



## Whatever it Takes *Celebrating First Electric's Linemen*

Linework is ranked as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the country because it requires them to work near high-voltage electricity. If they move the wrong way or lose focus for a split second, it could be deadly. You must be aware of your surroundings and the safety of the person next to you. There is no margin for error.

To honor our heroes, National Linemen's

Appreciation Day was created to spotlight the hardworking individuals who play a crucial role in keeping our country's electric grid working smoothly. These unsung heroes work tirelessly to ensure that electricity is available to us every day.

"I think about taking care of the little ones at home during the cold and keeping them comfortable. Power isn't a luxury anymore, it's a necessity. We need it 24/7/365," said Lineman Kirk Kempson, who has been serving First Electric's members since 2002.

Their job often involves working in dangerous weather conditions and responding to outages in the middle of the night with speed and efficiency. Despite the challenges they encounter, linemen persevere to keep our communities powered. National Linemen's Appreciation Day provides an opportunity to recognize their contributions and express gratitude for their commitment to First Electric's members.

On this day, let's show our appreciation for linemen by thanking them for their hard work and recognizing the vital role they play in our communities we serve!



(ABOVE) Lineman Kirk Kempson has served First Electric's members since 2002.

(LEFT) Lineman Barry Duncan has been a serviceman at First Electric Cooperative since 1986.

## Scholarship applications due May 1

High school seniors have until May 1 to apply for a First Electric Cooperative scholarship, which is funded through the Operation Round-Up program. This year, nine \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors living within the co-op's five districts.

To apply, simply go to the co-op's website at [firstelectric.coop/scholarships](http://firstelectric.coop/scholarships) and complete the online application, and attach the required documentation!

To be eligible, applicants must be a high school senior whose parents or guardians are First Electric members. Applicants must have a minimum 3.0 grade point average through their senior year of high school and, upon graduation, attend an accredited institute of higher learning in Arkansas on a full-time basis.

Help fund future scholarships and donations to local nonprofits by enrolling in Operation Round-Up and have your bill rounded up to the next even dollar. An average donation is just \$6 per year.

To enroll or for more information on the program, visit [firstelectric.coop/operation-round-up](http://firstelectric.coop/operation-round-up).



# Bentley Plastics ... From Smokey Bear to Disney World

Tucked away in a quaint hollow in the foothills of the Ouachita Mountains of central Arkansas is an interesting family-owned business that has quite a history. Founded in 1984, by John and Virginia Bentley, Bentley Plastics of Perryville now recognizes its 40-year anniversary.

One of the first and most iconic products the plastic extrusion company produced were Smokey Bear rings for the U.S. Forest Service. The company has always sought to partner with other Arkansas companies to manufacture products like Sharp microwave oven parts for Polyvend in Conway; toothpick boxes and toothpicks for Prodentec in Batesville; parking meter domes for POM in Russellville; and numerous black powder products for Buck Snort in Murfreesboro.

Detail to precision drew Kimberly Clark in Conway to Bentley Plastics to produce some complex funnels that they felt might not be able to be produced locally. For many years, the company held a contract with the Department of Defense to produce missile igniter tubes.

For over two decades now, they have proudly manufactured Bentley Drinkware. Their tumblers can be found in stores across the nation as at Wyndham Resorts in Hawaii and Disney World in Florida.

They thank the good Lord for the company's success and credit him for keeping this small manufacturing company in business for 40 years.

Bentley Plastics also has a line of Arkansas Razorback drinkware available online at [bentleydrinkware.com/collections](http://bentleydrinkware.com/collections).



One of the first and most iconic products Bentley Plastics of Perryville produced were Smokey Bear rings for the U.S. Forest Service.

COURTESY OF BENTLEY PLASTICS

Bentley Drinkware, manufactured by Bentley Plastics in Perryville, can be found in numerous retail locations, including Wyndham Resorts in Hawaii and Disney World in Florida.



COURTESY OF BENTLEY PLASTICS



COURTESY OF BENTLEY PLASTICS



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**102,572**

ACCOUNTS SERVED

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## Spring Maintenance

Spring is the perfect time to give your HVAC system some much-needed attention to ensure it's ready to handle the warmer months ahead.

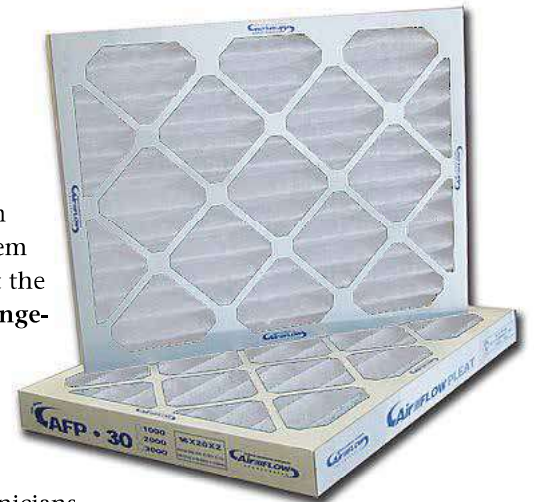
Here are some essential maintenance tips to keep your HVAC system running smoothly:

- **Changing the air filters is crucial.** Over time, filters collect dust, pollen and other debris, which can restrict airflow and reduce efficiency. Replace them every 1-3 months to maintain good indoor air quality and airflow. Check out the Filter Change Program on First Electric's website [firstelectric.coop/filter-change-program](http://firstelectric.coop/filter-change-program) for simple ordering and delivery!

- **On the outdoor unit, clear away any debris, leaves or branches that may have accumulated around it during the winter months.** This helps to ensure proper airflow and prevents the unit from overworking.

- **Consider scheduling a professional maintenance service.** HVAC technicians can perform a thorough inspection, clean vital components and tune-up your system for optimal performance.

By following these spring maintenance tips, you can help prolong the life of your HVAC system, improve energy efficiency, and ensure your home stays comfortable throughout the spring and summer seasons.



1 Gig down  
1 Gig up

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