



## UNDERGROUNDING TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW



Town of Palm Beach  
P.O. Box 2029 • Palm Beach, FL 33480

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### NEXT UNDERGROUND UTILITIES TASK FORCE MEETING

Tuesday, December 6, 2016 – 9:00 A.M.  
Town Council Chambers  
360 South County Road, Palm Beach



### One Town. One Plan. Undergrounding of Utilities Project

The Town of Palm Beach has begun to move forward with the Undergrounding of Utilities Project that Palm Beach voters approved in the March 2016 Election.

The Town has developed a Town-Wide Newsletter to share important updates, milestones and details about the project. To ensure transparency and to be informative, the Town is making every effort to communicate with residents and businesses about the project.

The Newsletter will provide; updates from the Underground Utilities Task Force, project status details, important information and upcoming meetings and presentations.

[READ MORE INSIDE...](#)



## Hurricane Matthew Disrupts Power on Palm Beach

### Other Communities With Undergrounding Experienced No Power Outages

Matthew disrupted power throughout the entire North End of Town north of Wells Road and for about half the customers in the Midtown area. Power was fully restored two days after the storm passed. Due to damage from the storm though, a week later another power failure occurred for more than 500 North End residents. That outage, which lasted more than four hours, was caused by a main power line that was damaged during the storm.

Three communities that have undergrounded or have begun undergrounding their utilities, Jupiter Inlet Colony, Jupiter Island and Gulf Stream, experienced a much different outcome during Hurricane Matthew.



**Dr. Daniel J. Comerford III**  
Mayor, Jupiter Inlet Colony

“I am pleased to report that we never lost electrical power throughout the entire storm. Comcast customers had no problems throughout the night. Best investment we ever made and our residents are thanking us for doing it.

We decided underground services would be better not only for aesthetics, but reliability and safety. You don't have to deal with vegetation [conflicts] or live wires laying in water.

**For a barrier island town with lush subtropical vegetation, buried utilities have turned out to be the right choice...**”



**Gene Rauth**  
Town Manager, Jupiter Island

“Overall, the Town of Jupiter Island fared very well as Hurricane Matthew (as a CAT 3 storm) brushed by us a little bit further out to sea than anticipated.

At this point we are not aware of any flooding on the Island. The total rainfall in the Town at this point is about 2 inches. **We had no reports of lost power within the Town of Jupiter Island.**”



**Scott Morgan**  
Mayor, Gulf Stream

“Down in the south end of town [before undergrounding], where with the slightest breeze we would lose power, **we did not lose power in the storm, which had sustained 40-mile-an hour winds and 60-mile-an hour gusts. It's the first time ever, where I live, that occurred.** And of course that's occurring after we went underground.”

### Facts About Undergrounding

- The Town currently is served with electric service from the mainland by electric and communications lines below the Intracoastal Waterway.
- Currently, there are more than 30 miles of underground electrical wires servicing homes and businesses in the Town.
- The Town Council voted to underground overhead utilities and in the March 2016 Election, Town voters approved the funding for the project.
- FPL states in their reports that undergrounding will improve utility reliability during strong winds and storms.

## Underground Utilities Task Force Update

The Town of Palm Beach Underground Utilities Task Force remained an advisory committee and assumed the role of a Citizen's oversight committee to better monitor the undergrounding project, ensure transparency, accountability and that the project stayed on schedule and within budget.

The Underground Utilities Task Force is made up of local Palm Beach residents who have years of experience in architectural design, engineering, financing, public works projects and legal matters.



## Undergrounding Of Utilities Project Status

An Undergrounding Project Team has been assembled to complete the project work. Led by Kimley-Horn, one of the country's premier design consulting firms, the Project Team consists of local engineering and communications firms and coordinates the undergrounding project with representatives of Florida Power & Light, Comcast and AT&T. The Project Team works in conjunction with the Town Engineer, Public Works Department and the Town Manager and provides monthly updates to the UUTF. **You can meet the Project Team at [www.Undergrounding.info/project-team](http://www.Undergrounding.info/project-team).**



## Town-Wide Broadband Assessment Study

Magellan Advisors was selected to perform a Broadband Infrastructure Assessment to consult the Town on the best approach to provide residents broadband technology. To assist in the Broadband Assessment, a Fiber-Optic Feasibility Study is being conducted to see how residents and businesses use broadband internet and to measure their Internet speed to identify where improvements are needed. Residents are being asked to complete an online survey which will take less than 7 minutes and must be completed from a home or business in the Town. **The survey will help with the Feasibility Study being conducted and can be taken online at [www.Undergrounding.info/Broadband](http://www.Undergrounding.info/Broadband)**



## Community Outreach

On Wednesday, November 2, 2016 the Town of Palm Beach provided an undergrounding update at the Citizens' Association. Town Manager Tom Bradford discussed the progress of the undergrounding project, upcoming milestones, and addressed questions from the audience. The Citizens' Association presentation was the kick-off meeting as the season restarts in Palm Beach. The Town is engaging with community groups across the Island to keep residents and business owners informed.

**Request a presentation: Call 561.227.7077 or email [Underground@TownofPalmBeach.com](mailto:Underground@TownofPalmBeach.com)**



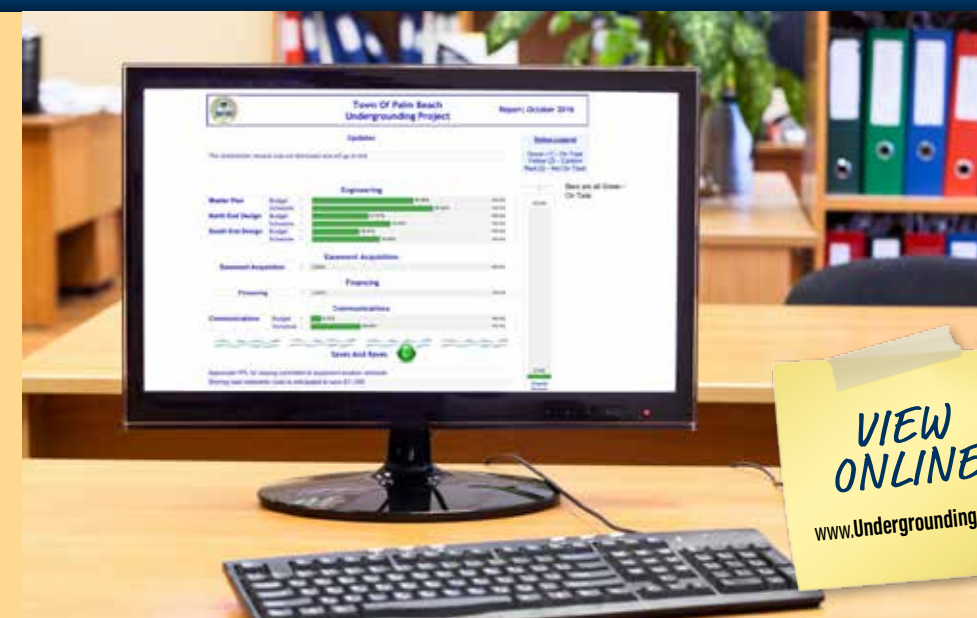
## Meter Box Inspection Completed

Phase 1 of the Undergrounding Project consists of homes north of Onondaga Avenue and south of Sloans Curve. Town Engineers and FPL have completed the meter box inspections to ensure current meter boxes are able to accept underground electrical utilities. Both the Town and FPL worked collaboratively to complete this inspection to help expedite the process and field work.

**More information about the Undergrounding Project phases can be read online at: [www.undergrounding.info/phasing-and-sequencing-plan/](http://www.undergrounding.info/phasing-and-sequencing-plan/)**

## ON SCHEDULE AND ON BUDGET!

The UUTF and Town Council implemented an Undergrounding Project Dashboard, a publicly available document that tracks and monitors the planning, design, schedule, budget and financing of the project.



## Reducing Costs and Improving Efficiency

The Undergrounding Project Team has been tasked with identifying cost saving opportunities within the project as well as ensuring the project is utilizing the latest technology to increase transparency and improve efficiency.

- ✓ The Project Team and the Town's Public Works Department have reused previous project studies and surveys for the benefit of this project. **This has saved approximately \$66,000 in project costs since the design phase began in June.**
- ✓ **The Town has identified \$11,000 in project savings** by sharing in the restoration costs for the roadway ponding repairs on Ibis Isle.



**UNDERGROUNDING TODAY**  
*For A Better Tomorrow!*