

Spirit of St. Louis Award Winner Jean Nevins

It is difficult to reveal tonight's winner of the Spirit of St. Louis award without using the words "he" or "she." So I want to take care of that problem at once by telling you that this year's winner is a woman. Sorry, men, but if you thought it might be you, you'll have to wait.

This lady is definitely a public servant, always ready to volunteer to help in community programs and events. She has served on the cemetery board, the housing commission, the board of review, and has been a dedicated worker at the polls. She has been active in Red Cross blood drives. On Apple Pie Day, a fund-raiser for the schools, she is part of the crew, rolling out dough until the last pie is assembled.

She is an accomplished seamstress. She has made countless bridal gowns and prom dresses, and knows how to shorten a pair of pants.

She spent her 30-year career in the office at City Hall.

She customarily rises at 5 a.m., and has been known to greet the paper delivery person with freshly baked cookies.

She has been known to throw snowballs at the squirrels who are stealing seed from her bird feeders.

Last year she detected that raccoons had taken up residence in her attic. She put up a ladder, waited until the varmints left to go foraging in the night, climbed the ladder at 11 p.m. and plugged the hole.

She mows her own lawn, shovels her own snow, still drives, and is out and about when she wishes to be. I mention this only because many people can't do these things at age 87.

She has been described as a human version of the Energizer Bunny.

Please join me in congratulating the winner of the 2008 Spirit of St. Louis award, and a most remarkable lady—Jean Nevins.

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