

Help Us Stop the Closure of Lake Drive

Please plan on attending a meeting at Saint Thomas Academy on **Monday, January 11, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.** We need your input, comments, and ideas on how best to communicate our concerns to the City. An initial list of concerns includes:

- Access to the school-The dead end on the north end of Lake Drive would not be a cul-de-sac. You will need to back up to turn around or try to do a U-turn. This could lead to many problems. It will also drive traffic to our middle school drop off area.
- Access to the school-Vendor trucks will have more difficulty getting to both Saint Thomas Academy and Visitation. Snow plows will also have a more difficult time plowing.
- Access to the school-If there is any emergency on Mendota Heights Road, we do not have another alternative for access to or from the campus.
- Safety-Closure of Lake Drive will force more traffic to the Mendota Heights/Dodd Road intersection. There have been a number of accidents recorded at this intersection, while there have been no accidents recorded on Lake Drive and Rogers Lake neighborhood.
- Safety-Although knockdown ballards will be in place for fire trucks and ambulances, these are not ideal to gain access to the campus
- The City of Mendota Heights has never closed off a neighborhood. This would be setting a new precedent.
- Others?

Following is some background information on the proposal:

The City of Mendota Heights has given preliminary approval to build a roundabout at Visitation Drive and Mendota Heights Road. If bids are in line with budget estimates, construction would begin this summer after school is over and will be completed before school begins in the fall of 2010.

The roundabout construction has concerned the neighbors living north of Saint Thomas and Visitation (Rogers Lake Neighborhood). They believe drivers will try and avoid the roundabout and will end up driving through their neighborhood. They have asked the City to close Lake Drive to avoid this situation. The City Council asked the City Engineer and Safety Officers for a possible plan. This plan is attached.

Saint Thomas received a letter from the City indicating a Public Hearing is tentatively scheduled for January 19, 2010, at City Hall beginning at 7:00 p.m. We have informed the City that we are concerned with the proposed closure of Lake Drive for both access and safety reasons, but would first gather comments from our parents and vendors, and communicate those to the City Council before the Public Hearing.

If you have any comments you would like to make before then, you may either send them directly to the City Council members, or to Saint Thomas Academy to Robley Evans at revans@cadets.com. Thank you and we hope to see you Monday night, January 11th.