



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hastings celebrates Manufacturing Month with October events, tours and community programs.

HASTINGS, Neb. — Manufacturing Month throughout October features a series of events featuring the businesses, employees, and innovation that make manufacturing an important part of the Hastings community.

This October, Hastings is proudly stepping into the spotlight as a Champion City, partnering with the Nebraska Manufacturing Extension Partnership to celebrate the people, businesses, and innovation driving manufacturing forward in our community. Recognized nationally each October, Manufacturing Month gives residents a chance to connect with local manufacturers while highlighting career opportunities and the industry's impact on the local economy.

The month will begin Thursday, Oct. 1, at 1 p.m. with a Manufacturing Month Mayor's Proclamation at the Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce, 301 S. Burlington Ave. Hastings Mayor Jay Beckby will sign a proclamation recognizing October as Manufacturing Month in Hastings. The Chamber will carry on the celebration Friday, Oct. 2, at 9 a.m. with a special Friday Coffee featuring Nebraska Gov. Jim Pillen. The event will provide community members and local business leaders an opportunity to hear from the governor and connect with other attendees. Registration is required.

Local manufacturers will open their doors during October for a series of facility tours and Business After Hours events. The events will give participants a chance to see manufacturing operations firsthand while learning more about the companies, their employees, and their contributions to the Hastings community.

Drake Tool & Design, 3401 Yost Ave., will host the first Manufacturing Tour and Business After Hours on Thursday, Oct. 8, from 4 to 7 p.m. A facility tour will begin at 4 p.m., followed by an open-house-style Business After Hours. Bruckman Rubber, 420 W. South St., will host a Manufacturing Tour and Business After Hours on Thursday, Oct. 15, from 4 to 7 p.m. The event will also begin with a 4 p.m. facility tour, followed by an open house.

Thermo King, 1800 Centennial Ave., will host the final Manufacturing Tour and Business After Hours on Thursday, Oct. 22, from 4 to 7 p.m. Participants can tour the facility and learn more about Thermo King's operations and impact in Hastings. Registration is required for the manufacturing facility tours, and space is limited.

Manufacturing Month programming will also explore how emerging technology is affecting manufacturing and the workplace. On Friday, Oct. 23, at 9 a.m., the Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce will host a Friday Coffee titled "Beyond the Chat Box — What AI Can Actually Do for Your Business."

Simeon Berns, CEO of Ezekiel Solutions, will discuss how artificial intelligence is used in manufacturing and other workplaces and how businesses can use the technology to improve operations, efficiency, and growth. Registration is required.

Manufacturing Month will end with the annual Celebration of Progress: Manufacturing Luncheon at noon on Oct. 29 at Lochland Country Club, 601 W. Lochland Road. The luncheon will feature the Hastings Area Manufacturers Association and special speakers highlighting progress, opportunities, and developments within Hastings' manufacturing industry.

Registration for the luncheon will open soon.

Community members, business leaders, and others interested in participating in Manufacturing Month activities can find the complete schedule, event information, and registration links on our Manufacturing Month webpages:

- hastingschamber.com/manufacturing-month/
- hastingsedc.com/manufacturing-month/

Several events and facility tours have limited capacity, and participants are advised to register early.