Upper Arlington Rotary Club

ROTARYVIEW

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

OCTOBER 27, 2026

UPPER ARLINGTON ROTARY CLUB
District 6690, Columbus Ohio, USA
Club 3694, Chartered 1972

MICHAEL SHEARER
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

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ROTARYVIEW

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ON THE WEB

www.uarotary.org
www.district6690.org
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For make up locations, check the club web site or call the make-up hotline at (614) 470-1002.



MICHAEL SHEARER | EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Our speaker today was Michael Shearer, Executive Editor of the Columbus Dispatch. The Dispatch is now part of USA Today Company, previously known as Gannett Publishing. Prior to Gannett, the paper was owned by GateHouse Media, following its sale by the Wolfe family.

The Columbus Dispatch is one of the top ten markets in the USA Today network and, as such, occupies an important place in the organization's hierarchy. The paper is currently printed at a company facility in Canton, Ohio.

The overarching goal at the Dispatch is to serve the community. The paper currently has a partnership with NBC4 to share coverage of local news events. That relationship may change pending the outcome of a proposed merger that would bring Channels 10 and 4 under the same corporate ownership.

Central to the Dispatch's mission are its ongoing efforts to report impactful stories of importance to the community. Michael cited several examples, including in-depth reporting on vicious dog attacks and how they are handled, Governor DeWine's missing persons task force, the impact of radon gas in homes, drug smuggling into Ohio prisons, and the use of Flock cameras in area communities.

These impactful stories complement the paper's commitment to what Michael referred to as service journalism - reporting information that is relevant to citizens in their everyday lives, including weather, community events such as Halloween schedules, and, of course, sports.

The Sunday edition has been revamped and is now presented in a magazine format, allowing for better advance planning of content. Each Sunday features a cover story followed by specific sections, including Community and Kindness.

The Dispatch now has more digital subscribers than print subscribers. This growing emphasis on digital media consumption makes maintaining a substantial online presence increasingly important. Michael noted that recent changes to Google's search protocols have reduced the Dispatch's search traffic from that platform by approximately 40%.

In keeping with society's shift toward digital content, the Dispatch has expanded its use of video productions accompanying many stories. Members watched part of a video entitled Being Brutus, produced by the Dispatch, which followed Brutus Buckeye's activities over the course of a year. Overall, the paper remains strongly focused on its digital future.

Since Michael arrived at the Dispatch in 2023, there has been a relentless focus on local news and events. Within current staffing constraints, every effort is being made to provide content that meets the information needs and expectations of communities throughout Central Ohio.

CLICK HERE to view this week's meeting and all previously recorded meetings.

Upper Arlington Rotary Club

GREETERS

November 3
Kelly Marlow
Chris Copeland

November 10
Brian Bainbridge
Steve Turnbull

November 17
Jim Manning
Bob Nolan

REGISTRATION DESK

November 3
Jim Nicklaus
John Cleland

November 10
Don Leach
Brian Bainbridge

November 17
J.D. Dickerson
Mike Brady

CALENDAR

November 3 - Scioto CC/Zoom
Sarah Converse, Meteorologist,
ABC6/FOX Columbus
Host: Don Ross

November 10 - Scioto CC/Zoom
Bruce Lancia, President,
Folds of Honor Central Ohio
Host: Don Ross

November 17 - Scioto CC/Zoom
How UA Responded to the
Derecho: Behind the Scenes
Panel with Community Leaders
Host: Steve Schoeny

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Submit your volunteer opportunity to herb@herbgillen.com for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Please submit your social event reminder to herb@herbgillen.com for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

OUR NEXT MEETING

NOVEMBER 3
Scioto CC/Zoom

Upper Arlington Rotary Club

THE MEETING





President **Glen Dugger** opened the meeting and asked **Alan Thompson** to offer the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bob Hunt introduced and commended UAHS Student of the Month **Kimberly Feng** for her achievements, including nearly 200 hours of community service.

Jim Winfree asked **Doug Godard** to introduce his guest, **Charlie Perotti.**

Alan Yarletts reported on the activities of UAHS Interact Club members who participated in Bed Brigade bed deliveries and the recent Trunk or Treat event.

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS









Alan Thompson encouraged members to participate in the November 3 CPR training class, scheduled from 6:00 to 8:30 PM.

Tom Davis promoted the club's annual Salvation Army bell ringing at the Kroger store on Chambers Road. The club's scheduled dates are November 30 through December 5. Sign-up sheets were available on each table, and Tom will confirm assignments once any conflicting time requests have been resolved.

Mike Kull is seeking volunteers to help prepare food packages for Homes For Families on November 11 and 12. Shifts are available from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM and 1:00 to 4:00 PM.

Joe Valentino, who will once again deliver the club's Thanksgiving message this year, asked members to email him their thoughts about what they are thankful for as he prepares his remarks.

Chip Knoop thanked club members and Interact members for their assistance with the recent Bed Brigade delivery event. He also encouraged red badge members to attend the Community Service Committee meeting on November 2.

Price Finley thanked members who supported the recently completed purple-icing donut campaign, part of Rotary International's ongoing effort to eradicate polio worldwide. He also thanked **Lou Sauter** and Buckeye Donuts for providing boxes of donuts to contributing members. Multiple clubs throughout District 6690 participated in the campaign, with overall contributions, after double matching by the Gates Foundation, totaling nearly $10,000 for the cause.

Doug Godard encouraged contributions to the winter coat drive benefiting students at West Broad Elementary School. Sign-up sheets were available on the tables, and additional volunteers are needed to assist with coat distribution at the school on November 5.

Herb Gillen made an urgent plea for volunteers to help transport and supervise 16 Jones Middle School Interact members on the evening of October 28. No update on the outcome was available at the time of publication.