

Slow, Contained Expansion Of City Advocated In Report

By Michael Curtin
Of The Dispatch Staff

Columbus has plenty of room to grow, but it will not grow quickly and city officials should confine expansion to readily serviceable areas.

Those findings are among the conclusions drawn in the city's first official growth statement prepared by the Department of Development.

The growth statement is intended to influence decisions about where to make capital improvements, which now cost the city close to \$90 million annually.

THE REPORT, to be publicly discussed within the next few months by the Development Commission and other city agencies, will be updated yearly as part of the capital improvements planning process.

The most significant finding in the report, says the development department, is that anticipated growth for the next 40 years can be accommodated within an area that can be readily and relatively cheaply serviced with water and sewer lines.

"Based on this, we can turn our attention to improving what exists now" rather than continuing to construct expensive new facilities in outlying areas, said development planner Lin Carver.

CITY OFFICIALS should closely watch annexation petitions and be reluctant to accept annexation of land that would require uneconomical capital improvements, Carver said.

Carver emphasized that the report "is by no means a 'no growth' statement."

Rather, it is trying to discourage scattered development that would require costly capital improvements for a limited number of people, he explained.

THE READILY serviceable area "has approximately 120,000 acres of underdeveloped land, evenly distributed, thereby in no way restricting the development potential of Columbus or any suburban municipality," the report says.

Carver said the 120,000 acres of land includes 50,000 acres within the city limits, 25,000 acres in the suburbs and 45,000 acres in outlying "sewer contract areas."

A sewer contract area is a region in which the city is obligated to provide water and sewer service if it is annexed to a municipality.

This 120,000 acres is considered sufficient to accommodate Columbus area growth until the year 2015, nearly 40 years away.

GROWTH STATEMENT findings also include a prediction that the bulk of any expansion in Columbus will occur in the northwest and southeast.

The most active growth areas in Franklin County outside the city limits are expected to be Westerville and New Albany, the report states.

Carver said the city's traditional aggressive annexation policy has greatly benefited it, but should now be re-examined in the light of slow growth predictions and the high cost of providing services.

Carver explained that the city has grown from about 50 square miles in 1950 to nearly 175 square miles today and in the process has encircled 11 of 23 suburbs.

WITH THE FEAR of suburban encirclement greatly reduced, "we can be more realistic about our capital improvement expenditures," he said.

The slow growth prediction is that the city's population will increase from today's estimated 568,000 to 593,000 by 1985.

In the meantime, the number of households is expected to increase from 200,899 today to 229,056 in 1985.

Households are expected to grow faster than the population because they are getting smaller.

THE DEVELOPMENT department estimates Columbus area households are now occupied by 2.68 persons, will be occupied by 2.46 persons in 1985 and by 2.38 persons by 2000.

Household size is declining partially because there are more single individual households and more elderly households each year, Carver explained.

New Superintendent Named In Parole Unit

George W. Farmer, 36, of 2247 Woodstock Rd. has been appointed superintendent of the Probation Development Section, Ohio Adult Parole Authority (APA).

Farmer, formerly deputy superintendent in the section, replaces James H. Calhoun who died in June. The second job in the section will be filled by Raymond E. Capots, former APA deputy superintendent of administration and research.

Other findings in the growth statement include:

• School desegregation will initially have a negative impact on the city's growth as residents move to suburban areas. This impact will last only five years or less because it will soften as uncertainty over the desegregation plan is overcome.

• The shortage of energy supplies also will contribute to slow growth in central Ohio and will result in more compact development patterns to reduce utility costs.

• Federal policies, such as forcing cities to reduce sewer surcharges to suburbs and make other concessions, may reduce Columbus' influence in managing development in central Ohio.

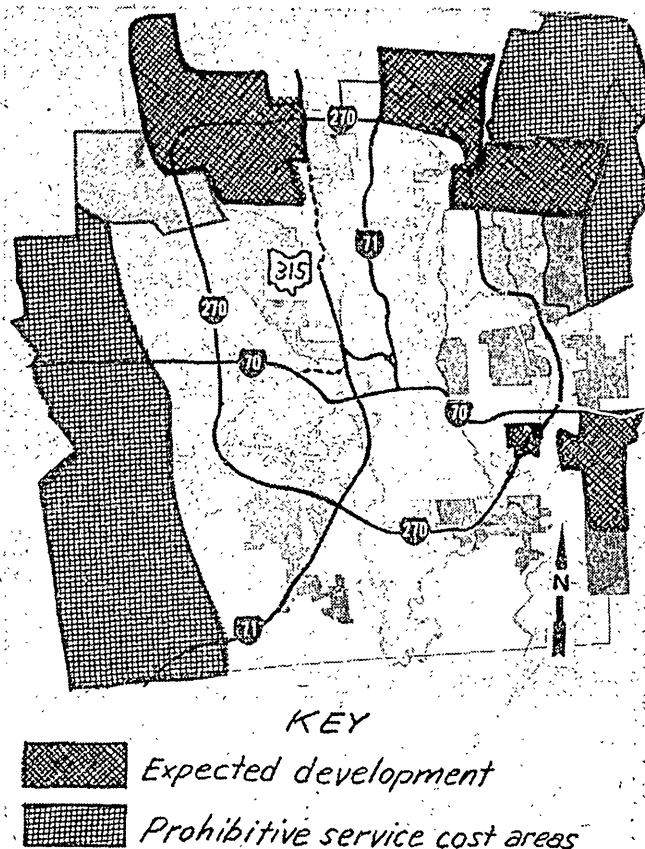
RECOMMENDATIONS of the report include:

• Development should not be encouraged outside the readily serviceable 120,000-acre area.

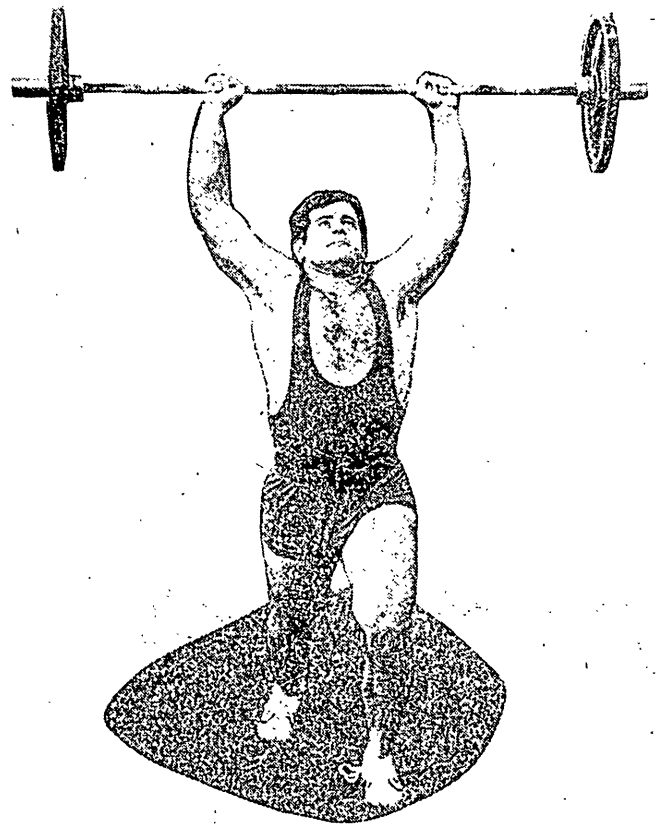
• All development of an "urban nature" (such as housing developments) should occur within an incorporated municipality that is within the 120,000-acre area.

• City officials should take a leadership role in determining the future development patterns of the Columbus area instead of allowing federal policies to control it.

• Because limited growth is anticipated during the next 20 years, Columbus and its suburbs should give more attention to improving what already exists rather than developing new facilities.



GROWTH RECOMMENDATIONS — This map of the Franklin County area outlines areas where the Columbus Department of Development anticipates most growth will occur and where it recommends it should not occur. Areas marked as expected development areas should capture more than 80 percent of all new housing starts in the next several years, the department believes. Areas marked as prohibitive service cost areas should not be afforded water and sewer lines for development because it would be too costly, the department says.



Dispatch Photo by Michael Hamman

MATT GUTTMAN PLAYS AROUND WITH 145 POUNDS

Man Trains For Olympics

Weights Dare Weary Worker

By Mark Ellis
Of The Dispatch Staff

After eight hours dishing up roast beef, Matthew Guttman, 21, comes home and finds 300 pounds of iron and steel staring him in the face.

"I come home, I'm bushed. But I see that weight and it's daring me to pick it up. The weight is the challenge."

"No man in the world can make you do it if you don't think you can deep down inside yourself," said Guttman, 146 Ross Rd., Whitehall.

GUTTMAN'S NEIGHBORS are used to hearing groans, grunts and the sounds of weights being "thrown around" at midnight.

Guttman works out about 90 minutes a day. He is preparing for the 1980 and 1984 Olympics.

Guttman, graduate of Walnut Ridge High School, ranks himself 5th in the nation of weightlifters in the 220-pound weight range. He copped a

gold medal last month in his first international competition, the Maccabiah Games in Tel Aviv, Israel.

In Israel Guttman "snatched" — lifted from ground to the full extension of his arms over his head — 281 pounds. He hoisted 331 pounds in a "clean and jerk," a lift from the ground to the chest and then overhead.

THE MACCABIAH GAMES are held every four years for Jewish athletes. Thirty-two countries were represented this summer.

"The Maccabiah games gave me international recognition," Guttman said. "Nobody knew who I was. I've been in state meets and the pressure is phenomenal. In Israel the pressure was unbelievable. It was like everybody was going to war."

"I don't let the pressure bother me that much. I go to the bathroom a lot. I do crazy things. I just relax."

Guttman welcomes competition.

"In Israel it was too easy. You want it to be close to get the most of yourself. I could have done 400 but there was no competition."

BESIDES LIFTING over the last few years, Guttman attended a year at Marshall University in West Virginia on a track scholarship, started his own lawn-care business and became manager of the Rax Roast Beef restaurant at 3155 W. Broad St.

Long work hours and "headaches" convinced Guttman to give up his lawn-care business.

Guttman started lifting when he was 10. His dad made an 80 pound set of weights out of concrete and coffee cans.

"I WAS the sissy on the block. Everybody used to beat me up," Guttman recalled.

Guttman lives with his wife and two dogs.

He eats "everything I can get my hands on."

Whitehall Police, Firemen Seek Cost-Of-Living Raise

By Mary Yost
Of The Dispatch Staff

Whitehall police and firemen want voters to change the city charter to give them annual cost-of-living pay raises.

Flyers being distributed in Whitehall Tuesday notify residents that petitions to put the charter change on the ballot will be taken door-to-door Saturday and Sunday.

MEANWHILE, CITY officials indicated they will oppose the action and suggested the move by the safety forces will hurt their relations with the city council and administration.

Dennis Pyper, president of Capital City Lodge No. 9 of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), which represents Whitehall and other Franklin County officers, said the charter change is intended to "take the politics out" of wage negotiations.

With a guarantee that they would at least get a pay increase equal to the cost of living, police and firemen could "keep their minds on their jobs . . . without having to continually worry about what the cost of living is going to do," Pyper said.

HE AND LARRY Cope, president of Whitehall Local 1729 of the International Association of Fire Fighters, said the city's safety forces would continue to negotiate for fringe benefit increases if the charter change is approved.

Both said police and firemen would also negotiate for pay raises if the council decided to give other city employees raises exceeding the cost of living, as determined by the U.S. Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index.

Under the proposed change, police and firemen would receive a pay increase retroactive to Jan. 1 equal to the 1977 cost-of-living increase as of Dec. 31.

THEREAFTER, THEY would receive lump sum payments every three months based on the cost-of-living increase for that period. The proposed charter change specifies salaries would not decrease with a cost-of-living decrease.

Mayor John Bishop said the city cannot afford a cost-of-living increase on top of the 7 percent pay raise and increased benefits given all city employees last month.

Lenel Hodge, chairman of the city council finance committee, criticized police and firemen for "coming through the back door" by going to voters for cost-of-living increases so soon after getting pay raises. He added

their action constitutes a "slap in the face" to city officials.

CITY ATTY. George Rogers said about 900 valid signatures of registered voters are needed. If the petitions are received in time, the council could take action at its Sept. 6 meeting to put the question on the Nov. 8 ballot, he said.

Otherwise, the matter could be put on the ballot for a special election, he said.

Humane Society Drops Suit Against Fund

The Capital Area Humane Society has dropped its \$1 million suit against the Fund For Animals Inc., an attorney for the society said Tuesday.

Russell Leach, attorney, said the suit was withdrawn Monday afternoon. The suit claimed the New York-based fund caused public ill will and loss of financial support for the society when it filed charges to animal charges against Robert H. Barton, society executive vice president, and his administrative assistant, Rosemary Everhart.

Barton and Mrs. Everhart resigned their positions Friday after being found guilty Aug. 7 of misdemeanor charges of cruelty to animals. They are to be sentenced in September or October after a pre-sentence investigation is completed.

Despite a plea for severance pay, Barton was not granted any severance pay or pension benefits by the board. Barton said he did not have enough money to pay his bills and had doubts about finding employment to support his wife and three children.

He had been executive vice president of the board 5½ years. His salary had risen to \$30,000 per year before he resigned.

Although Mrs. Everhart did not request severance compensation, the

board appointed a two-member committee to consider the question. The board is to meet again at 2 p.m. Aug. 26.

Service Slated For Fire Chief

Services for former Columbus Fire Chief Glenn H. Barr, 67, will be 10:30 a.m. Thursday at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 80 E. Markison Ave.

Barr, who joined the division in 1935, became chief in December 1966 and retired in 1971. He died Monday at Grant Hospital after an extended illness.

Friends may call at the O.R. Woodyard Co. Chapel, 255 E. State St., from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday. The family also will receive friends at the church from 9:30 a.m. until the funeral.

Pension Fund OKd

A recently completed audit of the Police and Firemen's Disability and Pension Fund showed the records and accounts "to be neatly, accurately and currently maintained," State Auditor Thomas E. Ferguson said Tuesday.

Columbus Public Schools Enrollment May Dip 4,000

By Robert Sohovich
Of The Dispatch Staff

Columbus Public Schools' enrollment is expected to drop about 4,000 students when classes resume Sept. 7, school officials predict.

Last year's enrollment was 96,000 pupils. The fall enrollment is estimated to be 92,238.

SCHOOL OFFICIALS said the district has been experiencing an annual enrollment drop of about 3,000 students the past five years. They said the trend is expected to continue through 1980.

Preparations for the 1977-78 school year have started.

All school principals returned to their buildings Monday. Teachers are scheduled to report Sept. 6. While school opens for grades one through 12 on Sept. 7, kindergarten classes begin Sept. 12.

ALTHOUGH THERE are slight variations in different buildings, the standard starting time for elementary schools is 8:45 a.m. with dismissal at 3:15 p.m.

The 50-cent noon elementary school lunch program will begin Sept. 12.

Cartons of milk will be available from opening day. Milk prices have increased from a nickel to 10 cents.

All but eight elementary schools will offer lunch programs. Installation of food service facilities in those schools should be finished in October. The schools are Cranbrook, Glenmont, James Rd., Lindbergh, Oakmont, Olde Orchard, Shady Lane and Willis Park.

STARTING TIMES of secondary schools vary. The standard starting time is 8:30 a.m. with school dismissed at 3:30 p.m.

Junior and senior high pupils will be able to purchase lunches from the first day of school. The price will remain 60 cents.

Transportation schedules will be released a week before school starts.

THERE WILL BE a slight change in the makeup of the school system.

Six new buildings will be opened and eight elementary schools are to be closed.

NEW SCHOOLS to be opened are:

- Mifflin Senior High School, 3245 Oak Spring St. in the Sunbury-McCutcheon Rds. area. It will relieve

overcrowding which has caused students in that area to attend classes in split sessions at Mifflin Junior-Senior High School since 1970.

• Franklin Junior High Success Impact School, 1390 Bryden Rd., will be the system's first junior high alternative school.

• The Northeast and Northwest Career Centers will offer two-year programs in a variety of fields. The Northeast center is at 3871 Stelzer Rd. The Northwest center is at 2960 Cranston Dr. near Don Scott Field.

• Avalon Elementary School, 5220

Avalon Ave., and Northgate Elementary School, 6655 Sharon Woods Blvd., will accommodate children in areas recently annexed from Westerville.

SINCE NORTHGATE will not be finished until November, pupils from kindergarten through third grade temporarily will attend Valley Forge and students in grades four to six will go to Forest Park.

The eight schools scheduled to be closed are Alum Crest, 2200 Winslow Dr.; Barnett, 1160 Barnett Rd.; Bellows, 725 Bellows Ave.; Heimandale, 695 Koebel Rd.; Homedale, 50 West-

view Ave.; Marburn, 4141 Rudy Rd.; Milo, 617 E. 3rd Ave.; and Shepard, 873 Walcutt Ave.

The five alternative elementary schools are full and there is a waiting list, according to Norval Goss, director of pupil personnel.

ABOUT 200 transfers from 19 other junior highs have been approved for the new Franklin Junior High Success Impact School, he said.

Goss said about 1,500 new applications for Columbus Plan transfers have been approved. It is a voluntary transfer program which allows a student to transfer to another school for a program not offered at the home school or to learn in a more integrated setting.

OVER 5,200 students participated in the Columbus Plan last year. Goss said final enrollment figures for this year's program will not be ready until October.

Goss explained last year's Columbus Plan students can stay in the schools they transferred to without reapplying. He will continue to accept new applications until the start of school.

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