Three Belmont residents recognized with Heritage Awards

BY DONNA RHODES

BELMONT — The Fourth Annual Belmont Heritage Awards were presented during the selectmen’s meeting on Oct. 20, with three citizens acknowledged in 2014 for their individual contributions to the community through craftsmanship, sports and a dedication to local government.

Heritage Commission Chair Linda Frawley spotlighted the work of Belmont resident Everett Bailey for Outstanding Contributions to Traditional Crafts and Rural New Hampshire. Bailey, who served as District Director for the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Rural Development (formerly known as the Farmers’ Home Administration), can now be found at Canterbury’s Shaker Village where he is a broom maker, or “straw fiber artist,” as he jokingly refers to his craft.

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“It’s a vital community enterprise, Tom Garfield has volunteered to make a difference,” Frawley said.

Today he and his wife Gail run Juniper Knoll Farm where they raise alpacas.

Finally, Chester “Chet” Lewandoski was presented with an award for Exceptional Commitment to Baseball, Belmont and Community.

Frawley called Lewandoski a “classic Belmont volunteer.” He has given his time to many fundraising events at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Belmont Village and has been a huge supporter of Belmont’s Youth Baseball Organization, were also on hand for the presentation last week.

Frawley said the Community Heritage awards were created by the Belmont Heritage Commission in 2011 to recognize “exceptional contributions to the community and its quality of life.” Recipients receive a special citation, imprinted with the image of the Belmont Mill Bell tower, which are presented in partnership with the Board of Selectmen each year during New Hampshire History week.