For each of the last five years, the City of Norfolk Tree Advisory Board has awarded the Green Leaf Award to a business that has exceptional landscaping. Last year board members added on an additional Green Leaf award for residents. This year, the award will change a bit in that the landscaping needs to incorporate trees in some way.

“We've always given the award to Norfolk business owners with outstanding landscaping, ongoing maintenance, diversity of plantings and water management. We want to add the criteria of incorporating trees in the landscaping to encourage Norfolk citizens to include more trees into their outdoor design and living space,” said Dr. G. Tom Surber, chair of the Tree Advisory Board.

The winners of both the residential and the business Green Leaf Award will be chosen according to what can be seen from the street or “curb appeal”. Landscaping not visible from the street is not a factor in choosing an award winner.

Those wanting to nominate either a resident for the residential Green Leaf Award or a business for the corporate Green Leaf Award can either email a picture and/or notes about the nominee to dbecker@ci.norfolk.ne.us or write a letter of recommendation and send to Green Leaf Award, City of Norfolk, 309 North 5th Street, Norfolk NE 68701. The letters of recommendation can also be dropped off at the City Administration Building at 309 N. 5th Street, Norfolk NE.

Past winners of the Green Leaf Award include Northeast Community College in 2015; Faith Regional Health Services in 2014; Stratton, Delay, Doele, Carlson and Buettner, P.C, L.L.O in 2013; Sunset Plaza Mall in 2012; and Women's Health of Nebraska in 2011. Last year’s inaugural residential Green Leaf Award was given to Bob and Nancy Boe.

Deadline for submitting nominations for the residential Green Leaf Award and/or the corporate Green Leaf Award is September 30, 2016. Awards will be presented to the winners at the October 17, 2016 City Council meeting.