

# Rotary honors Tupper with '88 service award

By Casey Hane  
staff writer

In his ever-humble, but hard-boiled way, community activist Richard Tupper accepted praise from local Rotarians Tuesday, as they presented him their 1988 Vocational Service Award.

There was a bit of mild roasting, but mostly praise for the 55-year-old director of the Farmington Area Goodfellows and current mayor of the city of Farmington.

The award was given specifically for Tupper's ongoing "love affair with the Goodfellows," according to committee chair Kevin Bush.

"You're thanking the Goodfellows as well as myself," Tupper told the Farmington Rotary Club, meeting at Giopollis Restaurant in Farmington Hills. "We have a grand organization — we all work for the same means."

Tupper's award was given this week as his organization launches its 1988 drive this Saturday. Tupper's name has become synonymous with the Goodfellows, which developed from an original effort by members of the Farmington Exchange Club. The Farmington Area Goodfellows work through the holiday season bringing needed items to needy families and seniors.

TUPPER HAS also contributed to the Farmington-area community in other ways. On the government scene, Tupper has been active since the early 1970s, when he was appointed to fill the term of Wilbur

"Sandy" Brotherton, who left his city council post after being elected to the county commission. Tupper has also served as planning commissioner, was a member of the downtown redevelopment commission in 1972 and the industrial development commission in 1988.

But everything comes back to his involvement in the Goodfellows.

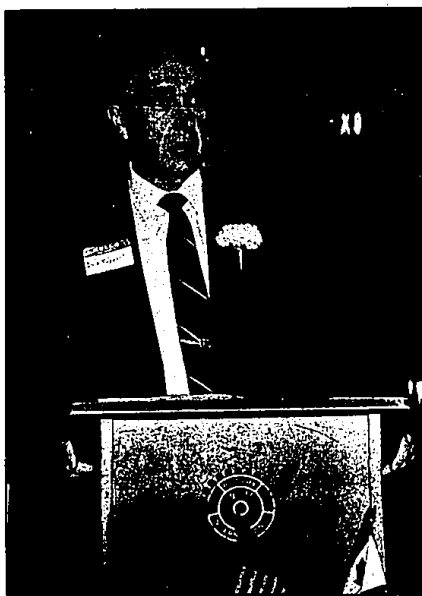
"We are lucky he has taken on the Goodfellows as his personal responsibility," said Jody Soronen, executive director of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, mayor of Farmington Hills, and Rotary Club member.

"He overcomes, coordinates, stimulates... unites, motivates, encourages and hustles. Where would the Goodfellows, and those in need, be without you?"

LORETTA CONWAY, director of senior adult activities for Farmington Hills, lauded Tupper for his friendship and concern for senior residents over the years. Tupper was instrumental eight years ago in changing the Goodfellows motto to read: "No child or senior citizen without a Christmas," recognizing the needs of young and old.

"Committed, caring, dedicated. This is how people see him," Conway said. "You don't get an image, you earn an image. I salute you, Dick Tupper."

In addition to his Goodfellows work, Tupper also said the group's annual Goodfellow Newspaper Drive is scheduled for Nov. 25, the day after



staff photo by BOB SKLAR

Richard Tupper was honored by local Rotarians Tuesday for his community work. Tupper, director of the Farmington area Goodfellows and current Farmington mayor, was given the Rotary's 1988 Vocational Service Award.

and is active in St. John American Lutheran Church in Farmington. He is the owner of Tupper Associates in Farmington Hills.

Other Rotarians described Tupper as a true community leader. "He's taken leadership and really done a great job," said one.

# Homeowner group hosts public forum

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ment. I look upon it as a positive."

The candidates' comments came Tuesday night during a Council of Homeowners Association of Farmington Hills Candidates Night held at city hall.

Only a handful of residents appeared to hear the candidates, and many were relatives and associates. But the session was videotaped and will be cablecast in the Farmington area on Metrovision Channel 12, the public access station.

The night included not only state House candidates, but several candidates vying for Oakland County seats.

BILL BRINKER, chairman of the Farmington Coordinating Council PAC, MEA-NEA, said questionnaires were sent and personal interviews were done before the group's endorsement was made last summer.

"We certainly wouldn't find, or expect, a candidate to agree with us 100 percent," he said Wednesday. "Our concerns were who we felt was the best qualified candidate, looking at experience and issues."

"I don't think there was any question she (Jan Dolan) was the most qualified."

Other issues were also raised during the Candidates Night, through questions asked by the audience and members of the panel: Bob Sklar, Farmington Observer editor, and Jean Fox and Aldo Vagporzi, members of the Farmington Hills City Council.

Those issues included: mainstreaming the mentally ill, school

finance reform, in-home day care, questions about age and name status, and medical liability caps on pain and suffering awards.

The two Dolans will square off Nov. 8 during the general election. The 6th state House district covers Farmington and Farmington Hills and Southfield Township, which includes the villages of Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin.

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# Goodfellows to kick-off holiday drive

An organizational meeting for the Farmington Area Goodfellows this Saturday will kick-off the area's annual holiday drive to help the needy.

Saturday's general membership meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. at Farmington City Hall, on Liberty at

Grand River, for residents who want to help.

Executive director Richard Tupper also said the group's annual Goodfellow Newspaper Drive is scheduled for Nov. 25, the day after

Thanksgiving, in both Farmington and Farmington Hills. Other Goodfellows activities include:

- The canned food drive, which will run from Nov. 18 to Dec. 2.
- The dress and shirt drive from Nov. 1 to Dec. 15.

• The toy and food packaging from Dec. 5-14.

Those wishing to volunteer should call 474-3440. The Goodfellows note to be: "No child or senior citizen without a Christmas."

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