



## Three Belmont residents recognized with Heritage Awards

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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 a "straw fiber artist," as he jokingly refers to his craft.

"With his time, care and interest he teaches the story of Shaker innovation and entrepreneurship at the nearby National Historical Landmark, sells his brooms at their store and through the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen, and gives yearly workshops," Frawley said.

The Shakers invented the broom in the 1800's and, according to records at Shaker Village, created more than 36,000 brooms and brushes in 1860 alone. Through Bailey, the tradition of broom making at the historic village still lives on today.

Thomas Garfield was recognized for Re-

gional Leadership and Outstanding Service to Town Meeting Tradition. In addition to serving as Belmont's Town Moderator from 2004 until his retirement, Garfield was also Executive Vice President of Consumer Services for the Bank of New Hampshire, a board member of Belknap Economic Development Council, a trustee of the LRGHealthcare Board, served on the Lakes Region Community College Advisory and has been a member of the Lakes Region Rotary Club.

"If 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

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Old Home Day each year, with his ads proudly displayed on the back of the annual program.

He has a passion for daylilies and maintains a garden that Frawley dubbed worthy of any garden tour but most of all, Lewandoski has a passion for baseball.

While at a gathering of Little League parents nearly four decades ago he asked if the players had uniforms. He left

that evening as the first sponsor of a team and proudly continued that support for 37 years. Today, he can be found sporting a baseball cap of his own as he proudly cheers for his grandson, Jordan Cote of Sanborn-ton, who was signed by the New York Yankees baseball organization in 2011.

Cote, along with many past members of Belmont Youth Baseball Organization, were also on hand for the presenta-

tion 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.