

George Scott

## Liberty Academy Expansion in Withrow

The group proposing the expansion of the Liberty Academy in Withrow needs to be stopped. The proposed site of the former Withrow Elementary School was vacated by the Stillwater Department of Education due to the lack of population of students to justify the expense of operating a K-6 school. Now, Liberty Academy is proposing a K-12 school straddling the border of Hugo and May Townships. This involves transporting students over a long distance and will significantly increase the traffic levels in the area necessitating new road construction. New buildings will have to be built to support the proposed program and increase in student body, as well as infrastructure. Since this is a rural area, there are no public utilities. Water supply and wastewater treatment will need to be provided for. To provide for the infrastructure needs the original proposal was to build a 12,000 gallon per day wastewater treatment stormwater management system next to an existing body of water. This was opposed by the May Township Board of Supervisors as it was non-conforming. So Liberty Academy sued May Township for \$1 Million to attempt to coerce the May Township Supervisors to change their mind. Then Liberty Academy modified their plans to move the wastewater treatment facility to the Hugo Township side of the property and dropped the lawsuit. To go along with the infrastructure needs is a supply of clean water. The needs were identified as a 10,000 gallon per day well. This system which necessitates the need for MPCA oversight and affects water levels in White Bear Lake as well as the water supply for a wide area of nearby residents who depend on wells to provide their drinking water. To avoid the need for MPCA oversight Liberty Academy has proposed a system of multiple 1000 gallon per day wells. Liberty Academy appears to be willing to bend the rules to get their way and doesn't care about the affect they have on the neighboring community and environment. This part of Washington County and the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area is a beautiful and largely undeveloped range that should be preserved to support a healthy community and provide recreation resources for the community as a whole. In my humble opinion the Liberty Academy officials represent a larger group of people who are attempting to force their political beliefs on to the American people and destroy the government for their own short term gains. Their tactics are outside the normal processes of a civil society. If they are allowed to proceed their may be no going back and we will loose our way of life that the American people have spent over 250 years to develop.