Council says second Main St. sidewalk will remain

By FRANCES NIBLOCK Special

Town council refused to reconsider its controversial decision to include a second sidewalk in the Main Street reconstruction project, but town staff will meet with individual area homeowners to discuss concerns and questions about the sidewalk's impact on their properties.

Main Street residents Linda Walton and Richard Claque recently appealed to general committee members to re-visit an earlier council decision to include a sidewalk on the east side of Main between Maple Avenue and Park Street. The east side sidewalk was not in an earlier version of the design, but was added at the request of Georgetown Central BIA (Business Improvement Area) Chair Nathalie Ramakers, who said that the BIA wanted the east side sidewalk for safety and to provide a pedestrian gateway to the core.

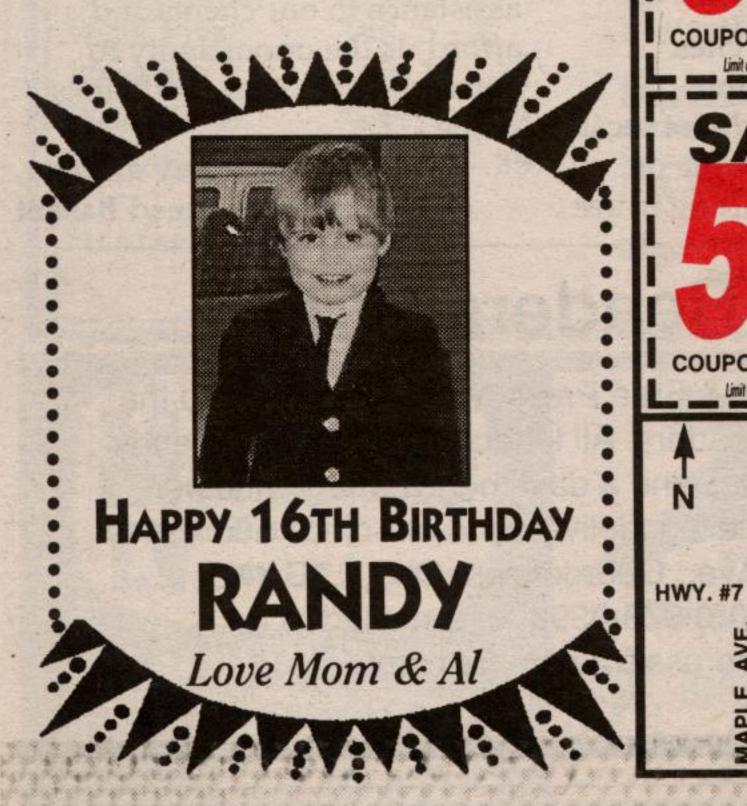
Claque told councillors that he can't find any evidence that the BIA favors the sidewalk, and argued that adding it to the project will visually widen the line of sight from Park Street to Maple Avenue and encourage drivers to speed.

"There has been no rationale, no support, no documentation and no reason given as to why the east side sidewalk should be there," Claque said, adding it's \$20,000 cost would be better spent elsewhere.

Residents affected by the design for the east side sidewalk will be able to meet with staff to do discuss their concerns but there will not be another public meeting on the project.

The \$719,000 reconstruction of Main Street from Maple Avenue to Church Street will take place this summer.

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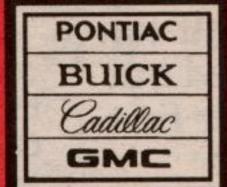


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