

## **Mall/Concourse Monthly Report December 2013**

As December begins, the Mall/Concourse Maintenance staff is already clearing snow. The first snowfall, on November 25<sup>th</sup>, amounted to about two inches and provided a crucial training opportunity for our new crew members. Snow removal is truly an example of hands-on learning, and it's always nice to have a few easier snowfalls before we need to clear the several inches of wet, heavy snow that always seems to arrive eventually. With snow on the ground, daily maintenance of the sidewalks now includes checking crosswalks, bus shelters, and predictably icy areas - even on days when it hasn't snowed.

Seven sand barrels have been placed on State Street and around the Capitol Square, in the same general areas they've been the last two years. These locations seem to be working out well, but unfortunately we still need to check the barrels daily for trash.

We're also working to establish and maintain clear access to benches, bike racks, and trash cans.

Our leaf collection truck was changed over to a salt spreader just in time for the November snow. We use it to quickly spread the salt in large areas such as the Lower Mall, on the wide sidewalks around the Square, and in the alley connecting E. Washington and E. Mifflin. Use of this truck saves on the time-consuming production of refilling our larger salt wagon and ensures that the salt in the wagon will be available for use in our less mobile Toolcats.

We were able to replace our original Toolcat (one of the first in the city) with a new model this year. We're pleased with the new features and we look forward to having a more reliable piece of equipment.

The volume of recycling is decreasing with the colder weather as it always does in the winter months. We still need to do a collection at least twice a week, but this is much less than the daily collections of the summer months.

Winter banners were installed just in time for the Downtown Madison Holiday Open House at the end of November. Even though it's not technically winter yet, it definitely feels like it, and the banners are an attractive addition to the holiday decorations. They are also a nice compliment to the festive evergreens in the planter tubs, again installed by contractor Doug Duren of Lone Oak Interests.