

THE CURRENT

July/August 2022



STORM EDITION

TALQUIN
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
WATER & WASTEWATER, INC.

"The Current"

July/August 2022

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"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 \$2.00 per year.
Talquin Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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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 <https://www.talquinelectric.com/about/board-meetings-workshops/>.

A Word About Rising Costs

Talquin must remain financially stable so that the cooperative can continue to provide the safe and reliable services that Members have come to know and expect. Talquin's staff has been working hard to control costs and avoid increasing rates for as long as possible. As prices continue to climb, the price for electricity is on the rise as well. Like most consumer products, the cost of everything Talquin purchases to maintain quality service, and



Tracy Bensley
General Manager

especially the cost of natural gas used for a significant portion of electricity generation, has been increasing at dramatic rates for the past twelve months.

Price projections for natural gas remain high throughout the rest of this year and throughout 2023, which means that an adjustment to Talquin's wholesale power cost recovery charges to Members can no longer be avoided. The staff and Board at Talquin do not take these types of adjustments lightly and work hard to minimize cost impact increases on Members. However, to recover costs

and remain financially stable, Talquin must adjust the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA) for the third time in 2022. Effective September 1, 2022, monthly bills will increase \$10.50 per 1,000 kilowatt hours, or 8.2% based on Talquin's residential rate. Total WPCA increases so far this year represent a 12.6% increase in monthly residential bills based on 1,000 kilowatt hours of usage. Before this year, the same monthly residential bills had only increased 0.3% since December 2011.

As you can imagine, power generation and delivery is a complex industry. Talquin does not generate the electricity distributed to Members but purchases electric energy from its wholesale power supplier, Seminole Electric Cooperative. Talquin then distributes this electricity to the membership. As a not-for-profit electric cooperative like Talquin, Seminole provides electric services at cost. Because Seminole is a not-for-profit cooperative, cost increases related to fuel used to generate electricity are passed on to Seminole's member cooperatives in the form of higher rates for electricity.

Talquin's WPCA is used to "blend" wholesale rate changes over time so that Member bills are not impacted month-to-month from transitory cost changes. However, current cost increases have been sustained for several months and are projected to continue for quite some time. Talquin's WPCA rate is reviewed monthly and is usually adjusted every six months to compensate for changes in the wholesale cost of electric energy. Talquin has not seen adjustments of this year's scope and frequency since the 2007-2011 timeframe, which was also due to volatile natural gas prices. Likewise, if natural gas prices continue to rise, additional adjustments to the WPCA may be necessary before the end of the year. For some additional context related to rising costs, please see the article on the next page.

As always, the Trustees and staff at Talquin remain dedicated to providing Members with safe, affordable, reliable utility services. Talquin believes in transparency and stability for its Members and will continue to keep you updated as we progress through these unusual, post-pandemic economic times.

Electricity Rates are Not Immune from Inflation

As a Member-owned, not-for-profit cooperative, Talquin Electric sets “cost-based” rates, which are simply designed to recover the costs of providing power to Members. When costs increase beyond our operational ability to absorb the increase, rates must be adjusted to recover those additional costs.

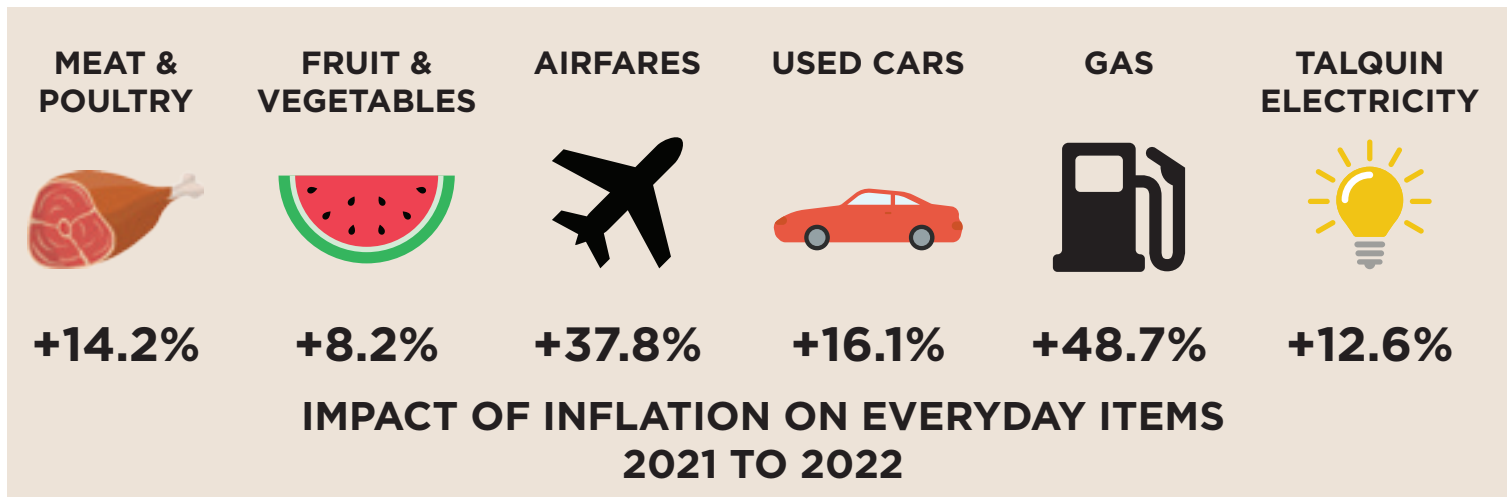
The past two years have been challenging for us all, and utilities have not been spared from these challenges. Supply chain disruptions in manufacturing, warehousing, and shipping have led to nearly unprecedented cost increases and delays in receiving the items required to build and maintain the electric grid. You may have noticed long lead times and delays when ordering consumer items like washing machines, dryers, dishwashers, and other appliances. Electric cooperatives are also experiencing difficulties acquiring the materials needed to provide Members with electricity.

But regardless of the cost of other items, the biggest line item in an electric cooperative’s expense budget is the cost to purchase the electricity that is sold to Members. Long-term financial projections at Talquin and at our wholesale power supplier, Seminole Electric Cooperative (Seminole), point to continuing upward pressures on the cost of electricity.

In 2022, well over 50% of the electricity purchased by Talquin will be generated using natural gas as a fuel source. While we do have resource diversity that helps spread risk when the price of one type of fuel increases, natural gas is the dominate fuel source. Increases in the cost of natural gas are driving Talquin’s wholesale purchase costs significantly higher. In October 2021, while developing this year’s budget, natural gas prices were projected be \$4.022 per unit (Dth). By June 2022, natural gas prices were up to \$7.377 per unit. This change in price has increased Talquin’s projected cost by approximately \$10 million in 2022.

You can rest assured that both Talquin and Seminole continue to work to minimize all costs to lessen the impact of these natural gas price increases on the price of electricity. However, the recent natural gas price increases are simply insurmountable without recovering these costs through Talquin’s WPCA adjustment. As you will notice in the graphic on page 7, Going the Extra Mile, Talquin powers fewer consumers per mile of line compared to other Florida electric utilities, requiring Talquin to spread these increased costs across fewer consumers.

But the good news is that in a time of rising energy prices nationwide, your local electric rate has risen at a much slower pace than most other fuels and consumer goods over the past year. Looking at the graphic below, it’s easy to see that electricity remains a good value.



These lower-than-average cost increases are due to modest growth on the system and Talquin’s careful attention to cost-containment measures. But these measures can only go so far.

And Members can also help themselves to lessen the impact of a rate change increase by becoming as energy efficient as possible. Members can invest their time and energy into home maintenance and improvements and can take advantage of the Energy Use Analysis program provided to residential Members at no cost by Talquin. You can find more information about this program on page 14.

BE PREPARED BEFORE A STORM STRIKES

In the event of a power outage, be prepared by keeping the following items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit.

WATER

Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.

TOOLS

Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.

FIRST AID KIT AND PRESCRIPTIONS

First aid supplies, hand sanitizer and at least one week's supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.



Learn more at www.ready.gov

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:



Source: USDA

Hurricane Preparedness Resources

If you have special needs (due to age, disability, etc.) and may require assistance during a storm, or if you need shelter updates, contact your local County Emergency Management for information regarding services they provide. Also, check to see if your county has a mass notification system so you can stay prepared and informed.

GADSDEN COUNTY

(850) 875-8650

www.gadsdencountyfl.gov/departments/emergency_management

WAKULLA COUNTY

(850) 745-7200

www.wcso.org/emergency-management

LIBERTY COUNTY

(850) 643-2339

www.libertycountyfl.com

LEON COUNTY

(850) 606-3700

www2.leoncountyfl.gov/ei/

Other Hurricane Preparedness Resources:

The Florida Division of Emergency Management

floridadisaster.org

The National Hurricane Center

nhc.noaa.gov

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

fema.gov

Ready (From the Department of Homeland Security)

ready.gov

American Red Cross

redcross.org/local/florida/north-florida

The Salvation Army

salvationarmyflorida.org/tallahassee



Happy Retirement Bruce!

Bruce Cromer started with Talquin at the age of 22 back in January 1980. His first role was a Helper in the Right-of-Way department in Quincy and then, after various roles at Crossway Road, Lake Jackson, and Bradfordville locations, Bruce became a Lineman. Over the years, he has moved up, finishing his time at Talquin as an Inspector at our Quincy Operations location. He experienced his first major storm, Hurricane Kate in 1985, and ended with his last major storm, Hurricane Michael, in 2018. Bruce has enjoyed 42 years at Talquin and will miss the time spent among colleagues. He is looking forward to enjoying time with family and plans to take many beach, hunting, and fishing trips with his two grandsons. Congratulations on such a monumental achievement, Bruce!

TIPS TO PREPARE FOR HURRICANE SEASON

Here are things that you can do to prepare for the 2022 storm season:

- Start to gather bottled water, non-perishable foods, first-aid supplies, clothing and bedding, and other emergency supplies (as outlined in other articles in this edition of The Current). Store items in easy-to-carry, water-proof containers that can be moved in the event of a storm emergency.
- Make a checklist of the things you will need in the event of an evacuation for you and your family, including pets, so that nothing essential will be left behind during a rushed departure.
- Cut down on wind hazards by removing any diseased and damaged limbs from trees.
- Limit flooding by making sure there is no debris in storm drains or clogged ditches. Report issues to the proper authorities.

YOUR POWER OUTAGE PANTRY

We do our best to avoid power outages, but unfortunately, Mother Nature occasionally has different plans. Stay ahead of the storm by stocking your pantry with a variety of non-perishable items.

Set these items aside for extended outages only, and your storm prep will be a breeze!

- BEANS
- CANNED FRUIT
- CANNED TUNA
- CANNED VEGETABLES
- CEREAL
- DRIED FRUITS
- DRIED MEATS/JERKY
- GRAHAM CRACKERS
- PASTA
- RICE
- SPAM
- OATMEAL



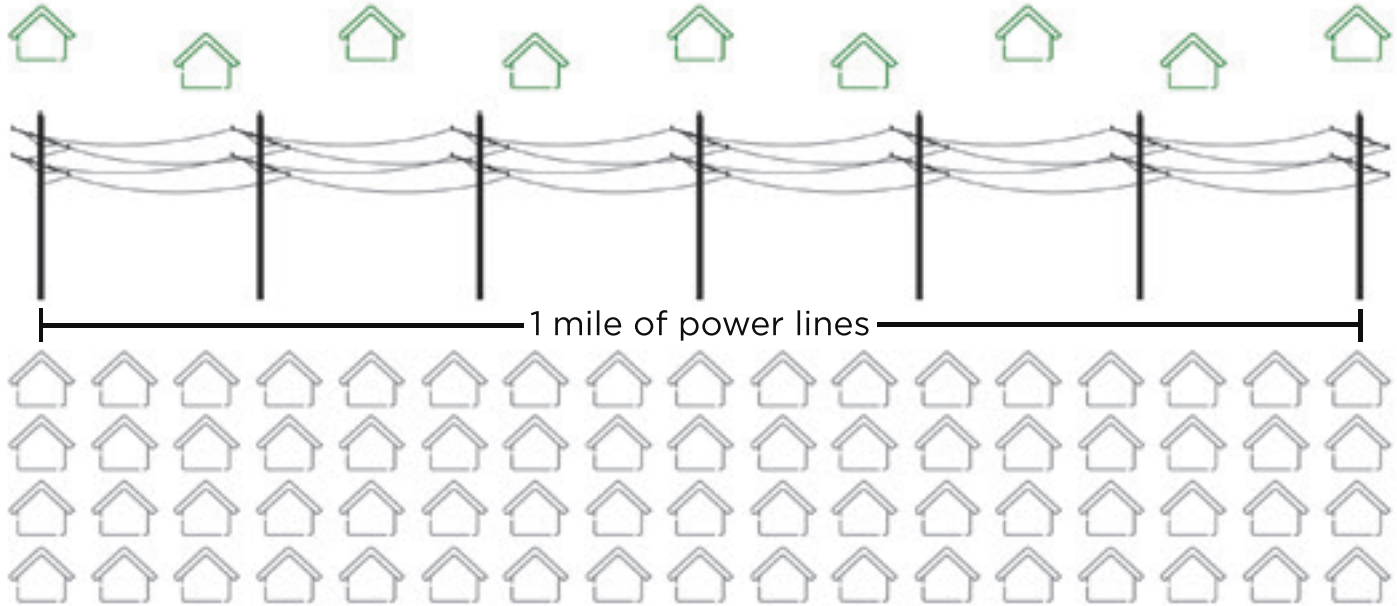
Don't forget to stock up on disposable goods, like paper plates, napkins, plastic cutlery and cups.

GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Did you know that Talquin powers fewer consumers per mile of line compared to other Florida electric utilities?



Serves 10 Member-owners per mile of line



INVESTOR-OWNED UTILITIES (IOUS)
Average 62 consumers per mile of line

PUBLICLY OWNED UTILITIES, OR MUNICIPALS
Average 67 consumers per mile of line

Residential Generators

WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU BUY

INSTALLATION TYPE	PRICE	OPERATION ¹	CAPACITY	LENGTH OF OPERATION ³
<i>permanent</i>	<i>expensive</i>	<i>automatic</i>	<i>whole house</i>	<i>can be indefinite</i>
<i>portable</i>	<i>more affordable</i>	<i>manual</i>	<i>typically partial ²</i>	<i>depends on fuel tank size</i>



¹ Permanent generators start upon loss of grid power. They also exercise themselves automatically.

² Frequently powered: refrigerator, pumps (well, sump, septic), furnace, some lights, stove.

³ Permanent generators use propane or natural gas, portable use gasoline. Permanent models offer significantly longer operating times.

Image of portable generator provided by SafeElectricity.org

Additional Safety Tips for Before, During and After the Storm

Storm season is in full swing. Many summer storms have the potential to produce tornadoes—they can happen anytime, anywhere, and can bring winds over 200 miles per hour.

As adults, we understand the importance of storm safety, but younger children and teens may not realize the dangers storms pose. That's why it's so important to talk to your family and have a storm plan in place. Here are a several tips you can share with your loved ones.



Before the Storm

- Talk to your family about what to do in the event of a severe storm or tornado. Point out the safest location to shelter, like a small, interior, windowless room on the lowest level of your home. Discuss the dangers of severe thunderstorms; lightning can strike 10 miles outside of a storm. Remember: when you hear thunder roar, head indoors.
- Make a storm kit. It doesn't have to be elaborate—having a few items on hand is better than nothing at all. Try to include items like water, non-perishable foods, a manual can opener, a First-Aid kit, flashlights and extra batteries, prescriptions, baby supplies and pet supplies. Keep all the items in one place for easy access if the power goes out.

During the Storm

- Pay attention to local weather alerts—either on the TV, your smartphone or weather radio—and understand the types of alerts. A thunderstorm or tornado watch means these events are possible and you should be prepared; a warning means a thunderstorm or tornado has been spotted in your area and it's time to take action.
- If you find yourself in the path of a tornado, head to your safe place to shelter, and protect yourself by covering your head with your arms or materials like blankets and pillows.
- If you're driving during a severe storm or tornado, do not try to outrun it. Pull over and cover your body with a coat or blanket if possible.

After the Storm

- If the power is out, conserve your phone battery as much as possible, limiting calls and texts to let others know you are safe or for emergencies only.
- Stay off the roads if trees, power lines or utility poles are down. Lines and equipment could still be energized, posing life-threatening risks to anyone who gets too close.
- Wear appropriate gear if you're cleaning up storm debris on your property. Thick-soled shoes, long pants and work gloves will help protect you from sharp or dangerous debris left behind.

Summer is a time for many fun-filled activities, but the season can also bring severe, dangerous weather. Talk to your loved ones about storm safety so that everyone is prepared and knows exactly what to do when a storm strikes.

TRADING POST

MISCELLANEOUS

Microwave \$25. Paraffin Bath w/wax \$75, Hot Tub filters 6/\$55 or \$13 ea, FIRE HD8 w/ALEXA 32gb \$85, Trend InNet Security two devices one year \$15; Leave message for Phillip Neely (850) 591-3624

J.C. Andrews books; \$1 each. Danielle Steel books; \$1 each. 850-878-5081

Whirlpool washer and dryer – good condition; \$900 for both. Call Robin, 850-294-1289

Antique upright Piano; Free to good home. Patented 1895 in good condition. (850) 841-9963. Also free case 6 foot single pin fluorescent tube bulbs

2003 Sooner three horse gooseneck living quarters trailer. Very clean, AC, heat, shower, toilet, stove, sink, fridge. Text or call for photos & info. 850-322-2999

Queen Mattress, new in plastic. \$130. Call/text Matt 850-545-7112

BLACKSTONE OUTDOOR FLATTOP GRIDDLE 28", MODEL NUMBER 1605, 2 burner, purchased in 2020. Clean, works well, only used a few times. Includes cover. \$200. OBO; 850-408-4989

22" Blackstone griddle with hood, stand, propane hoses and cover. Already seasoned. \$125. 30 Amp RV surge protector with digital display. \$125 (850) 556-6078

AMP KOHLER POWER WELDER/GENERATOR/COMPRESSOR Multiplex 9600RS, New never used, 6500 W, 110 PSI, 50 – 200 Amp List \$9,450 Sale Price \$3,500. 850-545-6047

Better Built Truck Tool Box – Model #79211098. Aluminum, low profile, black gloss. Dimensions: L 71.5 ", W 19", D 13". \$150. Very good condition. Text inquiries to: 850-766-5670

Spitfire Pro 4 – wheel mobility scooter with extended life battery, color red, easy disassembly, and still under warranty. Asking \$800. Call Karen at 850-544-3085

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**

*Deadlines are the first day of the month preceding the month of publication (For example, June 1st is the deadline for the July/August edition.)

Mail ads to: "The Current", Talquin Electric Cooperative PO Box 1679, Quincy, FL 32352-1679 or email to: tradingpost@talquinelectric.com

REAL ESTATE

Beautifully Furnished Room with Walk – In Closet for rent! Everything included! Utilities, safe touch security, Wi-Fi, Dish TV service. Convenient to I – 10, Apalachee Pkwy. \$550 room rate, \$50 background fee, \$550 deposit. 12-month lease. Based on single occupancy. No pets. Available 7/1/22 CALLS ONLY PLEASE 850-284-4892 – Debi

Mobile Home, 92 Fleetwood DW, 24 x 48, 3 br/2 ba, A/C, fridge and stove. Needs work. Buyer must obtain necessary permits and remove from current location. \$5,000 OBO Call 850-508-1554

SERVICES

REMODELING – Painting flooring, fencing, decks, siding all types of remodeling services.

References available. Call 850-792-0482

Caregiver, experienced female, non-smoker, pet friendly, honest, dependable and patient. Open to all companion aide. Leave message 850-875-3041

LOOKING FOR

SWF, 50, seeking SWF roommate. Doublewide near Lake Talquin on dirt road. Shared common areas. 1 BR/1 Bath. \$165 wk w/\$165 dep OR \$625 mo w/\$625 dep. Serious replies please (850) 694-3421

AUTO & IMPLEMENT

Class C 2011 Four Winds Freedom Elite 31R. \$50,000. Mileage 40,340. New tires, refrigerator, convection, and coach batteries, newly repainted roof, TV, DVD. Email cathyshops@comcast.net

TAN 1995 ACURA LEGEND, Original Owner/New Paint, New Tires, Clean Inside and Out, Major transmission etc. repair needed. Asking \$2500 OBO. Text 850-273-0600

Ford 3600 Diesel Tractor with 5' each: bucket, heavy-duty disc and mower. \$7,000. Call Lewis 850-926-2978

2008 Husqvarna tractor/mower, 48-inch mower deck; 23 Horse Power Twin engine. Recently checked out. No problems found. \$695.00 Call: Denton at 850-402-9055

1995 Mustang GT 5.0 engine. 80,000 miles. Electrical problems. 1987 Corvette, targa roof. No engine or trans. Make offer for both. Danny @ 850-727-3329. Leave message



« MOVE OVER »

« IT'S THE LAW »

When approaching an authorized emergency, sanitation, or utility service vehicle, 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 Non-Cook Recipes

Avocado Tuna Salad

Recipe from Natasha's Kitchen (<https://natashaskitchen.com/avocado-tuna-salad-recipe/>)

Ingredients:

15 ounces of tuna in oil, drained and flaked, (3 small cans)	1/4 cup cilantro, (1/2 of a small bunch)
1 English cucumber, sliced	2 tablespoons lemon juice, freshly squeezed
2 large or 3 medium avocados, peeled, pitted & sliced	2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
1 small/medium red onion, thinly sliced	1 teaspoon of sea salt, or to taste
	1/8 teaspoon of black pepper

Instructions:

1. In a large salad bowl, combine: sliced cucumber, sliced avocado, thinly sliced red onion, drained tuna, and 1/4 cup cilantro.
2. Drizzle salad ingredients with 2 tablespoons lemon juice, 2 tablespoons olive oil, 1 teaspoon salt and 1/8 teaspoon black pepper (or season to taste).
3. Toss to combine and serve.



Peanut Butter Overnight Oats

Recipe from Natasha's Kitchen (<https://minimalistbaker.com/peanut-butter-overnight-oats/>)

Ingredients:

1/2 cup unsweetened plain almond milk (or substitute water or milk)	1 tablespoon maple syrup (or substitute coconut sugar, organic brown sugar, or stevia to taste)
3/4 tablespoon chia seeds	1/2 cup rolled oats (rolled oats are best versus steel cut or quick cooking)
2 tablespoons natural salted peanut butter or almond butter (creamy or crunchy, or substitute other nut or seed butter)	

Toppings (optional):

- Sliced banana, strawberries, or raspberries
- Flaxseed meal or additional chia seed
- Granola

Instructions:

1. Add almond milk, chia seeds, peanut butter, and maple syrup to a Mason jar or small bowl with a lid. Stir with a spoon to combine.
2. Add rolled oats and stir a few more times. Then press down with a spoon to ensure all oats have been moistened and are immersed in almond milk.
3. Cover securely with a lid or seal and set in the refrigerator overnight (or for at least 6 hours) to set/soak.
4. The next day, open and enjoy as is or garnish with desired toppings.
5. Overnight oats will keep in the refrigerator for 2-3 days. Not freezer friendly.



SUBMIT YOUR RECIPES

If you have some tasty recipes that you would like to share, submit them to us at TradingPost@talquinelectric.com, drop them off at any of our Member Service offices, or mail to us at PO Box 1679, Quincy FL 32353.



2022 Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday

Begins on Monday, July 25, 2022, and ends on Sunday, August 7, 2022.

For more information and a list of qualifying items, please review the Florida Department of Revenue's website: <https://floridarevenue.com/>.

..... Come Join the Fun!

Leon County Senior Outreach

A Program of the Tallahassee Senior Center

Come and enjoy fellowship, presentations from local agencies at our monthly Lunch & Learn, and fun activities such as fitness classes and canasta, with Leon County Senior Outreach Programming! Located in six communities across Leon County: Bradfordville, Chaires, Fort Braden, Lake Jackson, Micosakee, Woodville. For more information on LCSC activities contact Betty Morales at 850-891-4065.

To stay updated on the Tallahassee Senior Center activities sign up for our constant contact at: www.tallahassee-seniorfoundation.org

Fort Braden Community Center

Lunch & Learn: Held every third Tuesday of the month from 10:30am-12:30pm. Reservation required. \$6 donation for lunch. RSVP at 850-891-4004.
June 21, Aug 16, Sept 20, Oct 18, Nov 15, Dec 20

Senior Fitness with Wendy: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 10:30-11:30

Chaires Community Center

Lunch & Learn: Held every fourth Tuesday of the month from 10:30am-12:30pm. Reservation required. \$6 donation for lunch. RSVP at 850-891-4004. June 28, Aug 23, Sept 27, Oct 25, Nov 22

Senior Fitness with Judy: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 8:30-9:30am

Sit & Fit with Judy: Tuesday & Thursday, 9:30-10:30am



GRILL & CHILL Festival

August 20, 2022 | 10 AM - 6 PM

DRINKS | FOOD | FUN ACTIVITIES

MUSIC BY
DJ'S AND LIVE BANDS

602 SALEM RD. QUINCY, FL 32302

FOR MORE INFO OR VENDOR OPPORTUNITIES:
850-897-8467
WWW.PHIENTERTAINMENT.NET

Time: Saturday, July 30, 2022 from 10:00 am - 09:00 pm
Location: 5F Farm Event Center, 8583 Salem Road Quincy, FL 32353
Website: <https://www.phientertainment.net/grill-chill-fest>

The Grill & Chill BBQ Festival is a family friendly event perfect for all ages. You'll love the quality of food, live entertainment, and enjoy the arts and craft vendors. Treat your taste buds to mouthwatering award-winning BBQ. What better way to enjoy a classic American staple? The Grill & Chill Fest gives you the chance to pig out on Pitmaster specials.

RAILROAD SQUARE Art District



First Fridays at Railroad Square Art District

**Location: Railroad Square Art District
602 Railroad Square, Tallahassee, FL 32310**

Website: <https://www.artdistrict.com/railroad-square>

Railroad Square Art District is best known for the exciting and popular First Friday festival, which occurs on the first Friday of every month, providing a lively, enjoyable experience with open galleries and small businesses, live music, and great people-watching.

The Steps to Restoring Power

When a major outage occurs, our crews restore service to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible – until everyone has power.



- 1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines**
These lines carry large amounts of electricity. They rarely fail but must be repaired first.



- 2. Distribution Substations**
Crews inspect substations, which can serve hundreds or thousands of people.



- 3. Main Distribution Lines**
Main lines serve essential facilities like hospitals and larger communities.



- 4. Individual Homes and Businesses**
After main line repairs are complete, we repair lines that serve individual homes and businesses.

HOME SOLAR

We know Members are each unique and different and want options that match their interests, including the type of energy powering their homes. Many homeowners are looking for a green, reasonably priced energy source. These two motives are why many homeowners are exploring solar, also known as photovoltaic systems (PV). As attractive and popular as these systems may appear, Members should fully understand the true cost and the operational reality before making a decision.

Sometimes homeowners regret installing these systems because they made a decision without being well informed. For example, did you know that contractors sometimes subcontract solar installation work? Make sure you ask about any additional companies that will be working on your installation. Homeowners should also do a critical evaluation of their home. Ensure that your roof is in good condition and isn't shaded throughout the day – this will maximize your solar productivity. Likewise, solar doesn't necessarily need to be built on a house rooftop. Homeowners can also choose a free-standing system for efficiency.



We recognize that homeowner interest in green energy sources is at an all-time high, and we stand ready to help Members determine best options. Here are the top 10 steps when considering home solar:

- 1. Research, research, research, before investing in a PV system.**
- 2. Ensure that your home is energy efficient before purchasing solar – it may be a better money-saving option. Please see more information on page 14 regarding a free energy use analysis.**
- 3. Understand how a PV system interconnects with Talquin's system – a call to Talquin early in the process is always a good idea.**
- 4. Review your current energy use so you can determine what size PV system to install.**
- 5. Consider all of the costs and review the return on investment.**
- 6. Search for incentives, rebates, and tax credits.**
- 7. Establish a project partnership between you, your contractor, and Talquin.**
- 8. Follow all safety precautions.**
- 9. Choose a reputable contractor/installer – check reviews and ask for references.**
- 10. Maintain good records, including financial records and notes from conversations.**

At this time, Talquin is not collaborating or working with any third party “low cost” or “no cost” residential solar programs. As your trusted energy advisor, Talquin's energy services team can offer a candid assessment of your specific situation. We can provide information and resources without the pressure to purchase a product or service. Unlike a solar company that has one objective--to sell their products and services--we will look at the total energy picture and help you determine the best options for your home. While residential solar works for some, it's not the answer for all.

Downed and Dangerous

If you see a downed power line, always assume 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.



If you see a downed line, notify 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*

ENERGY USE ANALYSIS

Wouldn't it be great if someone could come to your home and help you find ways to reduce energy usage and save money? Talquin offers home energy use analyses to help Members do just that.

Talquin's energy services team looks at each home with specially designed tools and training to provide quality analysis for Talquin Members at no cost. Our energy experts use thermal-imaging infrared cameras to reveal energy losses and heat gains. The results of each analysis are presented in a report outlining the findings, which are supported with photographs and thermal images tailored specifically for each home.

We encourage Members to contact us to find out if this enhanced program is right for their home. Call our energy services team at 850-627-7651 or fill out a request for more information on our website – www.talquinelectric.com/contact/member-feedback/.

Powering Up After an Outage

When the power goes out, we expect it to be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm or natural disaster 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. Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark:

1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines:

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members) 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 consumers. When a major outage occurs, 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 line.

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 consumers in communities or housing developments.

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. Individual Homes:

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always call to report an outage to help line crews isolate local issue.

TALQUIN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Office Locations

Headquarters

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

Quincy Member Service Office

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

Wakulla Member Service Office

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

Hosford Member Service Office

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

Lake Jackson Member Service Office

4808 Portal Drive
Tallahassee, Florida 32303
(850) 562-0125

Bradfordville Member Service Office

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

Service Interruptions (Outages) Should Be Reported To

1-888-802-1832
(live operator)

1-866-899-4832
(automated systems)

Visit us and report and view
outages on the Web at
www.talquinelectric.com

Sign up for text outage notification at
www.talquinelectric.com to report your
outage quickly and to receive
outage information.



Stay Safe - Do Not Go Near Downed Lines

Always avoid downed power lines—the wire could be energized, which could be deadly for those nearby. Quickly report downed lines to Talquin.

Report downed lines by calling:
1-888-802-1832 (Live Operator) or 911
1-866-899-4832 (Automated System)



HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES

Talquin offices will be closed
on Monday, September 5, in
observance of Labor Day.

We will reopen on
Tuesday, September 6.

Notice: WPCA Adjustment

Effective September 1, 2022,
Talquin Electric will increase
the Wholesale Power Cost
Adjustment from a credit of
(\$0.0065) to a debit of \$.0040,
resulting in an overall increase
of \$10.50 per 1,000 kWh. This
change does not impact water
and wastewater charges.

Let's Stay Connected this Hurricane Season!



Mobile App:
Talquin Electric Cooperative, Inc.



Text Message:
Text #Outage to 85700
(must register on Talquin's website
for this service)



Email:
memberfeedback@talquinelectric.com



Website:
www.TalquinElectric.com



Full Service Drive-Thru:
All Talquin offices operate full
service from the drive-thru.



Mail:
P.O. Box 1679
Quincy, FL 32353



Phone:
(850) 627-7651



Social Media:
Search "Talquin Electric Cooperative"
on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.