

Tipple tops Community Caregivers, moving from state to local work with passion

By Melissa Hale-Spencer

GUILDERLAND — Thomas Tipple has gone from managing \$3.8 billion a year to managing \$300,000.

“This seems every bit as important, or more so,” said Tipple, who started work on Monday as the executive director of Community Caregivers, a not-for-profit organization that harnesses the energy and skills of volunteers to provide free services for Albany County residents in need.

“It’s about helping neighbors and making a difference you can see,” said the recently retired deputy commissioner for the state’s Office of Children and Family Services.

Tipple, 57, and his wife, Melissa, have lived in Guilderland for 15 years. He grew up in Delmar. His mother stayed home to raise three boys — Tipple is the middle child — while his father, a State Trooper, worked his way up the ranks, retiring as a captain. His father then became the commissioner of public safety in the town where he lived — Bethlehem.

Following a similar pattern of moving from an important statewide post to a smaller community post, Tipple said of his father, “He had a similar motivation to professionalize.”

Tipple went on about Community Caregivers, “The difference between this organization and others I’ve been involved with, with funding and with review of funding — I’ve always been on the other side of the table — it’s really volunteer driven, making an effective use of resources to help people in the community. It taps into the best of people, helping their neighbors.”

Tipple said his Catholic upbringing — he attended St. Thomas Elementary School — taught him the importance of helping others. “When your values are not just about making money or getting ahead,” he said, “this is an ideal job.”



Photo: *The Enterprise* — Michael Koff

“A perfect fit” is what Thomas Tipple calls his new job as executive director of the not-for-profit Community Caregivers. At age 57, he brings decades of management and fiscal experience to the post.