

Mall/Concourse Monthly Report August 2012

Downtown Madison is at its busiest in July, with Art Fair weekend and Maxwell Street Days in addition to the weekly Concerts on the Square, Farmer's Market, and the new Majestic Live concert series series. All of these events require deliveries by Mall/Concourse staff, with the biggest delivery of 110 barrels going to Concerts on the Square. There are also numerous smaller events including, interestingly, bike races around the Capitol Square.

It looks like we've made it through the hot spell – I don't see any 100-degree days in the forecast, though there is still significant stress on our plantings with temperatures in the 90s. We've been able to cut our watering down to a more normal schedule, and we're hoping things stay this way throughout the rest of the summer.

Here at Mall/Concourse we're continuing our efforts to keep the garbage and recycling cans located on the street available for their intended use – as convenient receptacles for pedestrian trash. We don't like to see them fill up with bags of merchant or resident trash because there is a separate mechanism for pickup of these materials, and we're working with Building Inspection to identify and address violations. When sidewalk receptacles are seen to be full, we begin to get requests for more of them. The problem is that we have great difficulty siting additional cans, as very few merchants want them in front of their establishments.

Students will be back in Madison in the coming month, and we're expecting an increase in late-night activity on State Street, in addition to mountains of move-in trash. We're also looking forward to three more installments of the Majestic Live concert series, the last Concert on the Square, Jazz at Five, and many other smaller events.