

Have You Heard ...? Back to School and More

Author : David Gurliacci

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Here's the low down on what's up around town:

What the first day of school on Thursday looked like at Royle and Holmes:

XL Catlin, a global property and casualty insurance company with an office in Stamford's South End, has awarded an \$8,000 grant to Person-to-Person, which the agency will use for its [scholarship program](#).

Many of the students receiving scholarships are the first in their families to attend college, said Ceci Maher, executive director of the charity. A total of 80 percent of the students P2P helps go on to graduate from college — a rate a well above the national average of 26 percent for college students from low-income households, according to P2P.

Not only is the company giving money, but employees from XL Catlin regularly volunteer at Person-to-Person.

Face it: If you bought eclipse glasses, you're not going to find an opportunity to use them again (unless you're the object of Carly Simon's scorn, taking a flight in your jet up to Nova Scotia), so why not recycle them? Somebody else could have some fun with them, too.

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"[Astronomers Without Borders](#) is hosting an eclipse glasses donation program," according to the Darien Library emailed newsletter. "They'll send your glasses to schools in South America and Asia for their eclipses in 2019. The eclipse glasses are only certified as safe to use for three years, so they won't be useful for the next U.S. total solar eclipse in 2024."

You won't remember where you put those glasses seven years from now, and they won't be safe. Give 'em up.

Bring your eclipse glasses to Darien Library's front desk between Wednesday, Sept. 6 and Wednesday, Sept. 13. The library will handle mailing them to the organization.

Join State Rep. Terrie Wood and invited guests from AARP's Fraud Watch Network for a presentation on the "Con Artists' Playbook" at the Senior Center from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., Monday, Sept. 18.

Wood will also explain major acts affecting seniors that passed during the 2017 legislative session. For more information, call 860-240-8700 or email Terrie.Wood@housegop.ct.gov.

On Tuesday, Sept. 19, New Canaan–Darien & Rowayton Magazine will present The 2nd Annual Darien's Best Bartender Contest, in the town's scenic Grove Street Plaza from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Local mixologists will design signature cocktails and entertain attendees, who will have the opportunity to sample drinks prepared with select ingredients and vote for their favorites. The cocktail with the most votes will be featured (along with photos of guests and competitors) in the November/December issue of New Canaan-Darien & Rowayton magazine, which is sponsoring the event.

The event will also have live music and seasonal light bites prepared by chefs from a variety of local restaurants, including The Waters Edge at Giovanni's, Center Street Public House, Darien Butcher Shop, Jimmy's Southside Tavern, Estia's Back Porch Cafe, Fjord Fish Market, Rory's Restaurant and The Melting Pot.

Liquor will be provided by Valor Spirits, and water will be provided by exclusive water sponsor VOSS Artesian Water. Sponsors also include William Pitt - Sotheby's International Realty, Helen Ainson, Le

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Boudoir and The Gardener's Center and Florist.

A portion of ticket proceeds from Darien's Best Bartender Contest will benefit The [Community Fund of Darien](#). Limited tickets are available for Darien's Best Bartender Contest. Tickets purchased in advance are \$25 each, or \$30 at the door. To purchase tickets, please visit [NewCanaanDarienMag.com](#). The rain date for the event is Wednesday, September 20.