



Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet &
Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

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NATIONAL COVER GIRL



You are seeing correctly. This is a picture of Intake Coordinator Bert Rousseau with her husband Lee and daughter Rachel on the cover of the Fall 2009 issue of *Good Neighbor*, the State Farm Insurance Company magazine. Lee's responses to an on-line survey by the company prompted them to contact him, and the rest is history. Reporters and photographers came to their home in Alanson, interviewed the family, provided them with several new outfits for the pictures, and then wrote an article that appeared in the magazine.

The point Lee was making in the survey and in the article is that families have to talk about tough issues, such as death, inheritance and finances. As Lee said, "People don't like to talk about taboo subjects like family finances and final wishes," but if we wait until a person has died "then it's too late."

ANOTHER CELEBRITY

If it is not one thing, it is another. Mediator Gary Barfknecht also is the author of *Thirty-nine Petoskey WalkABOUTs*, and on Saturday, August 22, he was a tour guide for a two-mile walk around Petoskey. This event was sponsored by the Little Traverse Regional Historical Society.

NEW POSITION

The experience as a mediator for NCM had to have come into play for mediator Pat Pulver. She recently accepted a position with the 13th Circuit Court in Traverse City. Way to go, Pat!

GRADUATION

Lee Kramer, Eugene Smith and Christine Wacholz have completed their internships. Congratulations.

BACKGROUND CHECKS

First, a big thank you to all of you for your cooperation and understanding in getting the background checks completed. As a reminder, all staff members, volunteer mediators, mediation observers and interns must have background checks in order to participate in mediations or mediation activities.

As of October 1, those individuals whose background checks have not been run will not be able to be involved in mediations. Therefore, if you have not yet done so, it is important that you get the following information to me:

- Consent Form
- Criminal Registry Form
- Copy of Your Driver's License

The two forms are available on our website at <http://www.northernmediation.org/background-checks-92/>

Out of curiosity, several of you have asked if you could see what your background check looks like. Feel free to stop by the office, and I will be glad to show it to you. Just be certain that I am here because I am the only person who has access to the information.

ADVANCED MEDIATION TRAINING

There is still space in the Advanced Mediation Training scheduled from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on Friday, September 25. Earlene Baggett-Hayes is the trainer. The morning session will address

- Mediating under the shadow of recession, i.e.
 - Debt
 - Bankruptcy

Topics for the afternoon session are

- Impact of diversity & cultural backgrounds
- Interpersonal relationships of participants

To register for the training, go to the NCM website <http://www.northernmediation.org/local-83/>

GENERAL CIVIL VS. SPECIALIZED CASES

Many of you have been frustrated because you have not been called upon to mediate as frequently as you would like. Please, understand that much of this is due to the fact that we are receiving more and more cases that require specialized training. Therefore, we have to use mediators who have training in parenting time, divorce, guardianship and the like, above and beyond the basic 40-hour training.