Hamburg Strengthens Fair Housing Law

June 14, 2016: The Town of Hamburg cemented its reputation as the leader in fair housing in Western New York when, on May 25, 2016, the Town Board, by unanimous vote adopted a series of amendments to its fair housing law. In fact, the Town Board adopted a package of changes called "Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing," which made Hamburg the first community in Western New York to embrace the concept of innovative housing.

This represented another in a series of "firsts" for Hamburg.

History in Hamburg

Three years before a Buffalo mayor vowed a city fair housing law, the Town of Hamburg had an bipartisan vote quietly adopted its own fair housing law. That 1986 law was signed by Supervisor Jack Quinn (a Republican), who went on to serve in the U.S. Congress and is today the president of Erie Community College. Community Development Director Christopher Hull had much to do with Hamburg’s Fair Housing Law. Since going to work for the Town in 1988, Hull has been involved in expanded fair housing and equal opportunities for current and future Hamburg residents. This included the Town’s first fair housing amendment in 2006, which he helped and updated in 2013.

When asked about his duties, Hull responded with a smile and a nod. "We never saw fair housing as anything to be afraid of. In fact, the more work you are doing positive for our community.

Hamburg’s strengthened law

When amending the Hamburg Fair Housing Law, the Town Board extended protections to persons experiencing discrimination for reasons of marital status and gender identity. The Town also added a provision permitting the Town to conciliate discrimination complaints, stipulating that conciliation agreements (which typically include relief for complainants) may not be confidential.

Most significantly, Hamburg declared that in all new multi-family developments of eight or more units, 10 percent of apartments will have to be affordable for families with incomes of no more than 80 percent (currently $64,100 for a family of four) of the Erie County median income. Affordability is defined as a total burden for rent and utilities of no more than 30 percent of a household’s gross annual income.

"Inclusionary zoning is intended to create housing opportunities for households with limited income, young families, senior citizens and people with disabilities who would otherwise be excluded because of rising rents," explains Scott W. Gold, Executive Director of HOME. "It is an important tool against gentrification and increased socio-economic segregation.

"During 28 years with Hampton Community Development, I have used fair housing and equal opportunity as tools to retain residents and welcome new people to the Town of Hamburg," says Hull. "We have seen a positive result, which I hope will inspire other municipalities to do the same."

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Three new members were inducted into the Fr. Rufino Athletic Hall of Fame at St. Francis High School. Inductees were honored at the 40th Annual Sports Award and Hall of Fame Banquet held on Thursday, June 9, 2016 at Michaels Banquet Facility in Hamburg, NY. The Sports Hall of Fame at St. Francis High School is named after The Very Rev. Rufino Niedzielski Memorial one of Western New York’s legendary sports figures. The Hall of Fame now has a permanent home on the first floor of the newly constructed Gacoch Family Athletic Center at St. Francis High School.

Student athletes were also recognized for their accomplishments during the evening’s festivities.

Tail party to kick-off the Botanical Gardens’ winter light exhibit.票 issued to Taste of Paradise, the opening tropical run party to the Botanical Gardens’ Spring Flower Exhibit in March and two tickets to Botanics and Brews, a fun July event complete with great music and craft beers.

Tickets to Buffalo tickets are $30 per ticket. Each ticket has three chances to win and only 700 tickets will be sold. Winning tickets will be drawn at the Botanical Gardens’ Gift Shop or by calling 716.827.1584 ext. 203. All proceeds benefit the Botanical Gardens. Tickets will only be sold to adults, 18 years of age and older. For more information visit www.buffalogardens.com. The Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens Society, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing appreciation for and knowledge of plant life and its connection to people and cultures through its documented living plant collection, historic conservatories, education, research and exhibits.

... HEALTH AND WELLNESS ADVICE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY ...

Hello, my name is Dr. Richard Coster and I would like to provide some healthy living advice for you and your loved ones. Pictured below is my niece Vivian, although Vivian has never experienced back pain, neck pain, or any other aches or pains really, she gets her spine checked by a chiropractor regularly with her mother and father. You’re probably thinking why would anyone need to see a chiropractor if they are not experiencing back or neck pain?

Chiropractors are experts when it comes to your spine and nervous system. Your nervous system controls every activity that occurs in your body every second. Chiropractors identify misalignments in your spine that cause compression of nerves at their roots, ultimately creating interference within your nervous system. Chiropractic adjustments realign the spine and remove the interference, allowing information to flow through the nervous system uninterrupted. Misalignments in the spine do not necessarily manifest into neck or back pain, but can affect your body in other ways. Nerve compression caused by spinal misalignments negatively affects all of your organ systems, not just musculoskeletal. Chiropractic patients often report improvements in headaches, blood pressure, respiration, and digestion after being treated. Even if you, your spouse, or your kids aren’t complaining of aches and pains, there’s still a chance misalignments are present in the spine that should be addressed.

So remember, chiropractic isn’t just about eliminating neck and back pain, but a way to promote good health and wellness. You only have one spine, take care of it! I hope that after reading this you will have learned that you don’t need to be in pain to see a chiropractor! ... Everyone can benefit from chiropractic. To learn more, visit Coster Chiropractic located at 3900 Southwest Blvd. in Orchard Park near the stadium. Call my office today, and you will receive an initial new patient exam and your first spinal adjustment for only $20 when you mention this article. This is a $35 value! The best part is that regular care won’t cost you an “arm and a leg” either. Our regular adjustment plans start at just $30 per visit. A referral is never necessary and all are welcome. I look forward to meeting you. Please visit costerchiropractic.com or call us today at 202-3555 to schedule an appointment.

Dr. Richard Coster