

## **Editorials**

# **Kent's taste of fame**

## *Tree City's proud moment taps into a wellspring of genuine good feeling*

The toast of the Tree City is no farther than the kitchen sink in any Kent home, but there's no doubt now that the commodity most of us take for granted is worth its weight in gold.

The past week or so proved that, as Kent city water earned the community an unexpected, but thoroughly enjoyable, moment in the national spotlight after being named as the winner of the international "Toast of the Tap" water tasting competition in Berkeley, W.Va.

The city's taste of fame started after the Associated Press carried a news story about the award, which the city's drink of choice earned because of its purity and taste. City officials soon found themselves awash in a wave of inquiries from newspapers, radio and television stations all wanting to know what it's like to live in a town with the best water in the world.

There was even more on tap. "Tonight Show" host Jay Leno got into the act with an inquiry to Mayor Kathleen Chandler, who put her tastebuds to the test in a nationally-televised segment which aired Friday on the late night NBC show. The

mayor, to her credit, passed the test with flying colors.

All in all, the week provided Kent residents with a windfall of positive publicity, plenty of fun and yet another reason to be proud of their community. For the time being, everyone seemed to be able to put aside more pressing concerns to indulge in a bit of good-natured boasting and community chest-thumping that likes of which Kent hasn't seen in a long time.

We join Kent residents in taking pride in "the best water in the world" and hope that they appreciate the hard work of their city water department employees, led by John Kordinak, who do their best to make it something to brag about. We're proud, too, of Mayor Chandler, who proved to be a gracious and effective spokesperson for the community and never failed to share the credit for the honor with the city employees responsible for it.

Like the proverbial floodwaters, Kent's proud moment will recede soon enough. One thing is crystal clear, though. It's been fun while it lasted.