

# Clifton residents weigh museum ideas

Layla Wilder

Talk of museums is floating around the Town of Clifton.

Owners of the Masonic Acacia Lodge on Main Street plan to turn a portion of their building into a museum that would be open periodically, William Baumbach, a lodge member, said.

Town leaders are also considering turning part of the old town hall building into a museum.

Royce Jarrendt, chairman of the town's Architectural Review Board and a builder, has proposed renovating the building by remodeling the old portion and adding office space.

Clifton – population 183 according to the latest census – is in western Fairfax County and was established in 1869. A museum would be a first for the town.

Jarrendt's proposal is pending, but he said several people have expressed interest in a museum in that building.

Margo Buckley, head of Clifton's Historic Preservation Committee, said maybe the Town and members of the Masonic lodge can work together to create a museum.

Buckley said having a central place to showcase artifacts would be good for Clifton.

“There are a number of old families who have things they would display if they had a place,” Buckley said.

Lynn Garvey Wark, a member of the town's historic committee and the county's history commission, also likes the idea of a Clifton museum.

Baumbach said Acacia members have come up with a variety of ideas of what to display.

One option is a display in honor of Oscar Scott Woody, a Clifton resident and member of the lodge who died when the Titanic sunk.

When lodge members open the museum will depend on when renovations to their building are completed. It was damaged after heavy rains caused area flooding in 2006.

Jarrendt hopes to bring his renovation proposal for the town hall before the Town Council in few weeks, he said.

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