



**Congratulations to the graduates of the 2007 Parent Teen Mediation Training!!!**

Back row: John Shaffer, Lucas Catunda, Kelly Trsek, Roycee Hasuko, Brandon Lau, Tom Fouche, Rick Teegarden, Catherine Duffy, Galit Kedar, Lian Caspi, Jacob Parikh, Andy Chung, Rhonda Younker, Dave Tallent,  
 Kneeling: Mayde Ballinger, Katia Nepom, Cathy Goldman, Evan Loshin, Sreetha Sidharthan,  
 Lying: Sarah Espinoza, Molly Morrisey (Missing: Anna Coyle)



City of Bellevue Department of Planning and Community Development  
 P.O. Box 90012 Bellevue, WA 98009-9012



*Bellevue  
 Neighborhood Mediation Program*

425-452-4091

*Update*

July / August 2007

**Redevelopment - a boost or bust  
 for neighborhood character**

Adapted from an articles by Cheryl Kuhn, Neighborhood Outreach Manager

Imagine that the single-story, 50s-era ranch house next door gets torn down one day. First come the ‘dozers, then the backhoes, followed by the concrete mixers and pumps. Then the framers and the builders and the roofers and the finishers – finally giving way to a brand new two-story chateaux-style house that’s three times the size of its predecessor.

For some, it’s a welcome investment in the neighborhood – an exciting new addition and a boost to property values. For others, it’s a sore thumb – an out-of-scale affront to traditional neighborhood character. And for others, it’s just a fact of life – a change that’s neither positive nor negative, but simply inevitable.

Redevelopment and infill, and their impacts on neighborhood livability, have been at the center of public discussion this spring at Bellevue City Hall. Some neighborhoods – particularly the communities west of I-405 – are focusing their own meetings on redevelopment issues. Meanwhile, City staff are studying redevelopment impacts, and bringing their findings forward for consideration by the Planning Commission and the City Council.

During the past few months, the City has gathered extensive data and public input on the practice of tearing down existing houses in order to build much larger homes. Residents have told the City that such practices are detracting from neighborhood

character and imposing on adjacent neighbors’ privacy and sunlight. In addition, some neighborhoods have complained about loss of trees and greenscape, unkempt construction sites, and lack of consideration for surrounding homeowners.

The City has solicited comment from builders and developers, as well as from residents. Public comment opportunities – including a June 13 open



house and public comment period before the Planning Commission – have drawn testimony from several dozen individuals, some supporting additional building regulations and others expressing concern that such regulations would infringe on property rights.

In response to public interest in this issues, the Bellevue Planning Commission, at its July 27 meeting,

asked staff for further study of how the City might respond to the recent trend of neighborhood infill and redevelopment. The commission also forwarded its preliminary recommendations to the City Council. The recommendations – general directions that the Commission considers worth pursuing – include:

- Requiring preservation of significant trees on single family properties undergoing redevelopment;
- Requiring greenscape to comprise a certain amount of front yards;
- Prohibiting lot combinations, rooftop HVAC, and “pop-up” carports in front or side yards;

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- Changing the method by which residential building height is measured;
- Requiring regular debris removal on single family building sites and posting explanatory signage at single family redevelopment sites; and
- Establishing performance standards for building projects that exceed a certain size threshold. Standards could address such elements as shadowing (loss of light), side yard setbacks and roof pitch.

The Planning Commission also emphasized that any proposed regulations should provide alternatives and exceptions for special circumstances and constraints.

The Commission's recommendations are scheduled for City Council consideration on July 16. If, at that time, the Council agrees to pursue some or all of the recommendations, additional discussions will take place at the Planning Commission level to flesh out code language and other details. More public comment opportunities would be part of any future Commission deliberations.

For more information about the study of redevelopment impacts on neighborhood character, contact the Neighborhood Outreach Office at 425-452-6836.



### Anita Reich retires from Bellevue High School

For several years now, one of Anita's responsibilities as student services coordinator has been to manage Bellevue High School's peer mediation program. Anita took our mediation training in early 1999, and since then has collaborated with Laurie Slater, our peer mediation trainer, to make peer mediation available to BHS students. Anita has been a great advocate of peer mediation — tirelessly working with faculty and administration to persuade them that students can be mediators and kids can solve their own conflicts. She gave support and affection to the peer mediators in her program. Her enthusiasm and dedication will be missed, and we wish her much happiness in the years ahead.

### Parent-Teen Mediation Training a Hit!

For 40 hours on the week of June 25th, 14 teens and 7 adults completed the Parent-teen mediation training. (See photo back cover). By all accounts the training was a smashing success. Here is a comment from one of the teen participants:

*- Wow! Forty hours of training and it seems like we have been friends for years. The friendships, learning and experiences that we had together were priceless. I possess a totally different understanding of relationships, mediation and life in general. Future mediation and overall participation in this program is something that I look forward to immensely, and I am sure that you do as well. There is so much talent in this group and I am honored to have been part of it!*  
- Lian Caspi.

Training participants Dave Tallent and Lian Caspi even wrote a song (sung to a doo-wap vamp) for the training which was performed by Dave, Lian and Evan. Here are the lyrics:

#### Mediator Eaters



Your story sad to tell / A teenage  
ne'er-do-well  
Most mixed-up delinquent, / in the class

Your future so unclear now  
What's left of your career now?  
Can't even get your money back for the class!

Yum yum yum yum yum yum  
Yum yum yum yum yum yum  
Yum yum yum yum yum yum (Burp)



Mediator Eaters, / No graduation day for you.  
Mediator Eaters, / Dined on Tom & Rhonda too.

Well at least you could have taken time to  
Master that reframing  
After spending all that time  
With all that constant complaining! (Woo!)

Don't be a Jackal (Doo Wah),  
Make sure you let your Giraffe out.  
Better forget it (Doo Wah),  
Who wants to mediate without clout?



Our Positions are a turning, our interest are churning.  
Active listening is a burden, our emotions are a swirling.  
Now you'd better cope, there is no hope,  
'cos still the world is cruel

Wipe off that biased face  
And go back to Meditation School  
Oh wee he he oooo



### Parent—Teen Update

By  
Cathy Goldman

The Parent-Teen Training went very well this year. We had 14 teens and 7 adults who participated with enthusiasm and lots of energy. It was a joy to teach them the skills and the process of mediation. Our last day was filled with songs, poems, socializing and fun games. It was a truly bonding experience.



THANKS to all who helped with presentations, demonstrations and coaching! I so appreciate your support and couldn't do this training without your willingness to help.

Our caseload typically slows down in the summer -- however, we will meet to practice what we learned! I will e mail a date for mid August for mock mediation practice. We will also meet on September 19<sup>th</sup> for an in-service on the "Intake process." We meet at Bellevue City Hall from 6 to 8pm. Please plan to attend our "kick off" to the new school year. Enjoy the sunshine!

Congratulations to our Teen Mediators who are graduating seniors this year:



Ashley McLean	Columbia University
Grace Wedgwood	Lewis and Clark
Emily Coleman	Claremont McKenna
Chenk-Hung Ng	University of Washington
Ioana Nitulesca	University of Washington
Marielle Price	Stanford University
Kaitlin Carr	University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

### Training Opportunities For Mediators and Conciliators

#### BNMP In-Services / Trainings

(call Andrew 452-5288 for more info)

##### Next In-Service

Preserving Neighborhood Character: community tensions and city responses. Cheryl Kuhn, Neighborhood Outreach Manager  
Wednesday, October 2nd  
6:00 refreshments; 6:30 program  
Room 1E-120 RSVP 452-4091

##### Parent-Teen In-service

The Nuts and Bolts of the Intake Process  
Tuesday September 18th at 6:00 PM in room 1E-120

##### Book Group

Next book: *Why are all the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?* by Beverly Daniel Tatum .  
Wednesday, September 19 at 5:30, Room TBD.

##### Mediator / Conciliator Consultation Group

Open to all volunteers  
October 10th at 5:20 PM Room 1E-118

##### Negotiation Training—Got Conflict?

Saturday, September 29th, 8:30 to 5:00 Room 1E-112

##### King County Dispute Resolution

##### Conflict Personalities

Workshop by Ann McBroom and Pam Wyss  
Wednesday July 18, 1:00 to 4:00  
For info or to reserve a place:  
e-mail [Jessicad@kcdrc.org](mailto:Jessicad@kcdrc.org)

For other KCDRC trainings call Sue Ann Allen for details: 206-443-9603 (ext 106)

##### University of Washington School of Law

##### Mediation Training

Julia Gold  
October 5th-7th and 20-21

##### Program Staff:

Program Co-Manager:	Cheryl Cohen	-	452-5222
Program Co-Manager:	Andrew Kidde	-	452-5288
Parent-Teen Coordinator:	Cathy Goldman	-	452-4091
Peer Mediation Coordinator:	Laurie Slater	-	455-1625

City of Bellevue website: <http://www.bellevuewa.gov>  
(Look for the Mediation Program under "Neighborhood Information")