

City to conduct planning, traffic study

By GREG ROBIN
Staff writer

VERO BEACH — The Vero Beach Main Street Program will be conducting a planning and traffic study Sept. 7-10.

The study will provide information and direction to the city planner to establish city codes.

"You need to change the rules to nurture the kind of development you want," said Peter Jones, president Main Street Program.

The city's population growth has caused the program to address such issues as parking and pedestrian safety, he said.

To conduct the study, the program has hired Ramon Trias, owner of Trias & Associates of Fort Pierce.

Mr. Trias said he will be responsible for helping to determine what codes should be modified, and to report the findings to the program and the City Council.

"Improving the street and public spaces will increase the quality and mass of activity," Mr. Trias said.

The first two days of the study will determine ways to improve downtown, such as parking layouts in

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retail areas. This will involve looking at ways to increase parking, and making sure parking grids are done properly, Mr. Jones said.

The study will feature a Safe-Public Program on Sept. 9, at the Heritage Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., he said. The public will have the opportunity to address issues and give input.

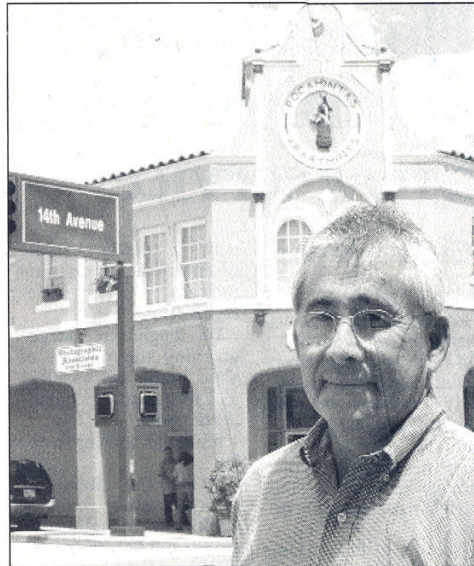
"Anybody with a constructive idea is welcome," Mr. Jones said.

He said the final day of the study will consist of meetings, in which the program and consulting firm will review unmentioned ideas.

The findings will be determined about 30 days after the study ends, and Mr. Trias will provide a presentation to the city

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Cliff Partlow/staff photographer

Peter Jones, president of Mairstreet Vero Beach, is working on a study for the Vero Beach Visioning Project.

Study

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council, as well as a booklet summarizing the study, Mr. Jones said.

"We realize that the best way to do our part is to be really well-informed on how to improve downtown," he said.

The City Council authorized expenditures of \$30,000 for the study, which is funded entirely

through the program. Of that \$20,000 is allocated to the planning study and \$10,000 will go to the traffic study.

Mr. Jones said it's important for the entire community to get involved.

"This is our downtown," he said. "It's in all of our interest to look at ways to improve it."

Article, *Hometown News*, July 28, 2006: The downtown charrette is announced. The general goals and expectations are discussed by the organizers.