

Click Here To See The Somerset Nissan Difference ... Free Extras With Our Exclusive Benefits Package! Rt. 22 East, Somerville, NJ

Other editions: [Mobile](#) | [News Feeds](#) | [E-Newsletters](#) | [Text Alerts](#)

Find it: [Jobs](#) | [Cars](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Apartments](#) | [Shopping](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Grocery Coupons](#) | [Dating](#)



SEARCH ALL help1ghtnj



SPONSORED BY: me time

HOME NEWS SPORTS WEATHER OBITUARIES OPINION DATA UNIVERSE ENTERTAINMENT MY LIFE PHOTOS & VIDEOS BUY/SELL CUSTOMER SERVICE

Music Movies Arts Television Theater and Dance Nightlife Games Pop Culture Entertainment and Living Columns



Comment, blog & share photos  
[Log in](#) | [Become a member](#) | [Search people](#)

POWERED BY YOU AND [Courier News](#) HOME NEWS TRIBUNE

## Plainfield group, nonprofit give out light bulbs to help seniors go green, save green

BY MARK SPIVEY • STAFF WRITER • DECEMBER 9, 2008

[Read Comments\(1\)](#) [Recommend](#) [Print this page](#) [E-mail this article](#) [Share](#) ?

**PLAINFIELD** —The light bulbs that recently lit up over several city volunteers' heads just happened to concern, well, light bulbs.

ADVERTISEMENT

**CAVALIER**  
 PRIVATE DINING Regency BANQUET FACILITY

**HAVE YOUR WEDDING WITH US!**  
 CONVENIENT LOCATION  
 BEAUTIFUL SETTING  
 PROFESSIONAL STAFF  
 QUALITY SERVICE

**CLICK HERE FOR A TOUR, PRICING & MENUS**

1 EVERGREEN PLACE • ROSELLE, NJ • 908.241.8505  
 WWW.CAVALLIERREGENCY.COM

In seeking a way to benefit area senior citizens in a time of economic distress, representatives from Friends of Sleepy Hollow, a Plainfield neighborhood association, collaborated with members of HelpLight New Jersey, a Central Jersey nonprofit organization, in distributing six-packs of compact fluorescent light bulbs to about 175 people at the Plainfield Senior Center on East Front Street on Tuesday, Dec. 9.

The 23-watt MaxLite bulbs feature an average life of 10,000 hours, meaning about \$77 in savings apiece over 100-watt incandescent bulbs, according to the packaging. It could all add up to a total of more than \$80,000 in long-term savings for the recipients.

"We have over 600 members here, and even if we don't give them all away today because of the weather or whatever, we will end up giving every single one of these out," said center director Sharron Mitchell-Brown. "It's going to mean fantastic savings for them ... it can't do anything but help us."

Not only do the spiral-shaped bulbs last many times longer than incandescents, Friends of Sleepy Hollow President Thomas Glynn explained, but they also save on energy bills, and in turn cut down greenhouse-gas emissions from the energy plants powering them.

"They basically benefit everybody," Glynn said, handing out bulbs while balancing on crutches and donning a protective boot, present despite having broken his ankle in two places while ice skating with his daughters at New York City's Rockefeller Center ice rink the day before. "It really fits into FOSH's mission statement," Glynn said. "We were once a simple neighborhood organization doing all the things simple neighborhood organizations do, but as we grew, we decided to expand to help the less fortunate."

Milton Murphy, Recycling Coordinator for the Plainfield Municipal Utilities Authority, informed recipients of how to dispose of burned-out bulbs — with a small amount of mercury in each, the Department of Environmental Protection's regulations regarding the process is strict — and agreed to volunteer to periodically pick up boxes of old bulbs from the center in the future.

"This is my town too, you know?" Murphy said.

Recipients, who were required to present a recent utility bill in order to receive the bulbs, were delighted in the free gift, but even more delighted in finding out how much money it could save them.

"Anything free I'm excited about," said Beverly Barnes, 71. "Especially money."



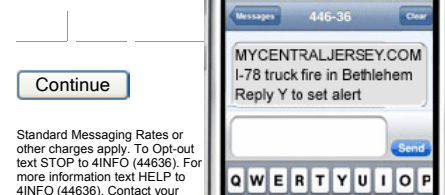
[Buy this photo](#)

Kathy Johnson / MyCentralJersey

Muriel Thomas, left, receives high-efficiency light bulbs from Friends of Sleepy Hollow President Tom Glynn, right, and Plainfield Senior Center Director Sharon Mitchell-Brown, center, who handed out the bulbs to residents at the center.

### My Central Jersey Alerts

Get breaking local news as it happens. Enter your phone number:



Standard Messaging Rates or other charges apply. To Opt-out text STOP to 4INFO (44636). For more information text HELP to 4INFO (44636). Contact your carrier for more details. Powered by 4INFO.

### More News Headlines

[Hearing on plans for Wal-Mart in Old Bridge scheduled for Jan. 6](#)

[Hillsborough adopts plan for GSA Belle Mead Depot](#)

[High school council, youth organization to play host to blood drive Saturday in Plainfield \(1\)](#)

[Readington school board Tuesday night meeting canceled due to weather](#)

[UPDATE: Central Jersey cancels after-school activities; concerts, games postponed](#)

### Latest Headlines

[Canadian citizen held on U.S. charges of sex tourism](#)

[Former N.J. resident says Madoff ruined his finances](#)

[Somerville man charged with drunken driving after car crash in McDonald's drive-through \(1\)](#)

"They're expensive if you buy them in the store," said Muriel Thomas, 69. "I appreciate the effort they're giving for us."

Two Mater Dei High School students, Matthew Erickson and John Caddock, founded HelpLight in 2007 to educate low-income people about the value of compact fluorescent bulbs. With the assistance of Matthew's father, Bernard Erickson Sr., owner of O.K. Electric Supply on Washington Street in Perth Amboy, they last year wrote an application for funding from the New Jersey [Clean Energy](#) Program at the Board of Public Utilities.

This spring the teens learned they had received \$100,000 to buy 60,000 bulbs, and they proceeded to organize them in packages of six and seek low-income recipients through subsidized housing complexes, senior citizen centers, social service agencies.

For more information on HelpLight New Jersey, [e-mail](#) Erickson or Caddock at [mberickson@helplightnj.com](mailto:mberickson@helplightnj.com) or [jscaddock@helplightnj.com](mailto:jscaddock@helplightnj.com).

**Mark Spivey: 908-707-3144; [mspivey@MyCentralJersey.com](mailto:mspivey@MyCentralJersey.com).**

### In Your Voice

READ REACTIONS TO THIS STORY



**YAHOOO** wrote:

Replying to Nestor:

*These light bulbs contain mercury. Has information also been dispensed informing the recipients how and where they are to dispose of bulbs?. They should not be disposed of in the trash nor in recycling bins.*

Excellent point....but people don't care. They will be concerned when all the water supplies and open areas have mercury contamination.

12/10/2008 11:42:53 AM

[Recommend](#) [New post](#) [Reply to this Post](#) [Report Abuse](#)



**Nestor** wrote:

These light bulbs contain mercury. Has information also been dispensed informing the recipients how and where they are to dispose of bulbs?. They should not be disposed of in the trash nor in recycling bins.

12/9/2008 11:59:07 PM

[Recommend](#) [New post](#) [Reply to this Post](#) [Report Abuse](#)

You must be logged in to leave a comment. [Login](#) | [Register](#)

1000characters left

**Get \$300/year savings on your home phone bill.**

Do you have high speed internet? Get unlimited local and long distance calling plus over 25 features like call waiting, call forwarding, and voicemail—all for a low \$24.99/month. [Learn more...](#)



Partners: [Jobs: CareerBuilder.com](#) [Cars: Cars.com](#) [Apartments: Apartments.com](#) [Shopping: ShopLocal.com](#)

[HOME](#) | [NEWS](#) | [SPORTS](#) | [WEATHER](#) | [OBITUARIES](#) | [OPINION](#) | [DATA UNIVERSE](#) | [ENTERTAINMENT](#) | [MY LIFE](#) | [PHOTOS & VIDEOS](#) | [Buy/Sell](#) | [CUSTOMER SERVICE](#) | [Site Map](#)

[Terms of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [About Us](#) | [Subscribe](#)

Copyright ©2007 ... Use of this site signifies your agreement to the Terms of Service and Privacy Policy , updated March 2007.

