

# "The Current" July/August 2024 Vol. MMXIX No. 24 USPS #356-710

"The Current" is the official newsletter of Talquin Electric Cooperative, Inc., published bi-monthly as an informational and educational service to the Members of the Cooperative. Periodical postage paid at Tallahassee, Florida.

#### SUBSCRIPTION RATE

Cooperative Member \$2.80 per year. Talquin Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

#### **EDITORIAL OFFICE**

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In using Form 3579, please give key letter and mail to "The Current," P.O. Box 1679, Quincy, Florida 32353-1679.

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Trustee bios and pictures are located on the website.

The Talquin Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Talquin Water & Wastewater, Inc. Boards regularly schedule their workshops on the 1st Monday of each month and meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Headquarters' Office in Quincy, FL at 6:30 PM. If necessary, an Executive Session may be held in conjunction with any regular meeting, special meeting, or workshop. Notice of any changes will be listed at www.TalquinElectric.com/About/Board-Meetings-Workshops/.

## ENSURING RELIABLE POWER THROUGH THE UPCOMING STORM SEASON



Joe Alexander President



Tracy Bensley General Manager

Providing reliable power to you is and always will be the top priority for Talquin. With the energy industry transitioning and more parts of our economy becoming electrified, the pressure on our nation's electric grid has never been greater. Storm season is here, and we want to share the measures we are taking to ensure you continue to receive the dependable power you need and deserve.

Though the Atlantic hurricane season officially begins annually on June 1st, our dedicated team at Talquin works tirelessly throughout the year to stay prepared. At the beginning of each year, we review and update our Emergency Response Plan (ERP) to ensure that every detail and employee role is up to date and ready for activation at a moment's notice. Employees receive specific "storm duties" that differ from their daily responsibilities. Before hurricane season begins, we conduct comprehensive training sessions to review these roles, understand assignments, and practice realistic scenarios.

During preparation and restoration related to a major storm, each employee shifts from their regular duties to their designated storm roles, working long hours to restore power. We also collaborate with the Florida Electric Cooperative Association to bring in additional support from other cooperatives when needed. Throughout the restoration process, we keep Talquin Members informed via social media and other communication channels.

We love the charm trees bring to our community, but overgrown vegetation accounts for about half of all power outages. To maintain reliability, we work to keep our power lines clear in right-of-way (ROW) areas. These areas allow us to construct, maintain, replace, or repair power lines without obstruction from trees or other vegetation. Our goal is to balance power reliability with the natural beauty of our area.

While it may seem counterintuitive, we also enhance power reliability through planned, controlled outages. By temporarily shutting off power to specific areas, we can perform essential system repairs, maintenance, and upgrades that improve overall service. We notify Members in advance of planned outages, so please ensure we have your current contact information to keep you informed.

We also believe in educating Members about hurricane preparation and safety. Talquin actively participates in community events focused on hurricane readiness. By gathering necessary supplies and creating an emergency kit before hurricane season, Members can reduce stress and focus on keeping their families safe when a warning is issued.

While we cannot control the path of a storm, we are fully prepared to support our community. We encourage all Talquin Members to have a hurricane plan and prepare in advance. Stay connected with us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for the latest updates. Together, we will weather any storm that comes our way.

## Safety Tips for Before, During, and After the Storm



Storm season is here, bringing strong winds and heavy rain. Storms can strike anytime, anywhere.

Understanding storm safety is important for everyone. It's crucial to discuss storm safety and have a plan in place. Here are some tips:

## **Before the Storm**

- **Discuss Safety**: Talk about what to do during a severe storm. Identify a safe spot to shelter, like an interior room without windows on the lowest floor. Highlight the dangers of thunderstorms; lightning can strike 10 miles from a storm. Remember: "When thunder roars, go indoors."
- **Prepare a Storm Kit**: Gather essentials like water, non-perishable food, a manual can opener, First-Aid kit, flashlights, extra batteries, prescriptions, baby supplies, and pet supplies. Store these items together for easy access if the power goes out. Check Talquin's Hurricane Preparedness Guide for more tips.

## **During the Storm**

- **Stay Informed**: Follow local weather alerts on TV, your smartphone, or a weather radio. Know the difference between a watch (possible storm) and a warning (storm is happening).
- **Use Reliable Sources**: Check forecasts and hazards from the National Hurricane Center (www.nhc.noaa.gov) and the National Weather Service (www.weather.gov).
- **Stay Indoors**: Keep away from windows during severe storms.
- If Driving: Don't try to outrun a storm. Pull over and wait until it's safe to continue.

## **After the Storm**

- **Conserve Phone Battery**: Use your phone only for emergencies or to let others know you're safe if the power is out.
- **Stay Off Roads**: Avoid areas with downed trees, power lines, or utility poles. These can be dangerous even if they look safe.
- **Wear Protective Gear**: When cleaning up debris, wear thick-soled shoes, long pants, and work gloves to protect against sharp objects.

Summer is filled with lots of fun activities, but it can also bring dangerous weather. Make sure everyone knows what to do when a storm hits by discussing these storm safety tips.

# **Keep Food Safe**Before, During and After a Power Outage

Unfortunately, power outages do occur from time to time. It's important to know how to keep your food safe during an outage. Use these tips from USDA to help minimize food loss and reduce your risk of illness.

# **Before** power outage



Keep refrigerator at

40° or below. Freeze
items like fresh meat and
poultry that you won't
use immediately.
Keep freezer set to
0° or below. Group
frozen foods to help
items stay colder longer.



If you anticipate an extended power outage, buy dry or block ice to keep the fridge and/or freezer cold.

# **During** power outage

# Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed!

If the doors stay closed during the length of the outage:



A full freezer will hold its temperature for **48 hours**.



A refrigerator will keep food safe for **four hours**.

# After power outage



Check the temperature inside your refrigerator and/or freezer.



If the temperatures are safe, the food should be safe to eat.

## Foods that should be thrown out after an extended power outage:





As you can imagine, power generation and delivery is a complex industry. Talquin does not generate the electricity distributed to Members but purchases energy from a wholesale power supplier, Seminole Electric Cooperative. As a cooperative, Seminole is owned by Talquin and eight other Florida distribution cooperatives. Talguin distributes electricity to Members from substations through our electrical distribution system. In May, Talquin employees had the opportunity to tour Seminole power plants. As one of the largest generation and transmission cooperatives in the country, Seminole plays a crucial role in ensuring a stable power supply. The tour of a natural gas plant and a coal plant highlighted the importance of having diverse energy sources in order to provide safe, reliable, affordable power for Talquin Members.



left to right: Charlotte Salley, Sean Alderman, Julie Proch, Zaina Kinsey



Talquin Employees enjoyed an up-close look at Seminole Electric. May 4, 2024



## Summertime Irrigation Do's and Don'ts

The Florida heat can take a toll on your lawn and gardens during the summer months from June through August. Luckily, our average annual precipitation is approximately 52 inches, with most rainfall occurring during this time. If there is a need to water your lawn, the best time for irrigation is in the early morning hours. Applying moderate amounts of water creates healthy, drought and stress-tolerant lawns. Overwatering promotes weed growth, disease, and fungus. To prevent damage and promote healthy lawns year-round, avoid these six most common irrigation errors:

- Broken or misdirected sprinklers
- · Obstructed sprinkler application
- Mixed sprinkler types
- Uneven watering rates
- Improperly spaced sprinklers
- Incorrect irrigation schedules

For more information on proper irrigation and lawn care during the summertime, visit http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/LH025.

## **Medically Essential Service Account**

Do you or someone in your household have electronic medical equipment? Be prepared and storm ready! The Medically Essential Service (MES) accounts program assists Talquin in identifying locations for service restoration as soon as possible when there are service disruptions. In the event of a major storm or hurricane, Talquin will contact MES accounts and provide notification that service could potentially be without power for an unknown period of time. Advance notice will allow Members time to prepare should they need to relocate prior to a weather event. This service does not quarantee uninterruptible electric service or that MES accounts will always be first to be restored at any location, including disconnect for non-payment. Eligible Members can complete the form with a physician's signature to be placed on this service. Forms must be renewed annually. For more information, please visit our website at talquinelectric.com.



## **Hurricane Preparedness Resources**

## **GADSDEN**

www.gadsdencountyfl.gov 850-662-4068

## LIBERTY

https://libertycountyflem.com 850-643-2339

## **LEON**

www.leonready.com/ 850-606-3700

## **WAKULLA\*\***

www.wcso.org/emergencymanagement 850-745-7100



- The National Hurricane Center
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- American Red Cross

  www.redcross.org/
- Ready (from the Department of Homeland Security)
- The Salvation Army

\*Leon County Flood Information, Know Your Zone, Shelter Information, and other valuable GIS Information:

https://www.leoncountyfl.gov/floodprotection/

\*\*Wakulla County Flood Information, Evacuation Map/Know Your Zone, Shelter Information, and other valuable GIS Information: https://gisportal-update-wakullaplanning.hub.arcgis.com

# Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday

- Pet food
- Batteries
- Flashlights
- Candles
- Coolers
- Power banks
- Smoke alarms
- Bungee cords
- Ratchet straps
- Tarps
- Fuel containers
- Portable Radios

August 24 - September 6, 2024

Visit floridarevenue.com/DisasterPrep

# Stay Safe with Our Hurricane Preparedness Guide

Hurricane season is here, and your safety is our top priority. To help you stay prepared, a comprehensive Hurricane Preparedness Guide is available on TalquinElectric.com. You can also pick up guides at any of our drive-thru Member Services Offices.

The guide is designed to provide you with essential information and practical tips to help you and your family stay safe before, during, and after a storm.





HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

## **HOW TO REPORT AN OUTAGE**

Reporting an outage is fast and convenient with Talquin's Mobile App and outage text alerts!

To report an outage through the Talquin Mobile App\*, simply open the app and click "Report Outage". Register in advance on our website to receive text alerts on your mobile device during an outage. Additionally, outages can be reported on the Talquin website and by calling 1-888-802-1832 (live operator), or 1-866-899-4832 (automated). All options are free of charge!

\*Download the app from Google Play Store or iOS App Store. Then register the account using information found on a billing statement.

## To report an electrical outage in your area:



**Phone** 866.899.4832 (Automated System) or 888.802.1832 (Live Operator)



Mobile
Text #OUTAGE to
85700 or report via
Talquin's mobile app

## To check your co-op's storm status:



**Website** talquinelectric.com



Facebook
/TalquinElectricCoop
Twitter
@tectwwi
Instagram
@tectwwi



it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.

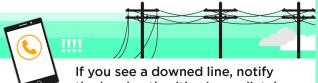


Downed power lines can energize the ground up to 35 ft. away - so keep your distance.



Never drive over a downed line or through water that is touching the line.

Never drive over a downed line or through water that is touching the line.



the local authorities immediately.







Never try to move a downed power line, even if you think the line is deenergized or if you're using a non-conductive item - this will not prevent injury or death!

Source: ESFI.org

## Powering Up After An Outage

When a major hurricane causes widespread damage, extended outages may result. Our line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible. A single pole, if damaged beyond repair, can take anywhere between 8 and 18 hours to replace.

Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark:



## 1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines

Transmission towers and cables supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members), and they rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

#### 2. Distribution Substation

A substation can serve hundreds or thousands of members. When a major outage occurs, our line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself, or if problems exist further down the

### 3. Main Distribution Lines

If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of members in our local communities.

#### 4. Tap Lines

If local outages persist, supply lines (also known as tap lines) are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools, and homes.

## 5. Service Lines

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. If you experience an outage, please contact us so we can isolate the issue.

## **TRADING POST**

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

**10 free butterfly tail coy fish** Grey with red or yellow streaks 2 foot long crawfordville call or text 850-510-0742

**30 Amp RV surge protector** Surge Guard Model 34830 \$150 obo. Call or text 850-508-3597

**14 ft. aluminum boat & trailer for sale**. Good project. \$1,000.00. Text 850-212-8231

## Bolenburg counter height dining set.

Square 42" table with 4 hinged drop leaves, turns into large round table seats 6. Six chairs, heavy woven fabric seats. Two tone textural finish; antique white gently distressed finish with weathered oak finished top. Like new, half price. Ashley furniture. Located in Crawfordville. (208) 863-7434. \$900 firm.

**46 inch Snapper Zero Turn** 23hp Briggs & Stratton exc condition \$1800 850 728-5059

#### **SERVICES**

**DETAILED and RELIABLE cleaning and organizing!** Over 15 years professional experience. (850)508-2794.

I have over 25 years

of taking care of peoples properties, mainly the task of weeding, trimming pruning planting, I charge \$35 an hour plus gas and travel. Thank you Michael

## BOOKKEEPING SERVICES available.

850-900-7703.

Payroll, Quarterly reports Accounts Payable and Receivable, bank reconciliations and all types of taxes. Cost accounting, construction quote creation. Over 30 years experience 850-241-4344

### **REMODELING**

Painting flooring, fencing, decks, siding all types of remodeling services. References available. Call 850-792-0482

**CARETAKER** for your loved one. Experienced at personal care giving

## TRADING POST GUIDELINES

In order to continue to provide The Trading Post in every issue of The Current, we ask Members to adhere to the guidelines listed below when submitting an ad. If an ad does not meet the criteria, it will not be published. Talquin provides "The Trading Post" ads for the convenience of our Members. Talquin is not responsible for the content of the ads. Talquin does not endorse or warrant the products or services offered in the ads. There is no cost to place an ad in The Trading Post.

- Members may submit one ad per issue (six times a year)
- Ads must be twenty-five words or less
- · Must be typed or printed legibly in ink
- · No registered businesses may run an ad
- No changes after ad submission
- No event promotion of any kind
- No firearm sales of any kind

Mail ads to: "The Current", Talquin Electric Cooperative, PO Box 1679, Quincy, FL 32353-1679 or email to: TradingPost@TalquinElectric.com

for Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, etc. Years of experience and references. Avail: Mon-Fri (850)386-3562

### **CEMETERY/BURIAL**

I have a burial plot off Widden Lake Rd in Crawfordville FL \$800

Crawfordville Fl. \$800. 850-556-6468

## AUTO & IMPLEMENT

## \$24,000 130k miles 2015 Ford truck F150

Lariat 35 inch Mickey Thompson tires OBO email: kim.a.gay@ gmail.com

#### **REAL ESTATE**

## **RIVERFRONT PROPERY** 100' on

Suwannee River with dock, half acre lot in Mayo. 2021 Jayco RV, 265RLS. Turnkey and private. 850-294-3372

## Beautifully Furnished Room for rent!

Everything included! Utilities, safe touch security, Wi-Fi, Dish TV service. Shared kitchen, Living Room and Bath. Convenient to I 10, Apalachee Pkwy. \$570 room rate, \$65 background fee, \$570 deposit. 12 month lease. Based on single occupancy. Available Now! CALLS ONLY PLEASE: 850/284/4892. Debi Brigman

#### **Rooms For Rent**

Available 5/1/2024. Fully Furnished Room with Private Bath in a Beautiful Home! Large Closet, SAFETOUCH Security, Wifi, Utilities,Oak Floors, Linens,Shared Kitchen and Living Room! Rent based on single occupancy. Calls Only Please 850/284/4892! \$625 per month, \$65 app fee, 1 month security deposit! 1 year

lease. Strong work history and references required.

Rooms For Rent Available Now-Fully Furnished Room with Private Bath in a Beautiful Home! Large Closet, SAFETOUCH Security, Wifi, Utilities, Oak Floors, Linens, Shared Kitchen and Living Room! Rent based on single occupancy. Calls Only Please 850/284/4892! \$625 per month, \$65 app fee, 1 month security deposit! 1 year lease. Strong work history and references required.

#### **LOOKING FOR**

**Looking for pre 1980 sports memorabilia**- old sports photos, baseball/football/basketball cards, autographs. Please text or call 850-508-8072.

**Looking for some laying hens** near me in Quincy 850-556-6468.

## **MOVE OVER - IT'S THE LAW**

When approaching an authorized emergency, sanitation, or utility service vehicle on the side of the road, do not forget to do the following:

- Move out of the lane closest to their vehicle.
- If you cannot move over, slow speed to 20 miles per hour under the posted speed limit.

This is especially important to remember during storm season when there are more trucks out there restoring power. Thanks for helping to keep our crews safe!



#MoveOverFL

## **Easy No-Bake Recipes**

Cooking in the summer can be unbearable, and on the hottest, most humid days, the last thing you want is to turn on the oven for dinner. With your air conditioner working extra hard to keep your home cool, give it a break by opting for easy, efficient, no-bake recipes. These recipes will help you prepare a delicious meal for your family without breaking a sweat!

## Pita with Spiced Chickpea Salad and Whipped Feta

courtesy of Meghaan Evans, NRECA

## For the spiced chickpea salad:

2 cans chickpeas

2 tablespoons olive oil

3 tablespoons lemon juice

2 teaspoons cumin

2 teaspoons dill

2 teaspoons sumac

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon pepper

1/2 teaspoon red chili flakes

3 cloves garlic

4 oz. cherry tomatoes

1/2 cup chopped cucumber

1 small red onion finely diced

1 tablespoon fresh dill

1 tablespoon chopped fresh cilantro



Add chickpeas, olive oil, lemon juice and spices to a bowl, stir to combine. Allow the mixutrue to sit for 15 minutes to one hour to let the flavors meld together.

Add the tomatoes, cucumber and onion. Add the fresh dill and cilantro, stir to combine.

## For the Whipped Feta:

6 oz. feta cheese 2 oz. cream cheese 1/4 cup olive oil

Add feta and cream cheese to a blender, slowly drizzle the olive oil into the blender top until the mixture is creamy and smooth.

Spread the whipped feta into your pita, add the chickpea salad, and you have a delicious sandwich. Add grilled chicken or even a couple slices of smoked turkey or chicken breast for a heartier meal.

## Lemon Truffles from Premeditated Leftovers

2 1/2 cups lemon cake mix 8 tablespoons melted butter 2 tablespoons lemon juice Zest of one large lemon

## For lemon cake mix:

2 3/4 cups cake flour 1 3/4 cups fine white sugar 2 teaspoons baking powder 3/4 teaspoons salt Zest of two lemons

Combine the cake mix ingredient into a large bowl, stir gently to combine. Add the melted butter, lemon juice and lemon zest. Use your hands to combine until the flour is moist and flakey. Roll dough into two inch balls, roll in sugar and serve!





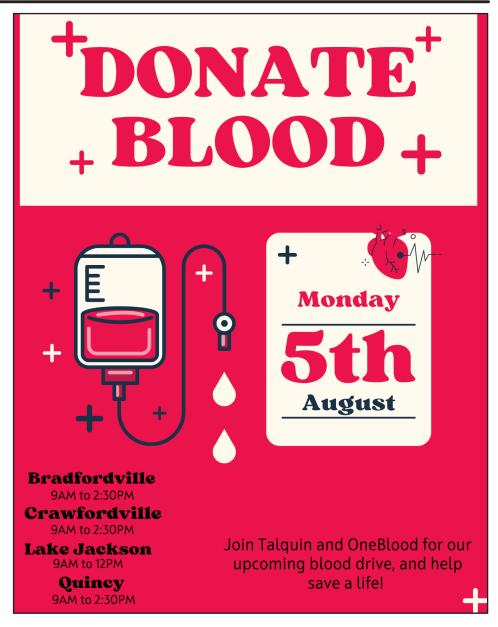
## ATTENTION TALQUIN FOODIES: WHAT'S COOKING IN YOUR KITCHEN?

We are in the market for some of YOUR favorite recipes to be shared here in our bi-monthly newsletter. If you like to cook, bake, or have a scrumptious family recipe you'd be willing to share, please send it our way! Submit your culinary delights to us at <a href="mailto:TradingPost@TalquinElectric.com">TradingPost@TalquinElectric.com</a>, drop









## HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURE

Talquin Electric offices will be closed on Monday, September 2, in observance of Labor Day. We will reopen Tuesday, September 3.



## TALQUIN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

## **Office Locations**

#### Headquarters

1640 W. Jefferson Street Quincy, Florida 32351 (850) 627-7651

## Quincy Member Services Office

1607 W. Jefferson Street Quincy, Florida 32351 (850) 627-9666

#### **Crawfordville Member Services Office**

681 Wakulla Arran Road Crawfordville, Florida 32327 (850) 926-7422

#### **Hosford Member Services Office**

20557 NE Cooperative Way Hosford, Florida 32334 (850) 379-8679

## Lake Jackson Member Services Office

4808 Portal Drive Tallahassee, Florida 32303 (850) 562-012<u>5</u>

#### **Bradfordville Member Services Office**

6724 Thomasville Road Tallahassee, Florida 32312 (850) 893-6853

#### **Full Service Drive Thru Hours**

Monday - Friday 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM, Closed for Lu<u>nch 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM</u>

In-person appointments available by calling in advance to schedule

### **Report an Outage**

Via Mobile App

#### Via Text

Text #OUTAGE to 85700 to report electric outages.

If not registered, visit our website at www.TalquinElectric.com

## Via Phone

Automated System: 1-866-899-4832

Live Operator: 1-888-802-1832







# Meet The Team! Dispatch







Candace Tyner

Chris Morrison

David Brown







Elaine Marchant

**Grant Tollison** 

Jonathan Casey







Leah Paske

Rachelle Parramore

Sandra Smith

Talquin's Dispatch Team is a group of dedicated and highly skilled individuals operating in the Control Center 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This team watches over our electric, water, and wastewater systems, utilizing advanced technology and programs to monitor system conditions and manage equipment. Dispatchers coordinate responses to emergencies and outages, providing support and information to field crews while prioritizing the safety of those crews and Members. They work quickly and effectively when time is of the essence and possess strong communication and multitasking skills. Dispatch collaborates with all departments at Talquin, working to maintain safe, reliable service and ensuring Members' needs are met.