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# Father's Day: Daughter's Love Inspired a Nation to Celebrate Dad

This Sunday, June 15, is Father's Day. A tradition in the United States spanning more than a century, Father's Day began as one daughter's tribute to her father, and evolved over the years to become a beloved national holiday.

The concept of a day to honor fathers is primarily credited to Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Wash. Born in Arkansas in 1882, she was the eldest of six siblings and the only daughter. She and her family traveled westward when she was a young child, settling in Spokane. After the death of her mother when she was 16, she and her five brothers were raised by their father, a Civil War veteran. A single parent raising six children faces many challenges today — William Jackson Smart did so in an era before modern conveniences, medicine or transportation.

Having witnessed her father's devotion to his children, Mrs. Dodd sought to establish a day recognizing fathers for their dedication to their families. She was further inspired after hearing a sermon in 1909 celebrating mothers. Mrs. Dodd, now married and a mother herself, felt it was time that fathers received their due as well.

Mrs. Dodd began her campaign in 1910 by presenting a petition to the Spokane Ministerial Alliance, appealing to its membership to recognize fathers during church services on June 5, which was her father's birthday. The Ministerial Alliance responded that it needed more time to prepare sermons, and instead planned the observance for June 19. On that day, the Reverend Dr. Conrad Bluhm, Mrs. Dodd's pastor at the Old Centenary Presbyterian Church in Spokane, who had supported her in her petition to the Ministerial Alliance, delivered the first Father's Day sermon. Pastors at other churches likewise lauded fathers in their own sermons. The

idea of honoring fathers spread beyond local congregations as well, with Spokane's mayor and the governor of Washington state issuing Father's Day proclamations.

The popularity of a day for dads continued to gain momentum after seven national newspapers published stories about the inaugural celebrations. In the years that followed, during their respective administrations, Presidents Woodrow Wilson and Calvin Coolidge both championed a day to honor fathers. In 1966 President Lyndon Johnson signed a proclamation for the third Sunday in June to be recognized as Father's Day; it was made a permanent national holiday by President Richard Nixon in 1972.

More than 60 years after first bringing her petition before the Ministerial Alliance in Spokane, Sonora Smart Dodd — who was honored as the founder of Father's Day at the New York World's Fair in 1940 and again at the 1974 World's Fair Expo in Spokane — saw her dream of official recognition for fathers come to fruition. She died in 1978 at the age of 96.

We wish all fathers, grandfathers, surrogate fathers and father figures a happy and healthy Father's Day. We encourage their children, and all whose lives they have enriched, to remember them in a special way this Sunday — and every day throughout the year.

On a special note, we want to acknowledge all those fathers who cannot be with their families this Father's Day because they are serving our country overseas, as well as those fathers here at home who have sons and daughters in the military and wait for their return. To all these fathers and their families, your sacrifice is not forgotten.

Happy Father's Day.



## Voter Interest in Primary Elections Sinks to Record Low

Last week's Primary Election again has demonstrated that New Jersey's system vanquishes voters' interest. Whether unaffiliated, Democrat or Republican, voters are staying away from the polls. Many voters in N.J. are not affiliated with a party — there was only about 7 percent turnout overall, depending in how one makes the calculation.

Locally, only 300 of Garwood's 2,770 registered voters participated in the Primary Election, which amounted to little more than 10 percent of the town's voters. Only 212 of those voters took part in the Republican Primary, where voters decided to change mayoral candidates on the November General Election ballot from Mayor Pat Quattrocchi to Sal Piarulli. Eighty-eight voters took part in the borough's uncontested Democratic Primary. If all voters could have participated, isn't it likely that the turnout would have been greater? Would the results have differed? Why have a primary if the seat is uncontested? Should each party propose more candidates for all the voters to consider?

In the 12th Congressional District Democratic Primary where Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson Coleman defeated Senator Linda Greenstein and two other candidates, there were 35,916 votes cast for the four candidates with another 6,570 votes cast for Republican Alieta Eck, who was uncontested in her Primary. With 440,114 reg-

istered voters in the district, that breaks down to only 42,486 votes or a 9.6 percent participation.

As for the 7th Congressional District Republican Primary where Rep. Leonard Lance defeated David Larsen, only 28,714 of the district's 493,828 registered voters turned out to vote in that race with another 8,485 tallies cast for Democrat Janice Kovach, who was unopposed in her Primary, meaning only 37,199 voters took part in that Primary.

And in the closely contested GOP four-candidate Primary U.S. Senate race, only 138,000 of the state's 5,462,041 registered voters showed up at the GOP polls with 197,158 DEM voters casting ballots for Sen. Cory Booker, who was uncontested in the Democratic Primary. Thus, overall round 335,000 voters turned out, amounting to 6 percent of the state's registered voters.

Something must change with the system to have more voters participate in New Jersey Primary Elections. We don't know the answer.

Currently, all registered Democrats and Republicans can vote in the Primary. Unaffiliated party voters can vote if they affiliate as GOP or DEM prior to voting that day. Many voters apparently don't want to affiliate. The deadline to change from GOP or DEM for the 2014 Primary was April 9th. May 13th was the last day to register for that election.



## Letters to the Editor

### Citizens Asked WF Council Politely For Delay in Liquor License Vote

I attended a town council [Westfield] meeting on June 3 after learning about the council's intention to vote to expand the liquor licenses of five local Westfield establishments. The changes, now approved, allow alcohol to be served to customers whether or not they are planning to dine.

I am not happy with the outcome of the vote, but not because I disagree that a change that should be considered. I am unhappy because I think this decision was made prematurely. Despite Councilman Foerst's snippy comment that citizens are uninformed and that this issue has been under discussion for 10 years, not one of the council members could produce any research to support their premise that the change won't negatively impact our town. No study has been undertaken to support making a decision of this magnitude, and even Councilwoman Kimmins agreed that the issue has not been adequately discussed publicly. Yet, the council was unwilling to even consider delaying the vote for a couple of weeks. The need for urgency was also kept a secret. So, based on Tuesday's vote, these five establishments will now have greater latitude to serve alcohol, basically constrained only by a requirement that their revenue be at least 50 percent from food sales.

Since the paper did not record the citizen's comments last week, I urge readers to watch the meeting on Channel 36 so that they may also experience first hand our local democracy at work. In the meantime, I would like to share a few of my take-aways from the meeting:

1. Citizens asked the Council for the reports and/or information used to establish 1) the fact that a change was needed and 2) that the public should not be concerned about possible negative repercussions from the change. No reports or information were provided. In fact, questions posed by the audience were not answered. The meeting "rules" were such that public comments were allowed, but

that no interaction between the council and the audience would occur. At the end of the public comment portion of the meeting, several council members made statements in an attempt to allay concerns, including a comment by Councilman DellaFerra that if one wanted research, one should visit our neighboring towns of Garwood, Cranford and Summit and go to their bars.

2. Citizens making public statements raised concerns that the nature of the town might change, that Westfield might become a destination for those interested in bar-hopping vs. dining, and wondered whether the impact on our kids and public safety had been considered. There was no direct response (per the rules) but the councilmembers did later comment simply that there will be no increase in the number of liquor licenses, and thus this vote was a non-issue.
3. Citizens asked (quite politely) for a stay in the vote. The council provided no reason to explain the urgency, provided no data, fact or information, but instead suggested that these were old laws that no other town in NJ still abided, and thus, Westfield too should change.
4. Acknowledging that the town may certainly be interested in additional revenue — for schools, for sports fields, for repairs — I (in my public comments) asked if we were charging enough for the expanded licenses. These license expansions are clearly valuable, so are we pricing them appropriately? Again, per the rules, I did not receive a reply and unfortunately, none of the council members addressed this point before voting.

I don't understand the lack of transparency, the trumped up urgency nor the hostile and arrogant way in which the council addressed the public. We are all neighbors in a small town, with shared values for our community's safe and prosperous future.

Linda Habgood  
Westfield

### Garwood Mayor Vows To Continue Doing Job

Words cannot express how truly appreciative I am for the loyal support of everyone who helped with my Primary reelection campaign for mayor as well as those residents who cast their ballot for me.

There is still seven months left to my term in office and I do intend to continue to "Move Garwood Forward" doing my job until the very last day of my term.

Patricia Quattrocchi  
Mayor of Garwood

### Westfield United Fund Courts New Generation

As President of the Board of Trustees of the Westfield United Fund, I would like to thank all of the local businesses and residents who supported our recent Mini Golf Madness fundraiser. (See our ad in this issue for a full list.)

This fun family event would not have been possible without the support of these sponsors and patrons. I would like to extend a special thank you to Lisa Natale, owner of Michelle's on Prospect, who provided such wonderful food for our volunteers and participants. We are also grateful to the management of Scotch Hills Country Club for allowing us to host our event there. It was a great way to introduce the Westfield United Fund to a new generation of Westfielders.

For more information, go to www.westfieldunitedfund.org. Together We Make a Difference.

Colleen McDonald Maz, WUF  
President, Board of Trustees

### Other News

#### AA+ Bond Rating for County Reaffirmed

COUNTY — Fitch has affirmed Union County's AA+ rating for its upcoming bond sale. In upgrading the county's outlook to stable, the just-released official Fitch rating cites the county's return to structural balance over the past several fiscal periods, along with expectations for balanced operations in fiscal year 2014.

Fitch also credited the county's "broad and diverse economy" for the upgraded outlook, specifically in the pharmaceutical, technology, petrochemical and health care sectors as well as the county's transportation sector, which Fitch noted includes Newark Liberty International Airport and the Port of Elizabeth.

In addition, Fitch noted that the sale of the county's Runnells Specialized Hospital will "relieve pressures" related to significant annual subsidies. Under the terms of the sale, the hospital will continue to provide its services to county residents.

#### Your State Legislators

---LD-21---

Sen. Thomas Kean, Jr. (R)  
425 North Avenue E.  
Westfield, NJ 07090  
(908)-232-3673

Asm. Jon Bramnick (R)  
251 North Ave. West  
Westfield, NJ 07090  
(908)-232-2073

Asm. Nancy Munoz (R)  
57 Union Place, Suite 310  
Summit, NJ 07901  
(908)-918-0414

---LD-22---

Sen. Nicholas Scutari (D)  
1514 E. Saint Georges Ave.  
Linden, NJ 07036  
(908)-587-0404

Asw. Linda Stender (D)  
1801 East Second St.  
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076  
(908)-668-1900

Asm. Jerry Green (D)  
17 Watchung Ave.  
Plainfield, NJ 07060  
(908)-561-5757

### Garwood Mayoral Nominee Solicits Feedback From Borough Residents

Thank you to all the Garwood voters who put their trust in me and selected me as the Republican nominee for mayor of Garwood in November. I will continue to seek out the concerns of our borough's taxpayers and to present to Garwood's voters my vision for the future. In particular, I look forward to going door-to-door all over our borough in an effort to learn from all Garwood residents and to solicit feedback on my ideas for our town. My mission is to provide competent, conservative leadership to our borough and never to forget that I am a servant of Garwood's residents.

I would like to thank Mayor Quattrocchi for her service to our town

and I look forward to learning from her as much as possible over the next seven months of her term. Our borough's Republican voters have expressed their desire to take our party in a different direction. However, let's not forget that our mayor, her husband, John Quattrocchi, the outgoing Garwood GOP chairman, and many of the candidates for district leadership positions were our representatives when no one else stepped up to do so. I look forward to their support and insights so we will be successful in November.

Salvatore Piarulli  
GOP Nominee for Garwood Mayor

### Congressman Lance Thanks Voters, Prepares for Fall General Election

I thank all of those who have made last evening's [June 3rd] strong victory possible. I could not be involved in public service without the love and devotion of my wife, Heidi, whom I thank from the bottom of my heart. I return to Washington to continue to support fiscally responsible policies in Congress to lower our deficits and help improve the private sector economy across the nation.

I pledge to continue my efforts to stop Obamacare, open more American-made

energy to consumers and serve as a check on the President's executive overreach — views that are shared by the overwhelming majority of the people of this congressional district. And I ask my Primary Election opponent and those who supported him to join me as we prepare for a spirited general election campaign.

Together we can restore our country and get our economy working again.

Leonard Lance  
Congressman, 7th Dist.

### Why I Am Voting 'No' on The Proposed WEA Contract

I believe there are multiple reasons that our recent Board of Education elections have been unopposed, and that as of now, nobody has stepped up to run this fall.

One major reason, in my opinion, is nights like this and votes such as the one in front of me on a new contract with our dedicated, outstanding Westfield teachers. Tonight's vote is not easy, but as I was told by a very wise former board member, "it is your role to always speak up and vote your conscience."

As some of you know, one of the reasons I was asked to run and was elected four years ago is that I am not afraid to give my honest opinion on the tough choices that have to be made in a district of our size.

Let me start with a brief history lesson. Back in 2010, Westfield taxpayers were dealing with an economy with negative growth and massive job cuts, and pay cuts (not raises) for most of our citizens. Many of my friends and neighbors were struggling to make ends meet for the first time in their working lives. Then the unkindest cut of all came to New Jersey education when the reality of underfunding hit Trenton, forcing a massive slash in state aid that forced Westfield and other N.J. districts to cut teachers, programs and implement a fee for all student activities. Our biggest budget challenges, in my opinion, came that year when the Westfield teachers' contract was approved (curiously the night before the Governor's speech) giving teachers nearly 4 percent raises that could not be afforded.

In my mind, that one decision has challenged us and by delaying much needed state of the art technology infrastructure and classroom and building facility repairs. I don't have the exact figures, but I am fairly confident that over the last 10 years teachers' salaries in Westfield have outpaced inflation dramatically and the taxpayers had to bear the brunt of that burden.

So this is the tough part again — I am not saying the raises aren't deserved. Teachers in our country are vastly undervalued and underpaid, compared to other professions. But the fact of the matter is that our budget that pays for Westfield teachers' salaries comes from Westfield taxpayers who continue to see excessively high taxes and live in a county that provides no help at all with funding or legislating any of our local needs.

So here we are back at the table in 2014 — This time I was fortunate to be on the negotiating team and experience first hand how this process works. I will say I walked away with great respect for everyone on both sides of the table and believe that all parties involved kept in mind the main reason we were there: the 6,600 students that walk the halls of our schools daily.

Still, tough decisions have to be made. This fall the halls of the high school will be overflowing with nearly 2,000 students. We still have a wish list of items that we hope to pay for in the next five years. Later this week our kids will take finals in rooms that are not air conditioned, we have auditoriums at the middle school level that desperately need a makeover, we hope to create STEM labs, replace classroom floors and resurface gym floors — the list of critical needs goes on and on. All of these hopefully will get done eventually, but wouldn't it be nice if we could do more of them now.

The way it works in public education is simple math. Roughly 75 percent of the public money we have to allocate goes toward district salaries and benefits. We have very little wiggle room beyond that. It is my view that we could have done better with this contract and perhaps, as I had hoped — negotiated at least one year without an increase to lessen either the tax burden and/or evenly distribute those funds to other critical needs throughout the district. There needs to be more of a balance.

I was the only member of the board negotiating team to not sign the memorandum of authorization to bring this contract forward and tonight, with a heavy heart but a clear conscience, vote NO on this agenda item.

Mitch Slater  
Member, Westfield Bd. of Ed.

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