

# Chad Fabry is a man of many helpful hats

Oct. 20, 2013

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Chad Fabry inspects a new single family house being built in Hamlin. Fabry is the building inspector, code enforcement officer and fire marshal. / Jamie Germano / Staff Photographer



Written by Ernst Lamothe Jr.

On any given day, Chad Fabry is a mediator, an inspector, a therapist or a safety officer.

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On many days, he's all four.

Fabry holds the title of building inspector, fire marshal and code enforcement officer for the towns of Hamlin and Clarkson. He worked in Clarkson for five years before also taking on Hamlin's responsibilities 18 months ago.

When it comes to his duties as code enforcement officer, the job often includes solving disputes between neighbors on issues that occur in close quarters.

## Get to know Chad Fabry

- Fabry is married to wife, Alana, and has four children, Christopher, Justin, Sarah and Chaplin.
- He and his wife like to plant and pick blueberries.
- Fabry enjoys doing restoration projects. He also has hands-on experience in all the building trades from digging holes for footings to hand-rubbed finishes on custom cabinetry.
- He also once owned an auto parts and repair business before he sold it.

When dealing with bickering neighbors and some who treat codes and laws as suggestions instead of rules, the job has its challenges.

But just like a good marriage, compromise is the key to resolving any issue.

"In life, you can't always have everything your own way," said Fabry, 53. "Some situations, there is a right and wrong, and

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you have to point that out. Other situations, there is room to negotiate things, even though both sides are pointing the finger at the other person.

"It really does help getting a third party like me involved."

Most times, the situation is fixed as amicably as possible. But very rarely is it easy when both sides consider themselves the wronged person in a situation.

"Anybody that does this job has to be very thick-skinned," said Fabry. "You just have to help people see the logical argument and make sure it doesn't simply go down the road of name-calling. A code is designed to be a document that people voluntarily comply with, and you have to help people understand it's in their best interest to do so."

For the building component of his job, he helps both towns plan and review applicants that come before the board. The job of building inspector is to primarily ensure that buildings and structures in Hamlin meet or exceed the New York State Uniform fire prevention and building codes. He attends town, planning and zoning boards almost every Monday and Tuesday.

"I help people build and achieve what they are looking to achieve, but also must make sure they are doing it the right way that helps both them and the town," said Fabry.

Lamothe is a freelance writer from Rochester.



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