

# INSIDE *Singletree*

MARCH 2021

A SOCIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE RESIDENTS OF SINGLETREE

## **Johnny and Marcelle Huard**

Photography by Olga Barron Photography Inc.

YOUR STORIES. YOUR PHOTOS. YOUR COMMUNITY.

**A**

**AGENT**  
 A professional that is legally authorized to buy and sell real estate on behalf of their clients.



**C**

**CONTINGENCY**  
 A condition that must be met in order for a real estate contract to be finalized.

**D**

**DOWN PAYMENT**  
 The amount of money that a buyer must pay upfront as part of a real estate transaction.

**I**

**ICE DAM**  
 A ridge of snow and ice that forms at the roof edge, preventing snow and re-freezing of snow on the overhang.

**J**

**JOINT TENANCY**  
 A legal term for when two or more people own equal shares of the same piece of property.



**L**

**LISTING PRICE**  
 A list price is the price a home is for sale set by the seller and listing agent.

**W**

**WALK-THROUGH**  
 The final inspection of a home by a buyer before finalizing a deal to purchase the home.



**Y**

**YIELD**  
 The interest or return earned by an investor stated as a percentage of the amount invested.

**Z**

**ZONING**  
 Designated areas that restrict architectural design within the specific area.

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# Singletree VIDEO SPOTLIGHTS

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ANDIE OHDE  
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## publisher's note

# HELLO *Singletree Residents!*

*"If you are lucky enough to find a way of life you love, you have to find the courage to live it." -Bette Davis*

This issue of **INSIDE Singletree** introduces several residents who have followed their unique paths to our neighborhood. We are thrilled to learn how they found their new home and are loving life!

Hailing from Houston, Texas, Johnny and Marcelle Huard moved to the neighborhood in 2019. Johnny was inspired to relocate his family to the Vail Valley upon accepting the role of Chief Science Offer and Director of the Center for Regenerative Medicine at the Steadman Philippon Research Institute. Having found her new home, Marcelle feeds her love for fashion by working at Axel's and is avidly pursuing her passion for painting in her newly created home studio.

Melinda Gladitsch and Beverly Freedman took on a new initiative at the end of 2020 as Covid-19 continued to challenge our local business owners, most notably our restaurants. Their message is simple: ORDER TAKE OUT ONCE A WEEK. Take a night off from cooking and support your favorite restaurants! Having founded the Guardian Scholars in 1998, Ron Davis founded My Future Pathways in

2019 to provide a way for first-generation students to attend – and graduate from – college. Today, he and Executive Director Bratzo Horruitiner provide social, education and physical support for local kids in need.

We welcome Michele Rae and Daniel Swinehart to June Creek Road. Having spent most of their professional careers in California, retirement offered this adventurous couple the opportunity to move full time to the Vail Valley. They are happy to call Singletree home!

All this and more! We meet newcomer Bailey and his big sister, Misty. Young Spencer Bahney shares his passion to not only fish, but to tie his own flies! And Nicole Gustafson has lived a life of many years beyond her 21.

In the words of Douglas Macarthur, *"The best luck of all is the luck you make for yourself."* Words to heed.

Happy St. Patrick's Day, Singletree!



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### HAPPY BIRTHDAY SINGLETREE!

Look who's lucky to be celebrating a March birthday!

- 5 - Happy Birthday to Kris Sunderland from your friends and neighbors!
- 10 - The members of the Sonnenalp Club wish Cody Brown a Happy Birthday!
- 12 - Happiest of birthdays to Sue Lathrop from your family and friends!
- 13 - Have a wonderful birthday Nancy Bellingrath!
- 17 - Happy Birthday Tucker! Love, Mom, Dad, Madison and TJ
- 21 - Wishing you a Happy Birthday Lynn Wurzer!
- 23 - Happy Birthday to Cathy Shuler Collins from your Colorado friends!
- 26 - Happiest of birthdays to Rohn Robbins from Deb, Ascher, & Parke!
- 27 - Happy Birthday to you, David Shaw, from your biking buddies!

Join us in celebrating our neighborhood birthdays! If you would like to send a birthday wish to a family member, friend or neighbor, please send your MAY birthday wishes by March 15, 2021 to [holly.proctor@n2pub.com](mailto:holly.proctor@n2pub.com).



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Have you checked out our **INSIDE Singletree** pages on Facebook and Instagram? Be sure to like and follow us on both Facebook and Instagram, And be sure to tag [@insidesingletree](https://www.instagram.com/insidesingletree) to be featured on our page!

**CALLING ALL 2021 SINGLETREE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!** Please help us identify this year's graduates to participate in the May issue of **INSIDE Singletree** featuring the Class of 2021. Please email contact information to [holly.proctor@n2pub.com](mailto:holly.proctor@n2pub.com); contributions are due March 15, 2020. Thank you for your help in recognizing our neighborhood graduates!



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If you have worked with a professional and reliable business that you would recommend to your Singletree neighbors, please email your referrals to [holly.proctor@n2pub.com](mailto:holly.proctor@n2pub.com).

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After growing up northeast of Quebec City, Marcelle and I met in Quebec City in 1989. Marcelle was born and raised in a small village called St. Felicity, one hour north of Quebec City, while I come from Gascons, which is a small village 10 hours north of Quebec City. We met in a small restaurant while I was studying in medical school and Marcelle was working as a bartender during the night. Marcelle was completing her degree in Biology while I was initiating a master's and doctoral degree in Neurobiology at Laval University in Quebec City. We fell in love and got married almost right away.



© Lyn Barron Photography Inc.

# Johnny and Marcelle Huard

meet your neighbors

Afterward, we moved to Montreal for me to complete my first post-doctoral research fellowship at McGill University and my second fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania, USA. We moved to Pittsburgh in 1994 for a period of one year and we ended up staying in Pittsburgh for a period of 20 years. I went through the rank of assistant, associate, and full-time professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh during that period.

Marcelle was working with me as a laboratory technician but after a while she moved in the direction of the fashion industry as a personal stylist. Marcelle started to work at Nordstrom and became a top seller and received multiple awards for her work and often said, this was her second career. During our time at the University of Pittsburgh, we often had faculty dinners and on many occasions, numerous faculty members jokingly told me to keep my wife away from their wives because they always ended up spending money the next day at Nordstrom.

We were blessed with two sons, Matthieu and Charles. Matt was born in Quebec City in 1990 while Charles was born in Pittsburgh in 1999. Matthieu obtained his bachelor's degree (Forensic Science), at Edinboro University in Erie, Pennsylvania while Charles is pursuing his bachelor's degree in biomedical science at Texas A&M in College Station, Texas.



In 2015, my entire family moved to Houston, Texas, where I was appointed as a distinguished Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Texas medical school. I was working 50% of my time in Houston and the other 50% here in Vail at the Steadman Philippon

Research Institute (SPRI) and The Steadman Clinic (TSC). At SPRI, I was appointed as the Chief Scientific Officer (CSO) and the Director of the newly established regenerative medicine program. In fact, the phone call that came in 2014 from Dr. Marc Philippon, MD, the Managing Partner of SPRI and TSC, asking me if I knew someone who would be interested in directing the research program at SPRI, was one of the most important phone calls of my life. Of course, I suggested myself as a potential CSO and Director of Research. The rest is history. Marcelle was working in the fashion industry and as a personal stylist at Nordstrom and Saks Fifth Avenue in Houston.

In 2019, we all moved here full time to Vail where I work at SPRI and TSC within the Vail Health system. I am currently running the research program at SPRI which includes over 50 people and most of them are residents of Singletree. Our research program is currently funded by the

National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Department of Defense (DoD). We are currently performing clinical trials on novel therapeutics for not only musculoskeletal disease but also for cardiovascular disease and even cancer.

We purchased our new house over here in Singletree at 1130 June Creek Road on April 15, 2019, and we soon fell in love with the neighborhood. The easy access to numerous bike trails and the proximity to ski slopes has made our transition from Texas to Colorado extremely easy. In fact, Marcelle and I were both born and raised in small villages surrounded by mountains so for us, this is like coming back to our origin. The Huard family loves hockey and our favorite hockey team when we grew up was the Quebec Nordiques – who became the Colorado Avalanche in 1995. We were heartbroken when our team left Quebec City, but we fell in love again with our former hockey team (now





the Colorado Avalanche), and we usually say that we followed our favorite hockey team from Quebec all the way to Colorado.

I also established another research laboratory in Fort Collins, and in collaboration with Colorado State University (CSU), to conduct animal research (pre-clinical models). My eldest son, Matt, emerged as our lead technician in the animal laboratory. My youngest son, Charles, spent the last two summers as a research intern in the regenerative medicine laboratory at SPRI. In fact, Charles will be joining us here in Colorado after graduating at Texas A&M. I am excited that I am soon going to have my two sons working with me and as a father, I consider it a blessing.

Marcelle is now employed at Axel's in Vail, where she works as a personal stylist, but she has also developed another passion for art. She says that art is her third career that began in our Singletree house where she transformed the basement into a studio; she often spends countless hours even after her workday at Axel's to create original paintings and innovative pieces of art. Although I developed a real passion for medical research along with my sons, Marcelle developed her own passion for art and fashion.

I like to share some personal anecdotes about our family. When I first told Marcelle in 1994 that we were moving to Pittsburgh just for one year and consequently, she did not have to learn English, we eventually stayed there for more than 20 years. Hence, she does not believe me now, when I say we will be staying in Colorado until I retire and return to Canada afterward. Her reply is, "You love skiing too much and you fell in love with your former hockey team, therefore



we are going to retire together right here in Colorado." I think she likes Colorado as well.

Usually, we always spend our vacation in Canada visiting our family and friends, though my vacation is extremely limited. I always promise Marcelle that we will go on vacation in Florida spending days on the beach, but we never have time to do it. I recently told her that we will start going for vacation in Florida and she says, "Well, you are going to tie our vacation with one of your meetings and after your meeting is complete, you will say, let's go back to Colorado for the rest of our vacation." She clearly knows me.

I have also told Marcelle that when we get settled into life, we will welcome a little dog to our family. But, with my extensive traveling and her work, we have never had an opportunity to get a little dog. It turns out that our house in Singletree has a little door for pets and now I hope she will believe me when I say, "Now is the time to get a dog!" But I am not sure if she really believes me. Time will reveal that, but I have a strong feeling that



a new member will be added to the Huards' family in 2021.

The Huard family is all bilingual and can speak French as their native tongue. So, don't be

surprised if you stop by and say hi to us, your first reaction might be, is this English? After a while, you will get accustomed to our accent!

Finally, 2020 has been a challenging year but I never stopped working and went to my office every single day during the pandemic. I was strongly motivated to identify potential therapeutic approaches to alleviate COVID-19 symptoms, especially for our elderly people. In 2021, I am even more motivated by the accomplishments that we reached during the unprecedented days in 2020.

We have been truly fortunate to find our home right here in Singletree where we can create a wonderful life in the Valley enjoying what Colorado has to offer in terms of mountains, river, which make it an outstanding place to enjoy life in nature. The best quote I have ever heard regarding Colorado is "In Colorado, we don't only think outside of the box, we think outside period."



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singletree stars

# YOUR MISSION: Save Our Restaurants

Contributed by Melinda Gladitsch and Beverly Freedman, Singletree Residents



Beverly Freedman and Melinda Gladitsch

Two Singletree residents, Melinda Gladitsch and Beverly Freedman, both retired businesswomen, conceived of the notion to help our beloved local restaurants by launching a communications campaign aptly named *Save Our Restaurants* in late 2020. As the weeks and months of the pandemic continued to wear on, their concern for the livelihood of our favorite spots for eating and drinking deepened. They felt the need to bring greater awareness to the real challenges faced by restaurant owners with the hope that increased local support will ultimately assure the long-term sustainability of these valued businesses.

“Even though we are hopeful for a return to normal due to the vaccine and improved therapeutics, we still have several months to go. We want all our favorite restaurants with us when the pandemic is over,” said Melinda.

The message is clear: **ORDER TAKE OUT ONCE A WEEK.** Not only are you supporting the restaurants in Eagle County, it's



a great opportunity to take a night off from cooking! And if you are like most of us, that is a welcome break.

“This is a time when most of us feel so powerless and we know our businesses are suffering,” Beverly said. “Ordering out is one small thing each of us can do to help each week. Small acts add up.”

The ask is simple. Please visit the local restaurants' websites or social media platforms to check out menus, order for contactless pickup, and share your experience on social media, tagging the restaurant and #saveourrestaurantsvailvalley to heighten social awareness and encourage everyone to do their part. It is also incumbent on the restaurant community to support the cause by making contactless ordering and pick up easy and promoting the campaign through their own media channels of communication and advertising.

It takes a village. Since its inception, this grassroots effort has garnered the support of Eagle County, the Vail Valley Partnership, Vail Chamber and other municipalities, all of whom agreed to participate in this effort through social media support.

So take the night off! Choose an old favorite or a new experience and enjoy a meal – lovingly prepared by someone else – in the comfort of your own home. Be sure to share your photos and your comments on the *Save Our Restaurants* Facebook page (@saveourrestaurantsvailvalley) and Instagram page (@save\_our\_restaurants). Knowing you are supporting a great cause will only make your dinner more delicious!

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## kids' corner

Contributed by  
Spencer Bahney,  
Singletree Resident



# Happiness is Fishing, Cosmo and Legos:

*Welcome to the World of Spencer Bahney!*

Meet Spencer Bahney, son of Tim and Chelsea and big brother to Annabelle (and Cosmo). Here we enjoy a peek into Spencer's world.

**How old are you?** I am 9 years old. I turn 9 on Monday. Today we are going on a horse-drawn sleigh ride with 12 friends – seven from the neighborhood and five from school.

**Where do you go to school?** At Homestake Peak. I'm in 3rd grade.

**What are your favorite subjects in school?** Math, reading and science, at the end of the day.

**When did you start fishing?** I think when we moved here – that's

when I started really liking fish. That was like three years ago.

**And how did you decide to get into tying flies?** I really like to fish and I decided if I could just tie flies, I wouldn't have to buy flies. You can just buy the stuff and it would be way cheaper.

**Where do you fish?** My grandparent live in Cordillera. I like to fish in the winter but the pond freezes and you have to cast into a little pool and it's hard to get the fish out. But if there is an area where there's not a lot of ice, I usually catch huge fish. The fish are really easy to catch because they are slow in the winter.



**How big is the biggest fish you have ever caught?** I don't know. Maybe this big (with hands spread). Maybe 20 inches. I don't know.

**What kind of fish do you catch?** I think usually rainbow trout. Brown trout. I don't think I have caught any cutthroat but I don't really pay too much attention to what kinds of fish I catch.

**What are you building here?** This is the skyline of San Francisco. Here the Golden Gate bridge. Here is the Transamerica Building. This is 555



California Street. And this is Alcatraz right here. This is the tower in front of Chinatown, I think. And then I am building Big Ben right now. These are my first small Lego ones but I have built a lot of them with the big Legos.

**What else do you like to do when you are not in school?** I usually play with my iPad. Sometimes I play with Cosmo. Sometimes I play with the toys I got for Christmas.

**What are your favorite Christmas toys?** One of my favorites is this one. It's like a Shashibo. It can be made into a ball or it's just really fun to fidget with. Another thing I got for Christmas that is really cool is this – it's like a flying disco ball. And it follows my hand!

**Tell me about Cosmo.** Cosmo is growing. He's 2 years old. He's a Newfoundland Poodle. He likes to jump and he likes to play with toys. He likes Jalapeno. Mr. Penguin. And Donut. Cosmo can do a couple of tricks. He can shake and he can jump to the top of my bunk bed.

**What is your favorite book?** *The Diary of a Wimpy Kid*. They're really funny. My mom doesn't like comic books like these and my dad doesn't like to read the same book over and over again. So if I want someone to read me *The Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, I need to get some more.

**And what is your favorite movie?** Hmm ... I don't know. I like all movies, like Star Wars movies. I can't watch

them anymore because Annabelle gets freaked out, so the only time I can watch them is when she is gone and she's not gone that often.

**If you could be an animal in the jungle, what would it be?** I have to think about that. I don't think about this very much. I think I would be something like maybe a leopard because not that many animals eat me.

**If you had a superpower, what would it be?** To take away other people's superpower. Like if you had a superpower, I could touch you and then I would have your superpower. If you have speed, I could touch you and I would have speed but you wouldn't have speed. But if I touch another person, you would have the speed back and I would have their superpower.

**If you could change one rule, what would it be?** I would not have to set the table when I get home. Oh! I am going to change another rule. I get to pick the movie every night. Every Friday night we have pizza and a movie. Last night, me and Annabelle picked the same movie so we watched that one but if we pick another, Dad is the tiebreaker. Dad picked *Duck Tales*, he says it's a classic. Annabelle picked *Ferdinand*. I picked *Duck Tales*. So *Duck Tales* won. But I still want to change the rule.



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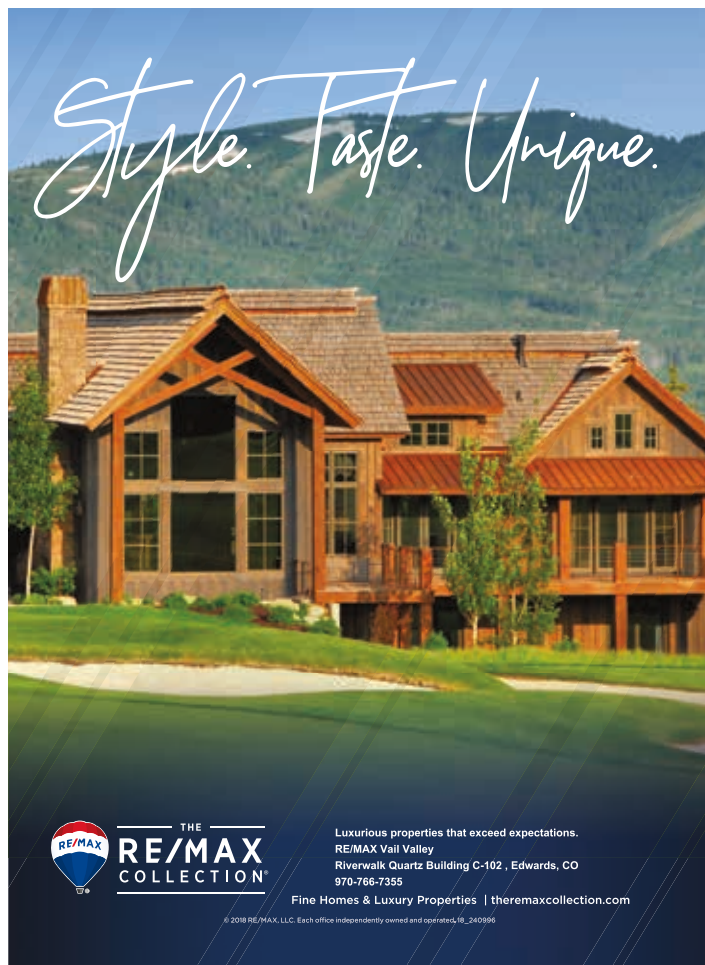
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# Go To School; Do the Work

## WORDS TO LIVE BY FOR MY FUTURE PATHWAYS

Singletree resident Ron Davis has been involved in providing educational opportunities for foster children and first-generation high school students since founding the Guardian Scholars program at Cal State Fullerton in Fullerton, California in 1998. The Guardian Scholars partners with public colleges and universities to provide scholarships, mentoring, and life coaching to disadvantaged high school students with a goal of graduating those students from college free of debt. Since its founding, Guardian Scholars has grown to be affiliated with 70 colleges and universities.

In 2003, Ron moved to the Valley and brought the concept with him, eager to offer local foster kids and first-generation students the same opportunities. To his (pleasant) surprise, he found that there were actually no foster care kids that fit the mission of Guardian Scholars, but there was a tremendous need among first-generation students, kids that would be first in their family to attend college. Rather than change the mission of Guardian Scholars to fit our situation, but still wanting a program that could help disadvantaged youth, Ron started an entirely new program in 2019, which he dubbed My Future Pathways focusing exclusively on first-generation students.

He teamed up with Bratzo Horruitiner and brought him on as the executive director. Bratzo is an inspiring leader with 18 years of experience in creative and positive youth development, sports coaching, and youth-centered program design. Bratzo brings a level of passion, experience, wisdom, humor, and skill that imbues My Future Pathways with an atmosphere that screams success.

So who, specifically, are the kids that My Future Pathways helps and how, precisely, do they help? Well, 80% of their youth are Latino and a majority of their parents were not born in the US and, statistically, they fall far below national educational figures. Nationally, 26% of college students that start college graduate with a degree in six years or less. Among local first-generation youth, that number drops to 7%, largely because of costs as well as a lack of social and emotional support.

Although they are eligible for the Pell grants, a federal program that provides grants to students with financial need as well as other Colorado programs that also provide college grants, these programs by no means cover all the costs of a modern college degree. That's

who's making a difference

Contributed by **Ron Davis**,  
Singletree Resident and **Bratzo Horruitiner**  
Article Written by **Tim Swift**, Singletree Resident



where both Guardian Scholars and My Future Pathways come in. Using relationships developed with Colorado Mountain College and Colorado Mesa University and programming developed over the past 20 years, Ron and Bratzo have seen the graduation rates of local kids in the program rise to an incredible 90%, and each and every one of those kids graduate with no college loan debt to burden their lives.

So, how does My Future Pathways achieve those incredible numbers? Well, as you may have guessed, it's not all about money, for merely providing money without a strong support system would never accomplish what Guardian Scholars and My Future Pathways has achieved. My Future Pathways youth are identified while they are in middle school and followed through high school, into college and beyond.

They use a three-pronged approach to give the kids what they need: social support through mentoring, educational support through individual tutoring, and physical support through organized sports programs. Those aspects are coupled with instilling an entrepreneurial spirit that stresses owning your problems and, therefore, the solutions to their problems. All of this is distilled down to six words that the kids live by – go to school; do the work.

All of these programs and principles are delivered at their youth center. At the center, the kids can study, eat, or simply hang out in a safe, family-oriented environment. ●●●



Mentors and youth

Ron Davis explained that they have no fundraisers and no campaigns. When potential donors see the results, they open their wallets. Education was their pathway and they easily and enthusiastically embrace the mission.

My Future Pathways' ultimate goal is to see its graduates gain seats on town boards, school boards, and not for profit boards in their communities and to begin to debunk the notion that not everyone can realize the goal of a college degree due to financial hardship. These future leaders are walking among us now and they will not be ignored.

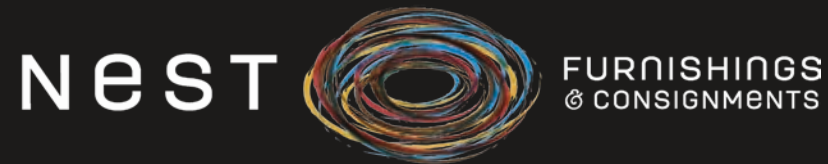
But it's not just the youth that are involved in My Future Pathways. Their families are as well. Parents are asked to buy into the mission and allow a student to balance school and work in order that they achieve the kind of educational success that is the ultimate goal of the program. In addition to striving for a successful, debt-free college education, participation in the program often continues after graduation. Many of the participants continue to be involved as mentors to younger students ensuring a continuity of service and success.

Perhaps one of the most unique features of My Future Pathways is its website. Not because of what it contains, but of what it does not. In this writer's experience, every not for profit website has one thing in common: a DONATE NOW button. Oftentimes this button is front and center on the landing page, hard to miss. Not only does their website, [myfuturepathways.org](http://myfuturepathways.org), not have this button displayed on their landing page, they do not have one at all!



Ron Davis, Bratzo Horruitiner, Kelly Liken, Susie Davis, Senator Michael Bennet and David Garcia

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# june creek road is HOME SWEET HOME for *Michele and Dan!*

**new to the neighborhood**

Contributed by **Michele Rae and Dan Swinehart**, Singletree Residents

Having traveled extensively around the world, Michele Rae and Dan Swinehart are itching to continue their adventures in 2021. In the meantime, they are happily settling into their home in Singletree and look forward to meeting more friends and neighbors in the community.

## Where are you from originally and where have your paths taken you prior to landing in Singletree?

Dan was born and raised in Indiana PA and attended Penn State University for both undergrad (BS Engineering) and grad school (MS EE), and then moved to New England shortly after grad school. Michele was born in MA, raised in MA and CT, attended Fairfield University in CT (BA Economics), Central Michigan University (MBA), spent four years in Philadelphia, and then returned to New England. We moved to Southern California in 1998 and to Silicon Valley in 2000.



Riding Arabian horses in Abu Dhabi, UAE

**What are/were your professions?** We are happily retired! We spent our careers in high tech, Dan in semi-conductor engineering and Michele in manufacturing operations and logistics. We both worked at Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) for 20 years, Dan



The Maldives



Sheik Zayed Mosque, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Mountain biking in our backyard in Beaver Creek



Parthenon Acropolis, Athens, Greece

in Digital Semiconductors in Hudson MA and Michele in international manufacturing, living in US, Mexico and Australia, with lots of time spent in Asia. In 1998, we made the move to California. We both worked for AlliedSignal (now Honeywell) for a year, then Dan joined Sun Microsystems, where he remained until retiring, and Michele was at Handspring, Palm and finally Plantronics.



Michele with two gorillas in the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest

**Where and how did you meet?** At DEC, where we both worked, through our common interests and affiliations including DEC Ski Club and DEC Running Club. We met in 1992 and were married on September 3, 1995.



On the deck of Celebrity Equinox, near Cartagena, Colombia



Riding camels at the Great Pyramids, Giza, Egypt

## How and when did you come to Colorado and/or Singletree?

We had been coming to Colorado to ski for decades and in 2003 bought a condo at the Lodge at Lionshead in Vail. In 2005, we moved to Highlands Lodge in Beaver Creek, which we still own today. In the beginning, we spent a few weeks a season in Beaver Creek, and then gradually increased to spending the vast majority of our time here after Dan retired and Michele had the flexibility to work from anywhere until retiring in late 2017. In 2019, we decided we wanted to be just here in the Beaver Creek area and we bought our home in Singletree. In February 2020, we sold our San Jose home of 20 years.



Atop the Bald Spot in Beaver Creek

**What are your personal interests and activities?** We are outdoor enthusiasts! Skiing, hiking, biking, mountain biking, SCUBA diving, photography, and travel!

**Where do you like to vacation?** Everywhere! We both love to travel and have tried to do at least a couple international trips every year, even when working. Now that we are both retired, it has been three to four major trips a year, up until the pandemic.



Temples of Ramses, Abu Simbel, Egypt



Temple of the Dawn, Bangkok, Thailand



The Treasury, Petra, Jordan

wildlife and nature, and to SCUBA dive, hike and ski.

## What were some of your most recent adventures prior to the pandemic?

In 2019, our last real travel year, we cruised from Chile to San Diego, spent 10 days in the Maldives, including a week on a liveaboard SCUBA diving yacht, went on Safari in Sri Lanka, and cruised from Athens to Rome with focus on Israel. The only international trip of 2020 was Michele's heliskiing trip to the Canadian Bugaboos in January. We hope to be able to resume travel this fall beginning with Portugal and Spain followed by a transatlantic cruise from Rome.

## What are your most memorable experiences?

Probably the most memorable was our Uganda safari focused on primates, including two days with the Mountain Gorillas in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest! Also, our four-day trek on the Inka Trail to Machu Pichu. And SCUBA diving in the Red Sea, Great Barrier Reef, Maldives, Fiji, and all over the Caribbean.

## What do you love most about living in Singletree?

We'll be better able to answer that after the pandemic when we can spend time with and get to know our neighbors. So far, we enjoy the sense of community, friendliness of neighbors, and seeing all the walkers, runners and bikers passing by our house. We love our views, watching the wildlife, and having wonderful hiking, biking, and mountain biking right out our door!

(We canceled four trips in 2020 and 3 so far in 2021.) Michele was fortunate to live and travel internationally for her work and always took advantage of any time off and weekends to fully explore. Dan was bitten by the wanderlust bug too. We travel to sight-see, experience other cultures, learn history and archeology, observe

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## Properties Sold and Under Contract Since December 1st\*

Status as of 1.20.21	Property Address	Property Type	Beds	Baths	Square Feet	Furnished	List Price	List Price/SqFt	Days On Market	Sold Price	Sold Price/SqFt	Date Sold
Under Contract	931 Singletree Road 6	Condo	2	2	1,422	Partially	\$700,000	\$492	4	--	--	--
Under Contract	1111 June Creek Road	Duplex	4	4	2,200	Unfurnished	\$1,650,000	\$750	5	--	--	--
Closed	931 Singletree Road 4	Townhome	2	2	1,383	Partially	\$664,000	\$480	70	\$645,000	\$466	12/14/20
Closed	20 June Creek Road A	Duplex	5	5	2,662	Unfurnished	\$1,050,000	\$394	65	\$960,000	\$361	12/01/20
<b>Closed</b>	<b>745 Charolais Circle</b>	<b>Single Family</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3,955</b>	<b>Unfurnished</b>	<b>\$1,395,000</b>	<b>\$353</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>\$1,275,000</b>	<b>\$322</b>	<b>12/22/20</b>
Closed	145 Hereford Road	Single Family	4	5	3,382	Unfurnished	\$1,535,000	\$454	382	\$1,535,000	\$454	12/01/20
<b>Closed</b>	<b>31 Conestoga Circle</b>	<b>Single Family</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5,178</b>	<b>Unfurnished</b>	<b>\$1,695,000</b>	<b>\$327</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>\$1,620,000</b>	<b>\$313</b>	<b>12/14/20</b>
Closed	1471 Winslow Road	Single Family	4	4	4,327	Unfurnished	\$1,889,000	\$437	44	\$1,850,000	\$428	12/03/20
Closed	681 June Creek Road	Single Family	5	7	4,570	Partially	\$1,900,000	\$416	26	\$1,800,000	\$394	12/07/20
Closed	191 Foal Circle	Single Family	5	5	4,656	Unfurnished	\$2,107,000	\$453	50	\$2,007,000	\$431	12/08/20
Closed	40 Honda Drive	Single Family	4	5	4,635	Unfurnished	\$3,475,000	\$750	34	\$3,300,000	\$712	12/22/20

\*Properties Under Contract and Sold 12.1.20 - 1.20.21  
Properties bolded were listed or sold by Happy Power.



# Dogs and Cats Living Together! MASS HYSTERIA!

- *Dr. Peter Venkman, Ghostbusters*

**precious pets**  
Contributed by **George, Bailey, Carter, Misty and Genevieve Peirce**, Singletree Pets and Residents

Fortunately, that is not always the case! And here to prove it are Bailey and Misty Peirce, cohabitating happily with each other and their family, George, Genevieve and Carter Peirce.

We have always had cats and our son, Carter, and I, Genevieve, finally convinced George to adopt a puppy – Bailey. We are beyond thrilled and adore them both. Carter (13 in July) is a big help taking him out for walks when done with school. We are excited for Bailey to get stronger to be able to go on longer hikes this summer.



Bailey Peirce was brought home on November 7th at 8 weeks old. He is a Goldendoodle from Hot Springs, Arkansas. Actually, we brought two puppies home, Bailey and his littermate Theo, who lives across the way in Homestead with our dear friend and her daughter. We have had many outdoor puppy play dates – which they love – and we have enjoyed our hikes together. Bailey instantly loved the



snow, digging and jumping into it. He is a big snuggler but is also definitely full of energy and fun. He has learned so much and after a long walk or hike or playing inside, he enjoys long naps. As of March, Bailey will be 6 months old; we are told he could get to be 60 pounds or more.



Misty, our cat, is about 7 years old. She loves going outside even in the snow but is very happy curling up in the sun inside. She is an epic traveler, making the trek across the country every summer to Shelter Island, NY. She was a bit surprised and not quite so sure when we brought Bailey home at the beginning of November. She is warming up to him but she remains definitely in charge.



It has been fun to meet so many new people and their dogs when we have been out and about with Bailey. He loves meeting new dogs and playing with them on the golf course. We are looking into the logistics of driving across the country this summer with cat, dog, kid ... and always too much luggage.

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# Nicole Gustafson:

Contributed by **Nicole Gustafson**,  
 Singletree Resident  
 Article Written by **Allie Decent**,  
 Singletree Resident

Life will always give us challenges, and how we respond to the individual challenges is part of the makeup of what makes us who we believe that we are, and who the rest of the world believes that we are. Some people rise in ways that are perceived as universally admirable, but in the end, it's only what you do with your own life that you answer to, and Nicole Gustafson has chosen to answer to happiness.

Nicole and her mother, Maria, live in the home Maria built here in Singletree, the home where Nicole grew up. "My mom says that when I was 6, I watched a Vail Dance event at the Ford Amphitheater and I turned to her and said, 'Mom I want to do Vail Performing Arts Academy!'" Nicole laughs. Ever the indulgent parent with an intelligent only child, Maria called Annah Scully to see if the VPAA would take her 6-year-old, a year earlier than allowed. Anna acquiesced and Nicole was hooked on performing.

"Every year I did three shows," Nicole recalls. "I also joined Vail Valley Academy of Dance and I was constantly doing shows at the Vilar. I participated in the fall and spring showcases as well



as *Willy Wonka*, *Pirates of Penzance* ... Living up here, it's a huge honor to be able to perform on a stage of the caliber. It's something I looked forward to doing all of the time."

Nicole was both singing soprano in choir and dancing, but her true passion was ballet. "My favorite is Adagio." Nicole sighs wistfully. "It's about beautiful leg extensions and delicate arms, and me being a pretty flexible person I really liked to master those moves. I really got to feel each movement as they came, vs. just rushed dancing. There was a lot of balance too, I like finding your balance and finding a point to watch on the stage." When Nicole hit middle school, she realized that she wanted to take the risk and pursue her passion for dance.

She auditioned for the Denver School of the Arts and was admitted in 6th Grade. Maria was so committed to her daughter's dream that they rented the house and moved to Denver. She attended from middle



school to high school and was a Dance major. "Going to Denver was definitely a shock," Nicole states. "It's such a small town here; being in Denver opened my eyes to a bigger world. Part of me loved it and was also intimidated by it." After a few years of dealing with the pressure of 5 hour a day practice plus full academics, Nicole decided to attend a smaller private high school that offered more of a balance. "I continued to dance, and the school had a really nice musical theatre program where they put on three performances a year." Her favorite moment there was when she was cast as Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors*. Despite the fun, Nicole really wanted

to try to raise the level of her performance and was searching for the next step.

A fun fact about the Gustafsons is that Maria is Swedish, and the two of them would travel back and forth to Sweden quite often to visit family and friends. Her cousin called and said there's a new school here for musicians and singers, and Nicole should come and audition for a spot. Nicole was very honored that her talents gain her acceptance and applied for her Student Visa. Since Maria had to give up her Swedish citizenship for her American status years earlier, both ladies had to apply; but the dream was not meant to be. "Because it was 2016, there were a massive amount of refugees flooding into Sweden at the time and my Visa kept getting pushed back," Nicole laments. "We sold the house in Denver, and all of the furniture, and were all packed up. But we couldn't get there."

Not about to give up, Nicole decided to take the wait with maturity and aplomb. She was ready to reach for the stars. The family decided to move to Los Angeles, where Nicole had secured an agent for commercial auditions. "We moved to El Segundo, which is an incredible little neighborhood with a great high school," says Nicole. "It was an incredible experience, because the Choir Director, Giana Summers, does so much for the kids there in terms of getting them to perform on a global scale." Her favorite memory was the trip to Paris, where the choir performed at innumerable museums and public places, culminating at a performance inside Notre Dame. "She managed to get us, this little choir from California, to be the first American Choir to sing within Notre Dame," Nicole muses.

That experience was a catalyst for Nicole's venture into her one and only commercial dance experience. Despite getting the job and completing it, Nicole quickly realized that Hollywood life was not for her. "I shot one commercial and it was

boring. We sat around for like five to six hours to shoot 15 minutes of a section of a 1:30 second commercial. A lot of commercial work in LA is that you sit around and you wait. I like the stage; I like having a live audience."

Luckily, the stage wasn't finished with Nicole. "We got the call from Sweden, and I got my Visa!" Nicole gushes. At this point in her dance career, she was spending 12 hours a day in the studio prepping for dance performances. "Sweden was where I really grew up," says Nicole. "I took a gap year and moved there when I was 17, and then spent two years living in an apartment with roommates in Stockholm," she says. "I lived in the studio, and I grew so much there being so independent. The winters are long and dark, but I learned Swedish and I made a life-long best friend in my time there."





# SINGLETREE

Berry Creek Metro District and Singletree Property Owners' Association

1010 Berry Creek Road at the Community Center

www.singletreetoday.com

## HOME IMPROVEMENT SEASON IS HERE!

When planning home projects for this spring and summer please remember Singletree has adopted Design Guidelines, Rules and Regulations, and Declaration requirements for your home and lot. All of these can be found online at [www.singletreetoday.com](http://www.singletreetoday.com).



### Air Conditioning Units

All mechanical equipment and air-conditioning condensers installed on the exterior of the home shall be installed as close to the home as possible and shall be screened from view from adjacent property owners and public spaces with evergreen landscaping, including trees and/or large shrubs.



### Exterior Maintenance

Homes and lots shall be maintained in good repair and in a neat, attractive, and safe manner. Design Review Committee approval is required, **prior** to exterior work being completed.



### Exterior Lighting

All exterior light fixtures shall be dark sky compliant. Floodlights and spotlights are prohibited.



### Roofing

There are several approved roofing materials in Singletree and there is a re-roofing application online. Asphalt composition roofing materials are prohibited.



### Doors, Windows, Deck and Garage Door Replacement

All door, window, deck, and garage door replacements, including color changes, shall be approved prior to the commencement of the work.



When I asked her if she will miss being the performer, she doesn't hesitate in her answer. "No, because it wasn't really the performing that was the most exhilarating. It was the moments backstage right before a performance, when we were all getting pumped up and cheering, and the camaraderie is so thick you could just touch it. You've worked all summer for this one moment, and it's opening night, and everyone you love is there." She realizes, in her mature 21 years on this earth, that she doesn't need the stage to recreate that feeling in everything she does in life. "That enthusiasm, that love of doing your best, isn't that how every moment is supposed to be?"

When her time in Sweden was up, Nicole decided it was time for college. She attended The Young Americans College of Performing Arts, intending to make dance her primary goal and path in life. However, Nicole was not prepared for the catty life of scratching your way to the top in the arts. "I spent one semester there, and I realized very quickly that the performing arts world is chaotic. A lot of times it's not based on your training or your talent, it's more about who you know and who you can step on to get there. And I'm not the kind of person who will push someone down to get to the top." Nicole's time in Sweden definitely helped her learn very early on to remove herself from the drama, because happiness and pride in what you do is what matters. "At the time I had a few knee injuries and I had to ask myself, is this worth the physical stress, the mental/emotional stress? No, it's not," he says sagely.

Nicole did a little soul-searching and found that she wanted to be in dermatology and attend Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora, CO. "I've always been interested in the medical world; my mom found me at age 7 watching surgeries online; I love the idea of helping people," Nicole laughs. She now volunteers at the Emergency Department at Vail so she is never idle. "I am pre-med, and I did many college courses at CMC here. I'm finishing at ASU online, because of the current global pandemic, but I will fly out to their campus in Arizona to do my labs in person this summer," says Nicole. Then, it's just the MCAT and Medical School; no big deal for this overachiever, right?



what's cooking in singletree

# Baked with love...

## NATALIA'S PASSION SPARKS A COTTAGE CRAFT BUSINESS

In Russia, it was my pleasure to teach World Literature and the Russian language for over 20 years. It was my destiny that I married Michael, a Colorado resident, who was the reason for my move to the USA. It is not easy to start your life from scratch when you are over 40. In Russia, I had a successful career, here I had to start something new. From my youth, I had always had a hobby of baking cakes and cookies, and of painting also; however, while I was teaching there was less time for this. Here, I again found time to develop my creativity. I thought, it would be great to bake again and perhaps make a little money doing what I love. My daughter, Lisa, shares my love of European and American pastry creations while also working with me in this cottage craft business.

Thus, in the summer of 2020, we started our small business. We graduated from courses on painting gingerbread cookies and learned the secrets of mastering old Russian recipes for this pastry. Although Great Britain is considered the birthplace of this sweetness, gingerbreads have been known in Russia since the ninth century from which they were called "honey bread" – eaten only on major holidays. Since the 15th century, gingerbread has become an integral part of Russian national culture and is present in all spheres of life: everyday life, festivals and fairs, and folklore.



The word "praynic," the Russian name of gingerbread, comes from the word "spicy." Initially, the process of making gingerbread presupposed the addition of various aromatic spices such as ginger, cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, coriander. We also use natural honey in the dough. The cooking technology and highly specialized ingredients allow the gingerbread to be stored for about six months. But the test has a drawback; in a dry high-altitude climate, gingerbread quickly becomes hard. Luckily, we have a secret on how to deal with this dryness. If you put the cookies overnight in a closed container with a glass of water and an apple cut into wedges, the gingerbread cookies will be soft in the morning.

After completing the Cottage Food Safety courses and receiving the Colorado State University Extension certification, we began



to manufacture our products to sell at the Knapp Ranch Needle Market. For Christmas, we prepared gift boxes with assorted cookies from different European countries and the USA, as well as hand-painted gingerbread houses. We use not only the original centuries-old recipes for springerle,



gingerbread, and European cookies adapted to the American taste, but also invent our own recipes, utilizing old books of the last century.

What surprised us is that our products are loved by the people of Colorado. As the Manager of Knapp Ranch Cary Hogan said, "I'm so happy that your cookies are such a hit! Thank you so much and it is our privilege to sell your marvelous works of art!"

Now, we are looking for more places to sell our products. We also accept individual orders for baked goods for birthdays, weddings, corporate meetings, baby showers and parties; and we offer complimentary samples for our customers. Your desires are our creative challenge.

You can see our products on the website [www.honeydeer.co](http://www.honeydeer.co) and on Instagram at [@honey\\_deer\\_co](https://www.instagram.com/honey_deer_co).



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# NEIGHBORS CELEBRATING NEIGHBORS

January marked birthdays for Lori Brown, Spencer Bahney and Genevieve Peirce! Be it a hike and mimosas or a horse-drawn sleigh ride, it was a day for celebration! And we couldn't resist the opportunity to share a St. Patrick's Day birthday - Happy Birthday to Tucker Larson on March 17th!



Genevieve celebrating at home



What an amazing cake for Spencer!



Horse drawn sleigh ride for Spencer and friends



Mimosas anyone?



Celebrating 3 generations



Lori Brown and friends



Happy Birthday Tucker!

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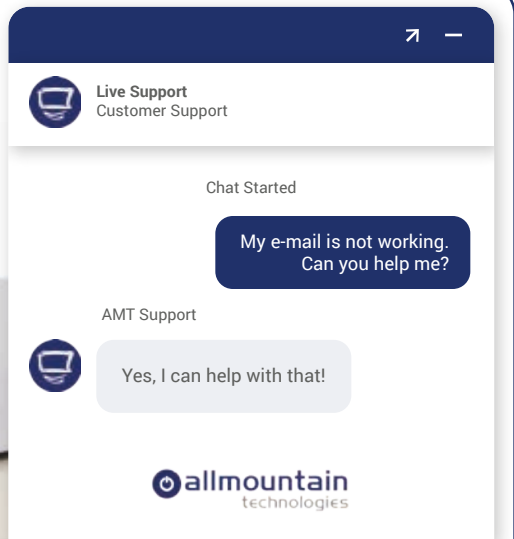


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