



Craig Bell/The Gazette

Louis Coletta, second from right, owner of Tony's Ice Cream, offers his best flavors to represent Gastonia at the All-America City contest in June. Judges, from left, Barbara Voorhees, Nan Kirlin, Jennie Stultz and Joe Gettys.

Proud to be a Gastonian

Local businesses rally for All-America City effort

Members of a team hoping to win Gastonia an All-America City Award think they have come up with a way to lick the competition: Tony's Ice Cream.

When Louis Coletta, the owner of the company, found out that Gastonia had made the finals of the National Civic League competition, he offered to ship his ice cream to Kansas City, Mo., at his own expense.

No sooner had the team scooped up Coletta's support, the Gastonia-based Choice USA Beverage, makers of Sundrop, offered to add some fizz to the competition.

When it comes to winning the coveted title, you can expect the 30 cities in the finals to pull out all the stops during the June 4-7 competition. Other North Carolina cities making the trip are Asheville, Kinston and Statesville.

The ice cream and soda will be served during an exposition on June 6. Organizer Jennie Stultz expects other Gaston companies will send products.

There couldn't be anything more All-American than Sundrop and Tony's Ice Cream, says Mrs. Stultz, Gastonia's com-



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munity relations director.

"Tony's is a true Gastonia establishment," said Mrs. Stultz, who grew up eating the ice cream.

"There was nothing better than going to Tony's with my daddy and getting a hot dog all the way and an ice cream," said Mrs. Stultz.

Her favorite? Rocky Road "because of all the stuff in it."

On Friday, Mrs. Stultz and All-America City team members made a field trip to Tony's to try to pick which flavor they wanted to scoop up at the competition.

When the team members couldn't

agree, Coletta offered to send Almond Joy, Cherry Cheesecake, Chocolate, Rocky Road and Banana Pudding.

He also offered to send along Tony's Ice Cream hats, cups and spoons.

So what is the most popular flavor? Chocolate.

The hardest to make? It's a toss up, said Coletta. Both Almond Joy and Banana Pudding take an expert hand.

The most popular with kids everywhere? Cookies and Cream, which comes full of Oreo cookies.

In honor of the competition, Coletta has agreed to rename one of his flavors. When the delivery arrives at the competition, it will include Gastonia Grape.

"No one else we know of makes grape ice cream," said Coletta.

And the owner of the business founded by his father, Tony, plans to tinker with the recipe by adding in some fruit.

Psst... You can't use grapes in grape ice cream because the fruit is too tart.

So Coletta has come up with a secret ingredient. And he's not going to give anybody the scoop. Some secrets have to