

Rev. King's message

MARKTAVIAN MARTIN, performed a choral poem by Joan Nichols.

said that several years ago a group formed because of con-

onymous with justice, compassion, unity and hope.

Old factories plague Templeton

By Shirley Barnes
CORRESPONDENT

TEMPLETON — The factories and mills that made the town known for its furniture and paper industries are gone, but the residue of past manufacturing practices has come back to haunt the town and possibly endanger today's residents.

Two of those businesses have come under the scrutiny of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Both have been owned recently by American Tissue Mills of Massachusetts.

The EPA cleanup of the Temple Stuart Furniture property and neighboring homes is well on the way to completion.

During the EPA cleanup of friable asbestos at the factory site, many of the buildings had to be demolished. The state Department of Environmental Protection had already been involved with a landfill area at the factory, where polychlorinated biphenyls, metals and other waste products, including crankcase oil, paint thinners, lacquer, glue and residue ash from burning paints, were buried.

The EPA and DEP investigations of the site led to the discovery PCBs had migrated into neighboring residential areas.

The EPA took over the residential cleanup and with the DEP made sure the landfill area was enclosed by a chain link fence to prevent anyone from going onto the worst area of the site.

Two studies were made of the health and safety risk issues at

the factory site. The study by the EPA of the cleanup at the factory site indicates the area now falls within the allowable risk range for an industrial use. If residential or commercial use is proposed for the area, more studies must be made and tests taken under hard surface areas, according to Mary Ellen Stanton, EPA site coordinator for the asbestos cleanup.

"Immediate threats at the factory site have been removed and the site will not have to be entirely restricted," she said.

A residential cleanup of PCBs from yards of neighboring homes is under way and will continue into the summer.

Contaminated soil from the first phase of residential cleanup should all have been removed to an official secure site in Loudon, N.H., by the end of the month, according to Mike Barry, EPA residential cleanup site coordinator.

This spring, the crews will return and complete restoration of the lawns with loam backfill, hydroseeding and replanting of shrubs and trees removed during the PCB cleanup. The additional 27 yards that were sampled in October will be evaluated and, if necessary, replaced, he said.

The other problem in need of cleanup is the former Baldwinville Products Paper Mill, which has remained vacant since the mill closed several years ago. A recent fire, considered to be arson, reminded town and state officials the building contained paper and a quantity of hazardous material that could have caused real trouble if the fire had not been caught in

time.

The mill is on the Otter River, creating an additional danger of pollution.

The local Board of Health is trying to set a meeting with the DEP and EPA to see what can be done to clean up that business.

EPA officials said there are many other sites in need of cleanup in the state and throughout New England.

Many of the old mills that once supported small New England towns have fallen into disuse and might need cleanup.

"Most towns had a single industry, but Templeton's rich industrial past with many furniture factories and mills has made the problems more noticeable," Mr. Barry said.

Many of Templeton's old factories along the river disappeared during the floods of 1936 and 1938 or during the hurricane in 1938.

Mr. Barry said the EPA will remove all of the containerized hazardous waste and will empty other tanks.

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