

## EDITORIALS

# Building for summer

*In the face of another big snow, City Center site being readied for sunshine*

Take heart, Columbus. Winter will end. Actually, the sentiment could be extended to the entire continental United States and Alaska, with weather watchers reporting that Friday saw snow on the ground in every U.S. state but Hawaii.

But, who cares about them?

We here in central Ohio, looking out this morning at yet another serious snow dump, are dealing with hassles we don't typically confront more than once or twice a year, and this is, what, the fourth or fifth time?

Again with the shovels and the driveway and the aching back. Again with the kids going crazy over possible school closings. Again with the growing mountains of plowed snow, eating up parking spaces and creating icy obstacles to climb over, if you ever do find a place to put your car.

We might be looking at some of those piles well past St. Patrick's Day.

We're not used to this.

But then, we in central Ohio also have something special to look forward to this spring, along with the usual and always-welcome tulips, clear sidewalks and lighter coats: the early outlines of what will become Columbus Commons park, on the site of the former City Center mall.

Springtime picnic lunches in the park will have to wait until 2011, but the transformation is under way and, on a cold winter day, a fascinating spectacle when viewed from the corridor that connects the Hyatt on Capitol Square and Capitol Shops to the Ohio Theater esplanade and underground parking garage.

Yesterday, sparks from demolition work shot up from below the ground, defying the falling snow. Onlookers pondering the removal of a building that cost \$116 million to build two decades ago might be glad to know that tons of concrete and steel and miles of copper wiring are being recycled, along with fluorescent light bulbs, Freon, electrical equipment and anything else that can be reused safely.

Should Columbus have a similarly snowy season next winter, the bulldozers and bare superstructure will be replaced by walkways lined with snow-covered trees and, one can hope, open spaces dotted with snow sculptures fashioned by those who don't let winter weather keep them stuck indoors.

Fast-forward a little further to the warm months of 2011, and Downtown denizens will have not only Columbus Commons, but the Scioto Mile park in which to stretch their legs.

That's a thought to sustain a shivering soul making a way through a new blanket of snow.