

Valley kicks off Textile Heritage celebration with Tuesday program

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VALLEY — The City of Valley is celebrating Textile Heritage Month with three major events — a kickoff meeting, a fun, storytelling get together and a regional meeting of the Southern Textile Heritage Corridor.

At the Tuesday kickoff meeting at Valley Community Center, a crowd gathered inside the Bobby Crowder Room heard updates on a \$200,000 Brownfields grant the city has received and a presentation from an Auburn University professor on how cities like Valley can experience growth without sacrificing its sense of place.

In introducing the speakers, Mayor Arnold Leak said the Southern textile industry was rapidly becoming something of the past. This is something that's been going on in many textile towns from Montgomery to



Richmond along I-85. These communities have now formed an organization known as the Southern Textile Heritage Corridor. Valley City Clerk Martha Cato serves as its president.

"It's not just about heritage, it's also about practicality," Mayor Leak said.

It offers a good forum, he said, for people from textile communities to discuss such issues as what they're doing with their abandoned mill buildings.

Valley has two such properties, Langdale Mill and Riverdale Mill. The city has

a goal of restoring them to new uses. "We have a long way to go, but with people like Camilla Warren, Dan Grogan and Cheryl Morgan helping us, we feel like we can get there."

Warren said it was always good to come to Valley and that she was very pleased the city was approved for a \$200,000 grant. She said it was most impressive that Valley was one of only three cities selected for one of these grants who has already named a consultant.

Mactec, Inc. will be serving in that role.

Mactec spokesman Dan Grogan talked about what his company will be doing in Valley in the coming months. He said there would be an overall community assessment and assessment of multiple sites.

"We're looking at your town as a whole," he said.

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KICKING OFF TEXTILE HERITAGE MONTH — On Tuesday, the City of Valley began a celebration of Textile Heritage Month with a kickoff meeting at Valley Community Center. City officials and interested citizens heard updates on a \$200,000 Brownfields assessment grant the city has received and a presentation from Cheryl Morgan of Auburn University's Urban Studio, who talked about the pros and cons of development and the importance of choosing creative development over sprawl. Shown above, from left, are Morgan, EPA Brownfields Project Manager Camilla Warren, Mayor Arnold Leak and Dan Grogan and Bob Schmitter of Mactec, Inc., which is serving as a consultant on the city's Brownfields project. (Photo by Wayne Clark)