

# Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

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## “Green Leaf Awards to Norfolk Organization and Residence”

There are many examples of beautiful landscaping in Norfolk but some yards are above and beyond when it comes to landscape design, care and maintenance. A Norfolk couple and organization were recognized at the Norfolk City Council meeting Monday night for their outstanding landscaping efforts with the Green Leaf Award presented by the City’s Tree Advisory Board. This is the first year that a landscaping award for residences was given.



Bob and Nancy Boe were awarded the Green Leaf Award for residences in recognition of the outstanding landscaping at their 2907 Pinnacle Drive home. The Boes brought their passion for trees and plants to Norfolk along with them in their move to Norfolk from a farm west of Madison.

In designing their landscaping the goal was to have color year around so Knock Out roses, exotic cannas and lots of annuals give the yard color from early spring through fall. The annual and perennial grasses are left uncut to provide color and beauty throughout the cold winter months. A variety of trees and bushes also surround the home.

Nancy and Bob Boe are winners of the City of Norfolk Tree Advisory Board’s first Green Leaf Award for residences.

“We aren’t afraid to try something new. If it fails it fails. This summer we planted palms in large pots near the front entry and love them. We have fun gardening and like to experiment with different flowers and trees,” Nancy said.

Large sweet potato vines flourish and pour over a retaining wall – a result of the persistent watering, weeding and fertilizing the Boes do all summer long.

Early this fall, they trimmed off their 40 rose bushes resulting in a pickup load of branches. For now, the palms and a large glozier begonia are still happy outdoors and mums are blooming in a berm in their front yard. Daylilies and wave petunias continue to provide color in the Boes’ landscaping.

“It’s not that difficult by any means. Anyone can learn to love landscaping. Sometimes it takes some persistence,” Nancy said.

Northeast Community College was the recipient of the Green Leaf Award for businesses/organizations.

Shawn Sayers, Grounds Supervisor for the college for the last 15 years, oversees the landscaping, turf and snow removal on campus. He, along with seven fulltime employees and up to 12 parttime students, design the landscaping, plant the various flowers, grasses and trees and maintain the campus grounds which includes watering, fertilizing, mowing and trimming.



Shawn Sayers, Northeast Community College Grounds Supervisor, shows some of the trees that have been plant in the last few years at the college.

“We want to make a welcoming environment for students. They spend a lot of time on campus and appreciate beautiful surroundings as they walk to and from class,” Sayers said.

He and his staff plant hardy plants while also keeping water conservation in mind. Much of what he uses are native plants purchased at local nurseries.

For the last three years, the grounds staff have worked to keep the landscaping beautiful sometimes in the midst of construction.

Grasses and brightly colored annuals greet visitors at the entrance of the college. Various grasses and flowers are sprinkled throughout the campus and near building entrances. A newly designed walkway from the J. Paul and Eleanor McIntosh College of Nursing west to the residence hall and dining facility is partly flanked with a retaining wall filled with plants.

“In the spring of 2013 we planted over 25 new trees and 145 new shrubs. As the infrastructure between buildings became more pedestrian friendly, we had the opportunity to redesign the landscaping,” Sayers said.

Sayers said the potted plants, flowers and trees in this corridor are designed to encourage people to linger in the area, study with friends and enjoy the outdoors.

“We have thousands of new plantings blooming in the spring which makes a beautiful backdrop for graduates congregating with their friends and families. Our on-campus greenhouse, our state recognized arboretum and our horticulture degree programs show our commitment to the value of a pleasing outdoor environment,” Sayers said.

In past years, the Green Leaf Award has been given to Women’s Health of Nebraska; Faith Regional Health Services; Stratton, Delay, Doele, Carlson and Buettner, P.C.,L.L.O.; and the Sunset Plaza Mall. This is the first year for the Green Leaf Award for Residences.