

Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

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“Water Division News”

“Chad Roberts - Water Plant Operator of the Year”



It had been a challenging year for the City of Norfolk Water Division as staff dealt with a raging flood that threatened the city's well water southwest of Norfolk.

Through it all Norfolk residents didn't have a day without clean water in their homes. It's all in a day's work and Chad Roberts, plant operator for the City of Norfolk Water plant, was recognized for his efforts made throughout the year in Norfolk by being awarded "Operator's Meritorious Award" for 2010 at the Nebraska state division-American Association of Water Works Association

(NSAWWA) annual conference held in Kearney in November. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human services also presented him with a Certificate of Recognition at that time.

To qualify for the awards, Roberts was judged on criteria that included: continuous compliance with all public health standards in treated drinking water; consistent and outstanding contribution to plant maintenance thereby prolonging the useful life of the equipment; the development of new and/or modified equipment or significant process modifications to provide for more efficient and/or effective treatment; special efforts in the training of treatment plant operators; special acts not directly related to water treatment which demonstrate dedications to the public beyond the normal operating responsibilities; consistent and outstanding contribution to operation and/or maintenance of distribution lines, pump stations and reservoirs.

Roberts began working in the City Water Division in 1997 as a Plant Operator I. In 2000, Roberts worked on the water distribution crew. After earning a Grade VI Water Operator license in 2001, he became a Plant Operator II at the water treatment plant. In 2004, he received a Grade I Water Operator License. In 2009 Roberts was promoted to Water Plant Supervisor. He is currently on the NSAWWA Board of Trustees and the AWWA Young Professionals, Awards, Nitrate/Source Water Protection and Cross Connection Committees.

As plant operator, Roberts is in charge of the backflow prevention program and the two City of Norfolk Water treatment plants. He has worked with an engineering group in completing water and sewer master plans for the city. He also programmed the computers at the plant and was instrumental in the development of the City's wellhead protection program.

Roberts and his wife, Jessica, have three children.

“City of Norfolk Water Division Safety Award”



When delivering safe, clean drinking water to more than 23,000 people, quality assurance is a priority but safety for the employees who make the delivery of that water possible is also a priority. That's why Dennis Watts, manager of the City of Norfolk Water Division, was happy to have his department win the Nebraska division-American Water

Works Association Safety Award for 2010. AWWA is the authoritative resource on safe water, with more than 60,000 members worldwide.

Fifteen employees make up the Norfolk City Water department that keeps clean water flowing to the taps of Norfolk residents. To win this award, they follow a safety plan, undergo regular safety training and do preventive maintenance including the use of chlorine leak detectors, sprinkler systems, safety shower testing, eye wash flushing, and emergency lighting.

Watts received the award for the Division at the AWWA Convention in November.