

# Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

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## “Wastewater Plant Staff Awarded Eighth Consecutive Year”



At the annual Nebraska Water Environment Association (NWEA) Conference in Kearney in November, the City of Norfolk Water Pollution Control staff were presented awards that were judged by their peers. For the eighth year in a row the staff, headed by City of Norfolk Wastewater Plant Superintendent Todd Boling, was awarded the 2012 “Scott Wilbur Award.” This award recognizes well-operated and maintained facilities within the state for the category of one to five million gallons per day flow. They were also awarded the “Gold Safety Award” for excellence in accident prevention, and the way they

promote safety in their facilities (meetings, materials, programs safety upgrades). This is also the eighth year the staff has received the safety award.

“We strive towards keeping our equipment and plant in optimal working order to avoid breakdowns, expensive repairs by replacement of equipment and do so in an orderly fashion of course approved by council budget requests and the capital improvement plan. This is entwined into keeping our staff working and trained in safety practices in our industry. We are not staffed 24/7 but operated efficiently enough that we were only called out ten times this last fiscal year,” Boling said.

In October 2011 Boling initiated staff meetings each morning before starting daily job assignments to discuss the tasks at hand as a group and get input from everyone even if they were not involved in a particular job. Each month the staff also undergoes safety training on topics ranging from eye safety to correct lifting techniques.

“In February we had a meeting and went through our safety and personnel rules. This was a refresher training on the chemicals we have at the plant and how to handle them. We also go over the Lockout/tagout program, the fire prevention plan, confined space entry, and blood borne pathogens. All safety related information has been updated and is available on a shared computer for employees to view at any time,” Boling said.

There are currently nine employees at the plant on East Monroe Avenue.

The NWEA has been in existence for 60 years as a non-profit group of professionals dedicated to protecting Nebraska's water quality. Boling currently serves as chairman of the membership and publications committees in the organization.