

The Shoreline

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Candidates for re-election

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Light Bulbs 101

By Tom Powers

The failure of Congress to repeal the "incandescent light bulb ban" last month has led to a lot of discussions, many of which contained misnomers and exaggerations, as well as a rush to stock up on light bulbs. Hopefully this article will help you better understand what's really happening.

To begin with, there is no "ban" on incandescent light bulbs. There is a new "efficiency standard" for lighting that most existing incandescents can't meet, so they will be phased out as the new standard takes effect. What we now refer to as the 75 watt and 100 watt bulbs must comply with this standard by 2012, the 60 watt bulb by 2013 and the 40 watt bulb by 2014. Many specialty bulbs are not affected at all by this new standard – appliance, rough duty and 3-way for example.

Incandescent Light Bulbs have been our household standard. They were invented by Thomas Edison in 1879, modified by GE in 1906 and there has been little improvement since. While they give off a good spectrum of light, 90% of the energy we put into them is given off as heat instead of light so they are very inefficient.

Halogen Bulbs are really an improved incandescent bulb. Slightly more efficient, they are marginal at meeting the new specifications. They are excellent for spotlights, and the popular Par30 65 watt indoor flood lamp is not affected by the new legislature. A 60 watt incandescent bulb can be replaced by a 43 watt halogen for about the same price.

CFLs are fluorescent light tubes bent into a spiral design, and they will be, at least for awhile, the new standard

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Hippie Owl & His Rolling Stones Buddy. Photo by Chamber of Commerce

Sculpt for Wildlife

By Trish Slape

After a few days of the threat of impending storms, the Outer Banks Wildlife Shelter (O.W.L.S.) wasn't sure if it would be having its 20th Annual Sculpt for Wildlife. But, gentler weather prevailed, and the event moved forward as scheduled. Generously hosted by the Atlantis Lodge on its beautiful sparkling beach, Sculpt for Wildlife found that the day dawned calm and with enough cloud cover to keep it relatively comfortable. Although participation was slim with the threat of inclement weather scaring off many of our seasoned team participants and many newcomers, those who did come out for the day found that the teams who braved the few scattered showers were definitely up for the task.

All of the sand-sculpting teams did a remarkable job in portraying their vision: James Speciali of Cedar Point won Best in Show – Children's Division for his "Ralph the Rat." The Jones Family of Four Oaks won Best in Show - Family Division – for their "Who's Coming to Dinner" and "Hot Tub Antics!" Best in Show Winner – Adult Division was Debbie Pagliughi

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