayor as I am nearing the end of my second term and will not be seeking another term due to term limits. By this time next year, Superior will have a new mayor following the November 2022 election. It has been an honor and privilege serving as your mayor.