

# A hall for the future

## Adding space likely to cost Teaneck \$3M

By **JOSEPH AX**  
STAFF WRITER

**TEANECK** – The Town Hall of the future could include two-thirds more space, an elevator and an art gallery.

Town officials hope to transform the old police headquarters, which has lain dormant for more than 15 years, into new office space, relieving the cramped conditions inside the nearby municipal building.

A preliminary plan calls for a new lobby and elevator addition that would link the two buildings. The draft proposal was presented to the Township Council this week.

The project could cost about \$3 million, according to the architect, Anthony Iovino of Little Ferry-based Arcari & Iovino Archi-



Top, old police headquarters, left, near the municipal building. Above, an illustration of a new Town Hall, after a planned face-lift for the police station.

tects, though that estimate would be revised based on the final design. Iovino said current favorable construction prices could drop the cost significantly.

The town already spent \$193,000 to have the building cleared of asbestos and mold. The former police building has been used mostly for storage of seldom-used files,

because anyone entering the building had to wear a protective suit.

Iovino said the project would probably take a year and a half, including design, bidding and construction.

Mayor Mohammed Hameeduddin wouldn't put a timeframe on the project,

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saying that the Township Council's next step is to come to a consensus on the amount of money it is willing to spend and the specific details of the construction.

"I would like to do it quickly, but we would like to do it right," he said. "We're not going to rush to meet any timeline."

The plan calls for the manager and clerk's offices to move to the old police building, along with the Building and Health departments, which now occupy the basement of the municipal building.

The Municipal Court office, which is also in the basement, would move into the current clerk's office, next to the courtroom.

The elevator would make both buildings handicap-accessible, while the lobby could include gallery space. The old building could also house new conference rooms and a large meeting room in the basement that could rival the courtroom in size, Iovino said.



KEVIN R. WEXLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Teaneck officials hope to convert the old police headquarters, right, which has been unused for years, into office space for the cramped Municipal Building, left and center.