

## **Mall/Concourse Monthly Report April 2014**

Mall Concourse Maintenance is pleased to finally report some spring activity. Almost all of the snow and ice is gone, and we're well underway with our sidewalk "spring cleaning". Due to the salt shortage this past winter we were forced to use quite a lot of sand on the sidewalks. This is something we always try to avoid, as the sand creates much more of a mess than rock salt alone. Unfortunately we had no choice but to use the sand, and now we're sweeping most of it up by hand.

We've also begun our sidewalk cleaning program. We will be washing sidewalks with our hot-water pressure washer in the mornings until 11:30. We're using very hot water, and we're seeing good results already – much of the unsightly gum is even being removed. Unfortunately we're forced to use our water trailer until it is safe to activate the hose bibs, and the time we spend on fill-ups slows progress considerably.

All of the sidewalk sand barrels have been gathered and brought indoors, and we've also returned almost all of the sand and salt we had left over from the winter. We're holding onto a little salt, as some snow is predicted for the first week in April, but we hope to be able to return that to the Streets Division soon as well.

The spring "tulip" banners are all out on the pedestrian poles again, which seems to cheer workers and passers-by alike. We certainly hope that next week we can continue the flower-themed work by removing the evergreen boughs from the portable planter tubs. The Business Improvement District's contractor is scheduled to plant pansies in the tubs during the week of April 14<sup>th</sup>.

April 1<sup>st</sup> marks the beginning of Mall Maintenance services on the 400 block of N. Broom and the 300 block of W. Gorham. The sidewalks have a lot of accumulated debris right now, so there will be a period of preliminary cleanup before we begin regular blowing and sweeping.

Looking forward to the rest of April, we'll see the first few weeks of the Farmer's Market and the Crazylegs Run & Walk. The King Street reconstruction project, delayed two weeks due to deep frost, begin on April 7<sup>th</sup>.