

# INSIDE *Singletree*

AUGUST 2017

A SOCIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE RESIDENTS OF SINGLETREE

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Serbinski  
Family*

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# HELLO SINGLETREE RESIDENTS!

It's hard to believe that August has arrived; summer always seems to go so fast! This edition commemorates the beginning of summer for Singletree with Father's Day Fly Fishing and the first Music in the Park in June; the season was off to a great start!

In this issue, you will meet Justin and Karmen Serbinski who turned their one-year trial run in Singletree into a permanent move from Chicago. Tim Swift shares his extraordinary cycling experience with his wife, Lisa, through the Dalmatian Islands of Croatia. And we learn how 10-year-old Hayden DiVenere turned his back seat singing talent into a solo performance at the Vilar Center. This and many more great stories make for great summer reading!

Please join me in welcoming **Sundance Custom Flooring** as the newest business sponsor for your neighborhood publication. As always, I would like to personally thank all of our business sponsors

who partner with us to make this magazine possible; please review the Index of Sponsors, and if you are in need of any of their services, please allow them the opportunity to win your business.

With August comes the peak of peach season and in honor of Colorado's bountiful fruit, we invite you to join us for a Peach Soirée to enjoy an array of peach tastings and neighborhood camaraderie! Please see details in You Are Invited on page 6.

Enjoy these beautiful summer days! I look forward to seeing you soon at our neighborhood events!



*Holly Proctor*  
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**publisher's note**  
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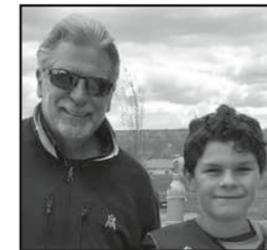
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***Inside Singletree would not be possible without your participation.***

Please send your stories and photos or share your ideas for feature articles by emailing **holly.proctor@n2pub.com** ... and don't forget to join the fun at our neighborhood events!



**Justin and Karmen Serbinski**  
Meet Your Neighbors



**Tom and Hayden DiVenere**  
Young Achiever



**Melo and Sally Austen**  
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## YOU ARE *Invited*

.....



**BOCCE NIGHT FOR  
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Join us for a casual gathering of neighborhood singles at the bocce court at Zino! Please plan to invite another single friend to enjoy a social evening meeting fellow singles in the community. Bocce novice or pro: all are welcome to join the fun!

RSVP via e-mail to **insidesingletreersvp@gmail.com** or **leslieg@kw.com**. Hors d'oeuvres and wine will be served; \$10.00 per person.

**SINGLETREE PEACH SOIRÉE  
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Celebrate summer and Colorado's sweet peaches! Enjoy a variety of peach cuisine including refreshing cocktails and delicious hors d'oeuvres as well as other Colorado seasonal delights, while mixing and mingling with your friends and neighbors. Please participate by bringing a peach dessert to share with your neighbors! \$10.00 contribution per person

RSVP no later than Thursday, August 10, 2017, to **insidesingletreersvp@gmail.com** or **303-859-3369**.



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***"Let's try it for a year..." and now three years later, we happily call Singletree our home. After living in Chicago for nearly 20 years, our family of five, plus the dog, made the move to the Vail Valley in August of 2014. We are very fortunate that our journey to Vail started about 13 years ago. In 2004, Justin and I with our new baby, Hannah, had the great opportunity to spend about six weeks in the Vail Valley. Justin and I fell in love with the Valley and found our current home in Singletree. Justin's trading company had a satellite office in Avon and we had spent many winters here. In 2014, Justin had a one-year non-compete agreement and our family made the decision to try out living in Singletree full time for the year. We packed up, rented our Chicago home, and headed west. Like many before us, one year turned into several years and now this is home.***

Justin and I both grew up in Crystal Lake, Illinois. We met in high school! Justin attended Northwestern University and studied economics. He also played soccer for Northwestern. I went to the University of Iowa and then the University of Chicago where I got my Master's in Social Work. We were married in June of

2001 and started our life together in Chicago. Justin was working hard as a bond trader and successfully started a trading firm. I was a school social worker. Our first child, Hannah, was born in November of 2003. Claire arrived almost exactly two years later in November of 2005. In March of 2011, our family was complete with the arrival of our third child, Conrad or CJ. Our busy family of five greatly enjoyed city living. We lived about 1.5 miles west of Wrigley Field. Justin was very busy growing his trading company and I was fortunate to stay home with the three children.

Moving from the urban jungle of Chicago to the quiet Vail Valley was a bit of an adjustment. We left behind extended family and friends from 20 years in the city. But we soon found that the Vail Valley is full of transplants like us and we were welcomed into an incredible village of families. Hannah and Claire immediately got involved with the Vail Valley Soccer Club. VVSC helped the girls make connections and new friends. The girls were also warmly welcomed by the amazing community at Vail Mountain School. VMS did a fantastic job including new families and helping

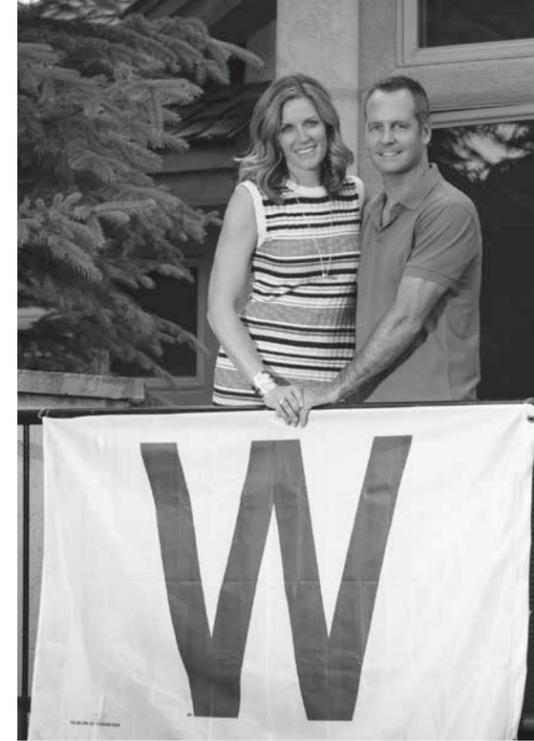
Hannah and Claire adapt to a new school and community. There are many families in Singletree that helped us adjust and they continue to be amazing friends and pillars of support. We have an amazing carpool for school and sports plus kids around the corner for playdates and fun.

Justin especially enjoyed his first year in the Vail Valley; because he had a non-compete, he was not trading fulltime. He found many ways to fill his time with all the amazing outdoor opportunities in Vail. He golfed, skied, snowboarded, volunteered for the 2015 World Cup, hiked, kayaked, biked, and got involved coaching for the Vail Valley Soccer Club. Justin continues to do all these things plus he has started trading again. Thanks to technology, he is able to trade remotely. He can even trade from a chairlift! He has an office in Edwards but still maintains his working relationships in Chicago and New York. Recently Justin's long time business partner moved to the Vail Valley from Chicago. Justin is thrilled that they are working together again.

Justin is a diehard Cubs fan. He had the thrill of a life time to watch the Cubs, after 108 years, win the World Series! He proudly flies the W flag at our home in honor of the Cubs win. Justin is also a big supporter of Northwestern and often heads back to Evanston for football games. Justin may have moved to the Vail Valley but his sports allegiance remains firmly planted in Chicago!

Shortly after moving here, I got involved with CASA of the Continental Divide. I went through the training to be a Court Appointed Special Advocate. CASA is a volunteer organization that works with children who are involved in the court system due to abuse or neglect. The goal of CASA is that every child has a safe and permanent home. As a Court Appointed Special Advocate, I ensure that the child has a voice in court. I've had the opportunity to serve on a case in Eagle County and I'm currently a mentor for a new CASA. This organization has given me a unique and meaningful connection to the community. After being home for 13 years, I very recently started working for the Eagle County Schools in their preschools. I love the Chicago Cubs and the Iowa Hawkeyes! I don't miss Chicago traffic but I do miss all the wonderful restaurants in Chicago. I love that in Singletree my kids can safely ride bikes and walk to their friend's homes and be independent.

Hannah is 13 years old and going into eighth grade at Vail Mountain School. Hannah is outgoing and adventurous. She enjoys playing soccer for VVSC as well as the VMS middle school team. This past year she also played basketball for VMS. Hannah loves alpine skiing, especially on big powder days. She is really looking forward to the drama program at VMS next school year. Hannah is a caring and responsible young lady. She proudly completed the Red Cross babysitting course and loves babysitting.



Hannah has a very unique pet. She is the proud owner of a rat named Frappi. Hannah and Frappi were recently featured as part of *Inside Singletree's* Precious Pets section. Hannah is huge Cubs fan, Blackhawks fan, and loves Chicago hot dogs – with a garden full of toppings but no ketchup. Hannah is really looking forward to going to camp this summer. She will be at Clearwater Camp for Girls in Minocqua, Wisconsin for three and a half weeks this summer. Hannah's favorite thing about living in the Vail Valley is all the freedom she has which is a very different experience from living in a big city like Chicago.

Claire is 11 years old and going into sixth grade at Vail Mountain School. Claire is quiet and reserved. She plays soccer for VVSC; Justin is her coach! Claire really enjoys Nordic skiing and has participated in the VMS Nordic program for the past two years. She loves to read and write poetry. She especially enjoyed the 3D printing class that was offered at VMS. Claire is a sweet girl who has made great friends at school and on her soccer team. She is excited to play basketball for the middle school this upcoming school year.

•••

Claire is also the proud owner of a pet rat. Claire's rat, Mochi, recently joined our family. Claire also attends Clearwater Camp for Girls. She loves everything about camp and is looking forward to spending three and a half weeks in the Northwoods of Wisconsin. She is a big Cubs fan and misses Chicago deep dish pizza. Claire loves that everywhere you look in Colorado you see something that can inspire.



Conrad, or CJ for short, is 6 years old and going into first grade at Red Sandstone Elementary School. CJ had an amazing kindergarten experience at RSES. His favorite subject in school is math. CJ is an inquisitive and curious little boy. He is active in soccer, t-ball, rock climbing, taekwondo and adventures around the neighborhood with friends. He loves riding his bike and finding bugs. CJ participated in the Beavo ski program this past winter and had a great time with his fun coach. CJ is a huge Chicago sports fan! He loves to watch the Cubs, Bears, and Blackhawks. He will loudly and proudly sing "Go Cubs Go!" CJ misses deep dish pizza. In Colorado, CJ loves taking adventures and the beautiful views.



Our four legged child is Buddy the Bulldog. He is a 7-year-old English bulldog. CJ and Buddy share a birthday! Buddy is a very relaxed easy going dog; he loves people and laying in the sun. Sometimes the snow gets a little too deep for him and he doesn't like long hikes, but he enjoys the beautiful sunny Colorado weather and short walks in the neighborhood.

Life in the Serbinski house is busy! There is carpool, school, practices, games, after school clubs, skiing, work, volunteer commitments, three pets, and homework. When Justin and I aren't busy driving three kids to three different practices, our family loves to travel. We go to Chicago every summer to see family and friends and eat all our favorite Chicago foods. We enjoy vacations to sunny beaches and exploring new places all around Colorado. There is a lot of 'divide and conquer' in our family but we make it a priority to spend time together as a family unit. Our family loves to entertain guests. Being in such a beautiful place, we often have visitors and it's fun to show them all around the mountains.

Making the decision to move to Singletree full time has been great for our family! It's an idyllic setting for our children to learn and grow with independence. Justin and I often remark that living in the Vail Valley has allowed our children to get to have a childhood like we had in our home

town. They can play and explore safely and independently. Singletree has provided us a fantastic village. We are so thankful for all our new friends who are like family. It's wonderful to be surrounded by good and caring people. It's an amazing place to call home and we are so grateful to be here.



Get to know your neighbors by featuring your family in the next available issue! Email [holly.proctor@n2pub.com](mailto:holly.proctor@n2pub.com) to share your family story with your neighborhood.



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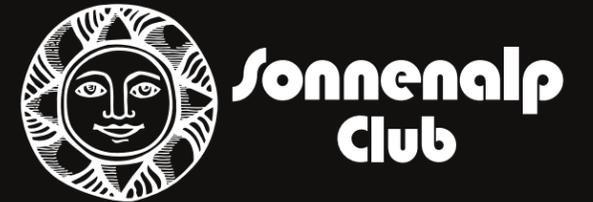


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## Feeling Hot this Summer?

Need to chill-out? If you plan to install an air-conditioning condenser unit, all of the equipment installed on the exterior of your home shall be located within the setbacks and as close to the home as possible. The unit(s) shall be screened from view with evergreen landscaping too. In Singletree, air-conditioning condensers are also required to have a 10 or higher SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio).

**Mark Your Calendar**



**DON'T FORGET -** Singletree's Annual Summer Party is Saturday, August 26, 4 to 7 PM, at the Community Center. Please RSVP to manager@singletreetoday.com by Wednesday, August 16. Guests are \$15 per person.

## LIGHTS, EFFICIENCY & THE NIGHT SKY



For energy and fiscal efficiency, the Berry Creek Metro District recently switched all of the lights at intersections in Singletree to

high efficiency LED fixtures. The Singletree Community Center also uses all LED lights for energy efficiency, including our holiday light strands. LEDs are extremely efficient and consume at least 75% less power and last 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

When you are replacing your home's exterior lights consider dark sky compliant (a designation given to fixtures for reducing waste of ambient light) fixtures that allow all of us to enjoy our starry nights right here in Singletree.

**Did you know that all exterior lighting should direct light downward and the light source should not be visible from your neighbor's property?** For more info check out Singletree's Design Guidelines at [WWW.SINGLETREETODAY.COM/DESIGN-REVIEW](http://WWW.SINGLETREETODAY.COM/DESIGN-REVIEW)

# SINGLETREE

**Berry Creek Metro District and Singletree Property Owners' Association**

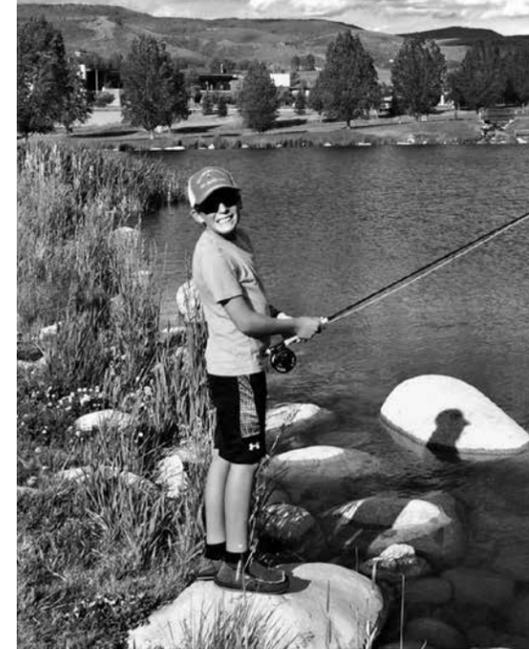
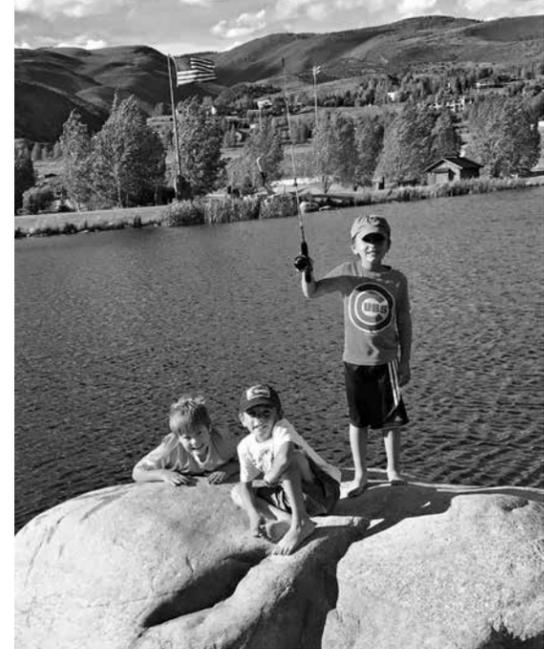
1010 Berry Creek Road at the Community Center

You can contact the community manager at [manager@singletreetoday.com](mailto:manager@singletreetoday.com) or (970) 926-2611

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singletree social

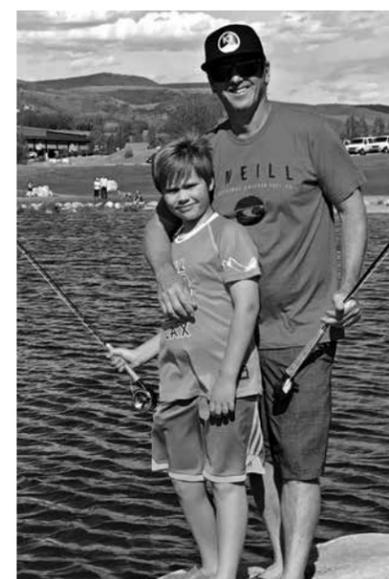


# FLY FISHING FUN FOR FATHER'S DAY

The quintessential Father's Day celebration: an afternoon of fly fishing for dads and their kids! A number of Singletree fathers kicked off the weekend with their sons and daughters at Freedom Park with fly fishing and neighborhood camaraderie. Orchestrated by Mark Sassi, our resident fly fishing enthusiast, the group was treated to gear and instruction by John Packer, Bobby Stedman and Kip Wolcott, from Fly Fishing Outfitters in Avon.



Despite blustery winds, everyone had a smile on their face as they practiced casting on the lawn before taking to the water. Who knew what the pond at Freedom Park held for the expectant group? A few fish were reeled in, there were a few that got away, and the kids had a unique opportunity to see a trout up close in Mark's photarium. Many thanks to Mark and Fly Fishing Outfitters for bringing together a great afternoon to celebrate the start of Father's Day weekend!





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## young achiever

Contributed by Tom and Hayden DeVinere, Singletree Residents



# The Little Dude Next Door – *Athletics and a Song*

**In a valley where athletics are covered ... from skiing to soccer to lacrosse to hoverboards, there are actually opportunities to explore singing, acting and dance. Parents often wonder if songs they hear coming from kids in showers can grow into songs performed in a room (no water), on a stage, in a theater.**

Parents might wonder, but Singletree 10-year-old resident Hayden DiVenere wanted to find out. Sure, Hayden plays lacrosse with Vail Lax, snowboards, likes to fly fish, golfs and does all the typical boy stuff ... but singing? He sounded good in the back seat of the family car singing to current songs but that is a long way from performing in front of people, no voice over, under the bright lights without losing pitch. And maybe, moving appropriately to the beat. It is not easy. People are watching.

So Annah Scully (another Singletree resident) and her 22-year Vail Performing Arts Academy (VPAA) seemed to be the organization where all kids (ages 8-18) can learn a bit more about themselves, find out if they like performing, have some *interest* in these talents and want to work with others for a common goal. Three times a year VPAA brings together children of varying and unexplored talents, to create a production that surprises parents and friends by the discipline of the children, professionalism of their accomplishment and amazement of the patience of artistic director Colin Meiring.

So Hayden, then 8 years old, decided to audition for a SOLO and group roles (other songs and dances) in a VPAA production to be held at the Vilar Center. This would be a long way from the back seat. Under the incredible guidance of Annah and Colin, and their

generous staff, Hayden learned to dance, act and sing with the company and twice performed a SOLO, in the 500-plus seat Vilar Center. No water. No net.

This led to solo songs at 9 years old and again at 10 in 500 seat theaters, joining with other 'arts' motivated kids to time their dances, hit their marks, and harmonize with boys and girls. The productions are incredible: Colin herds cats better than anyone.

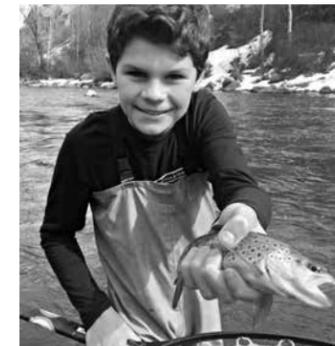
This also led Hayden to Colin's Hip Hop Dance Class, in Edwards. These classes *challenge* young boys to *attempt* to synchronize their arms, legs and torsos in graceful athletic movements, and not appear as if they are suffering injuries looking for a place to land. Tough stuff for bodies undergoing explosive growth.

With this background and confidence, and believing he had musical talent, Hayden and *many* valley children auditioned for SOLO and duet spots for a song to be performed at the Vail Valley Foundation – Star Dancing Gala, Eagle Jet Center July 18, 2017. Hayden was one of 10 finalists and ultimately awarded a solo part and duet singing role. This time in front of 800-1,000 people. Again, no water, no net. Talented singer -- 10 years old in front of a lot of people. How? VPAA showed him.

Though Hayden is only 10, there are lessons for all in his journey. Children and adults must search where talents lie and nurture them. For the more than 400-plus children participating in VPAA programs a year, there is fun and growth that extends to many aspects of life. Acting, singing, and dancing on stage demands

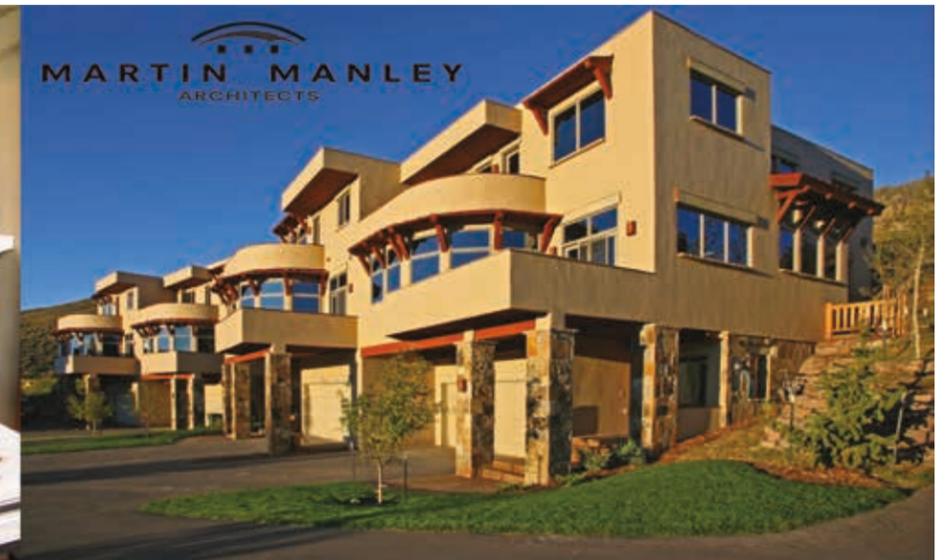


discipline and builds confidence for public speaking, job interviews, group projects, and even looking a person in the eyes when you shake hands (you must do so while receiving kudos after the performance). Talent is not the key; attitude and curiosity are.



Yes, some children have talents but all have an interest in finding out what might be possible. Growth comes from a willingness to get to new and perhaps uncomfortable places under watchful caring eyes. For Hayden, it is athletics, singing and dance. In the neighborhood. Great stuff.

Hayden explored the unknown at 8. He still sings in the car and shower, but now he also sounds great on stage in front of many. It started with the strength to take a chance and a young boy singing for fun. Hopefully ... this is more to come.



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## precious pets

Contributed by Sally  
and Melo Austen,  
Singletree Resident  
and Pet



# i am TOO YOUNG to be 70

My name is Melo. (An ironic nod to my psychotic predecessor and a basketball player reputed to jump higher than me). I'm a liver and white springer spaniel. You can't tell from this dapper mug shot, but I am apparently a Senior Citizen in human years, 77 to be exact, just like my human father George. We share a lot more than longevity ... until yesterday when I had a summer spa day and shave at Doggy Style, we both sported lots of whiskers. They call his a beard, mine is fur, and my human mom has a fit when it collects in corners. We all live in Singletree, the best place to grow up, and now they changed it to 'retire'.

Retire, what does that mean? I have a routine. Does that change? I like what I do. My job description is simple: Love, lick and jump on all family members as enthusiastically as possible. Bark at strangers. What could be easier? New tricks for old dogs?

In the morning, I get up with my mom and sit at attention while she makes coffee and throws a treat to me. I go to the door and look across the street to see if lights are on at my girlfriend's house. More treats. Her name is Dolly. She's a golden lab and we've known each other since we were being potty trained. We used to run together and do other things that felt good, now we nuzzle and sometimes when George is reading a book in his big soft bed, the one with 10 pillows, Dolly wanders into our house and jumps in bed to cuddle too. On hot days, I sit on the front porch or just inside the door, watch the world go by and bark at people making deliveries. More treats! The man from UPS has the best cookies, but I bark anyway so he feels good about feeding me. Retiring doesn't mean giving up cookies, does it?



About food. Nuggets once a day keep me healthy and trim. Boring! I want the good stuff I see on the kitchen counter and people dinner plates. If I sit patiently, drooling like crazy, I get to lap up the sauce or chew up a lamb chop and corn on the cob. Yum! When I was younger, Watts and Lang, my two -legged brothers, would share brownies in the middle of the night when we had the munchies. (Who ever said second-hand smoke is bad for your health?) Of course, now, I eat and fall asleep in front of the TV. Then I wake up, move to bed and listen to Colbert. I claim the softest spots, steal the covers, snore while I dream and end up spooning my mom.

What's out there in retirement? I hear 'yoga for stiff people' is useful. Cardio tennis is bracing. Ski tickets are no longer free after 70. But, handicapped parking lanyards are great if you hate car rides and leashes. So far I don't need a new hip or knee, but the joint enhancing vitamins are tasty. And, did you know, ibruprofen comes in dog capsules? A good business would be flavor enhancement though.

I understand 'wintering' in warm weather is trending. Dolly and her mom did that. They drove away in a bus that looked like a house. After a few months, she came back. But every day she was gone I checked for a light. That's my job, retirement or not. I make people feel good. I watch while my mom showers, wag my tail when she smiles, wake her up when my brothers come home late, sleep with them when they're sick or sad.

So, until my hearing, teeth and eyesight go, I am excited to spend my golden years in Singletree, hanging with my people, playing with my girl, terrifying young deer who think I can still chase them and watching the clouds roll by. We get the family we need. I am lucky.



Do you have a pet and would like to share his or her story? Please email [holly.proctor@n2pub.com](mailto:holly.proctor@n2pub.com) to feature your precious pet in the next available issue. Dogs, cats, horses, fish and any other types of pets are welcome!

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Lai and a Boston friend at The Bookworm

# Lai White

sponsor spotlight

Lai White came to the Vail Valley for the first time to ski in 1989. She returned in 1993, purchased a home, and divided her time between Vail and Isle of Palms in South Carolina. At that time, she started her residential real estate career with Jo Ellen Nash & Company in Edwards. Prior to her launch in real estate, she had worn many hats as a serial entrepreneur in many diverse businesses; her roles included publishing a newspaper in Washington DC, owning and managing a full-service advertising agency, selling photographic equipment as a manufacturer's rep, and owning and operating a nail salon and a Vietnamese restaurant. Lai's background provided her with a broad scope of experience to bring to her real estate career in the Vail Valley.

Lai left the Valley in 2008 when Jo Ellen Nash closed the office and the market took a turn for the worse. After eight years of retirement, Lai has returned to her beloved Vail Valley and now lives in Singletree. She enjoys the neighborhood for its tremendous sense of community as well as its convenience to everything the Valley has to offer. In addition to being an avid golfer, Lai plays chess weekly with her fellow Singletree residents!

Now a broker with Gateway Real Estate, Lai loves the real estate business and it shows in her heartfelt enthusiasm and perpetual energy. For her, it is the reward of making friends and helping a client find the perfect home that provides the greatest personal gratification. Her many clients exude appreciation for the high level of service Lai offers every buyer and seller:



Lai White and her Singletree golfing friends

- "One of the best communicators we've ever met! Your quick and thorough responses were greatly appreciated." - Pam and Harold
- "Lai was always there for us, we didn't have to worry about anything." - Skip and Rhonda
- "Lai was willing to do whatever it took to sell our home. She has gone out of the way to assist us in getting the necessary contractors to do the work to get the house ready for the best showing possible, in three days we got four offers." - Joe and Mary
- "Ken and I were extremely impressed with your service. We felt that you went "above and beyond" the call of duty. We will recommend you to anyone, anytime." - Ken and Leora
- "Your perseverance, guidance and sense of humor kept us sane. We are forever grateful that we had someone as honest and professional as you in our corner." - George and Maya

If you are considering selling your home or are in the market for a new home, be sure to contact Lai to experience firsthand her commitment and dedication to meeting your real estate needs ... you will make a lifelong friend along the way!

Please join your friends and neighbors to celebrate the summer season at a **Singletree Peach Soirée** on August 13 at the home of Lai White. See details on page 6.



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what's happening  
inside singletree



## Music in the Park



On an ultimately beautiful Tuesday night in June, about 75 Singletree residents enjoyed good picnics, great company and the always wonderful brother-sister team musical team, Turntable Revue Duo. Join us for the next concert on Tuesday, July 18, from 6 to 8 p.m.



celebrating the arts Contributed by Deb Swain, Singletree Resident



## The Music Faire RETURNS

In August 2016, it had been ten years since Judy Alexander put on the first Vail Music Faire, and everyone that attended was hoping she would do it again. So, on Sunday, August 27, 2017, starting at 3:00 p.m. at the Ford Amphitheater, you can treat yourself to eight hours of the best music in the Vail Valley with over 50 entertainers and 15 bands, because Judy is doing it again! ...And it's free!

**FESTIVAL ORIGINS.** In 1996, Judy Alexander and Betsy Bradley opened Club Chelsea. For many years it was one of the popular hangouts to listen to music, dance and enjoy a cocktail. It also became a meeting place for the musicians. Judy began searching for another way to exhibit the growing catalog of talent amassed through Club Chelsea. With the help of the Fred and Judy Alexander Foundation, which Judy started in 1993 after her husband's passing, the Vail Music Faire came to life.

"People don't realize how much talent we have in this valley and they don't get to hear each other very much because they're always working," Judy said. "That's when the idea of the Music Faire came up: expose the community to them and them to the community, was what it was all set up to do." The annual festivals continued until 2003 when Judy left Vail, but it started back up last year and everyone that attended agrees it was one of the best music events around.

Peter Fontanese signed on as producer for the festival's revival and started connecting with members of the Vail music scene, both old and new, to put together the lineup. The hard part of

doing that was deciding on the musicians since the talent in the valley far exceeds the one-day venue. For the full lineup of entertainers, go to [www.peterfontanese productions.net](http://www.peterfontanese productions.net).

Singletree resident Deb Swain was one of the lucky ones attending last year. "I've been interested in music since I was a small child, watching and singing along with everything from Lawrence Welk to the classics, to Broadway to Rock 'N Roll," Deb explains. "When I heard Judy intend to run the event again, I asked if I could help spread the word." It's a day of music to plan your weekend around; mark your calendar for **Sunday, August 27 at 3:00 p.m.!**



# 71 Saddle Drive: A Home Decorated with LOVE

Meet Jenny Hejtmanek and Doug Tremblay, who have lived at 71 Saddle Drive for 20 years. Here, they share their passion for their Colorado Dream Home.

**What is unique about your house?** The mature landscaping surrounding the winding drive to the traditional Colorado home lends to the privacy and seclusion to make one think they are on their own mountainside. We have spent endless hours planting flowers and trees over the years.

## home of the month

Contributed by Jenny Hejtmanek, Douglas Tremblay and Alida Zwaan, Singletree Residents



**What rooms did you decorate?** Every room in our home has been remodeled. Our vision was to create a cozy, Colorado inspired home using custom wood throughout. Redecorating our home has been a true labor of love; Doug's expertise in painting, faux finishing and staining of our wood has added the special "charm" that makes each room beautiful.

**Did you design or decorate your home yourself?** We decorated our home based on our travels throughout Colorado.

**What was your inspiration?** Our inspiration was to incorporate the spectacular views to the utmost level. Our home overlooks the 11th tee of the Sonnenalp Golf Course so we enjoy gorgeous, unobstructed views of Beaver Creek, Bachelors' Gulch and Arrowhead mountains from every room as well as from our stacked decks.

**What is your favorite room in the house and why?** Our favorite room is the "Deer Bar Inn" where we have entertained many of our friends and family over the years. Our decks have hosted a wedding and parties to embrace our gorgeous views over the years.

**Did you decorate the house at one time?** It took two and a half years to remodel and create our Colorado Dream Home.

**If you could do it all over again, would you change anything?** No. We have thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of our home.

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# Croatia

travel  
tales

Contributed  
by **Tim Swift**,  
Singletree  
Resident

## On Two Pedals A Day

It was late December of last year when my wife, Lisa, began the search for a trip we could take in May. One of her sources was a catalog we had recently received from Vermont Bike Tours (VBT) that described the almost 50 possible bike tours available on any of six continents. Apparently bicycling in Antarctica presented some unique challenges that no one was particularly excited about.

We had heard about VBT primarily from my sister and brother in law who had enjoyed them so much that they had been on ten of their trips over the years. Based on their strong endorsement and despite the fact that neither of us had spent any time on a bicycle other than the stationary bike at the gym, Lisa decided that we should give it a shot. Well, why not? The trip we decided on was to Croatia and the Dalmatian Islands.

I'm 69, Lisa is 53. Neither of us owned, much less rode, a bike. We would be joining a group of up to 20 people we had never met for ten days that included six straight days of biking up to 40 miles and five hours a day for a trip that, according to the VBT catalog, "... includes more hills. Longer distance options can be very rewarding for those who cycle regularly." Add to the mix the fact that I was scheduled for hip replacement surgery a mere three months before the trip was to begin. What could possibly go wrong? The answer to that question is simple ... nothing whatsoever!

It was an extraordinary adventure for both of us.

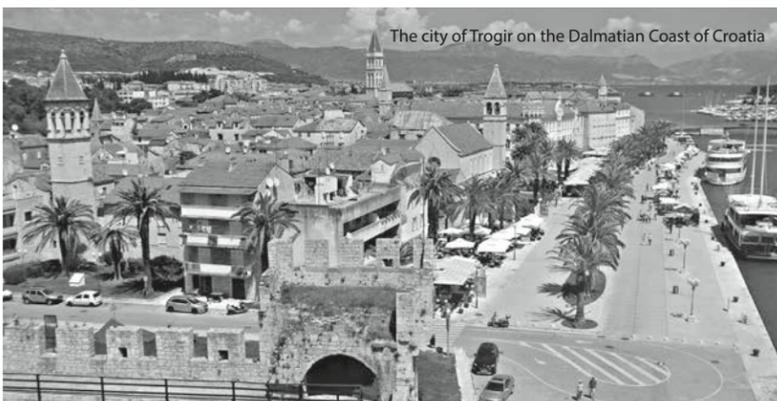
A view of Dubrovnik from the old city walls



Aging wine in a Croatian cellar; this particular vineyard has been occupied and operated by the same family for over 500 years.



The entire group atop the highest point of the island of Brac



The city of Trogir on the Dalmatian Coast of Croatia



It's difficult to imagine a more welcoming country than Croatia. If you have never been there, please put it on your list. The presence of history in a region that has managed to not only preserve but also actually continue to use buildings that date from the fourth century, is inescapable. Croatia has endured wars (the most recent from 1990-2001), conquests, Communism, famines, and plagues and the people have emerged as some of the warmest, most welcoming, and self-sufficient you will ever encounter.

The geography is dramatic to a fault. The islands we visited, Brac and Hvar, are only two of over 1000 islands off the coast of Croatia. They are both achingly scenic. Mountainous, green, latticed with olive groves, vineyards, dramatic fields of poppies and lavender, all emerging from the almost unbelievably cobalt blue, glass-clear waters of the Adriatic Sea.

We biked from sea level up to dramatic heights that offered breathtaking views virtually every day. That was a bit of a challenge at times, but we pedaled on knowing that for every uphill struggle there is a waiting view that will be amazing and a long, relaxing downhill glide.

Bicycling, however, was not the only activity that VBT arranged for us. Our group was treated to a full day's excursion by private van to the wine country outside Dubrovnik. We visited three wineries; the same family had operated one of them for over 500 years! Our two local, bi-lingual guides, Natasa and Nevin, arranged dinners for us at both traditional Croatian restaurants and private homes to give us the opportunity to experience Croatian culinary and social life on a level the casual tourist never could.



The intrepid pedalers by the harbor of Pucisca on the island of Brac

We were also given a private tour of one of only two remaining stonemason schools in the world, located in Pucisca on the island of Brac. At the school, high school aged students are taught the art of cutting the pure white limestone for which the island is famous for works of art that range from religious to secular, the incredibly delicate to monumental. The limestone found in the quarries of Brac is so perfect that it supplied the stone for the last exterior renovation of the White House.

The overall impression Lisa and I were left with was that our bike trip through the Dalmatian Islands was one of the most interesting, fascinating, and, at times, exhausting experiences either of us has had. The organization and professionalism of Vermont Bike Tours and our two guides, Natasa and Nevin, was unbelievable and the people and countryside of Croatia left an impression on us that will not fade.

If you have ever had the desire to get out of the car and really experience a country on a basic, human level I cannot recommend a bike trip strongly enough. If you are looking for a tour operator who will exceed your expectations and show you the country like a local, you cannot do better than VBT in my view, and if you're looking for an adventure that combines everything from the historic and artistic to the rhythms of everyday life, I highly recommend the Dalmatian Coast of Croatia.



**Have you recently enjoyed a fabulous vacation – a relaxing getaway or exhilarating adventure?** Share your experience with your friends and neighbors. Please send an email to [holly.proctor@n2pub.com](mailto:holly.proctor@n2pub.com) to share your travel tales.

**kids' corner**

Contributed by **Kit Bennett**,  
Singletree Resident, and  
Written by **Allie Decent**,  
Singletree Resident

# Birthday Butterflies



## for Kit Bennett

Welcome Readers! This month we interviewed 4-year-old Kit Bennett, the youngest of the Bennett clan that lives on June Creek Road. She will be 5 on August 1st, so wish her a Happy Birthday when you see her! Her mom, Lisa, and her dad, Chip, want everyone to know that these answers were unedited and fresh off-the-cuff. We appreciate that because kids are just so darned cute.



**Do you have a pet?** No pets! We were going to get one, and once grandma gets her hip replaced, we will get a dog.

**What is your favorite activity to do in the summer?** Play in our sandbox. So I can make a fishy!

**Where do you like to go to play?** I like to play at the playground, the Chip Ramsey Park. (And yes, she said the name).

**What is your favorite toy?** Barbies, right now.

**If you could change one thing in the world what would you change?** I would change bad guys, I would get rid of them. All gone.

**What advice do you have for adults?** I think that we should have no, no, no bad guys. Everyone should be nice.

**What's your favorite movie of all time?** *Frozen!*

**What is something you want to share that you did last year?** I was an octopus for Halloween last year. I wanted to be one because I wanted more arms to grab lots more candy.

**Tell me about the last greatest trip you and your family went on.** New Mexico. Well, we went hiking and we went to a restaurant and a museum with tons of activities. I made a caterpillar for grandma.

**What do you love about living here in Singletree?** Well, all the butterflies and flowers. I am going to have a butterfly birthday party at the pool.

*Thanks for talking with us Kit! We hope you have a fantastic summer with your family, and maybe you'll get that dog. See you around the neighborhood with your brother and sister!*

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# Real Estate UPDATE

Featured properties may not be listed by the company/broker presenting this brochure.  
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## RECENT SINGLETREE ACTIVITY

Status	Address	List Price	Sold Price	Sold Date	\$/sq.ft.	Sold \$/sq.ft.	Beds	Baths	sq.ft.	Furnished
Active	*790 Charolais Cir (SF)	\$1,595,000	N/A	N/A	\$350.55	N/A	5	5 (3 1 1)	4550	No
Active	181 Mesquite Dr #E (DU)	\$1,325,000	N/A	N/A	\$431.17	N/A	4	4 (3 1 0)	3073	No
Active	*123 Hereford Rd (SF)	\$1,300,000	N/A	N/A	\$412.96	N/A	3	4 (3 0 1)	3148	No
Active	*10 Morgan Dr (SF)	\$1,200,000	N/A	N/A	\$321.54	N/A	5	5 (3 2 0)	3732	No
Active	*751 Singletree Rd #4 (TH)	\$1,149,000	N/A	N/A	\$430.34	N/A	4	4 (1 3 0)	2670	Full
Active	*931 Singletree Rd #8 (TH)	\$545,000	N/A	N/A	\$383.26	N/A	2	2 (2 0 0)	1422	Partial
Active	260 Buckboard Rd #C2 (TH)	\$520,000	N/A	N/A	\$390.10	N/A	2	2 (1 1 0)	1333	No
Sold	311 Rawhide Rd (SF)	\$1,275,000	\$1,215,000	5/18/17	\$359.05	\$342.16	4	5 (4 0 1)	3551	Full
Sold	249 Buckboard Rd (DU)	\$925,000	\$900,000	5/26/17	\$411.29	\$400.18	3	4 (3 0 1)	2249	No
Sold	767 Charolais Cir #21 (SF)	\$899,000	\$840,000	5/31/17	\$311.61	\$291.16	4	3 (3 0 0)	2885	No
UC	81 Lariat Rd #B (DU)	\$675,000	N/A	N/A	\$336.66	\$0.00	4	3 (3 0 0)	2005	No

\* Listed by Happy Power

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