

CONCERT

Minnetonka grads perform at Summer Encore Concert.

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BASEBALL

Excelsior Legion coach talks winning season.

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Thursday, August 20, 2026 \$2



Eden Prairie park turns into gallery for Arts in the Park

More than 100 artists and vendors gathered Aug. 15 at Purgatory Creek Park in Eden Prairie for the city's annual Arts in the Park festival. Each

year, the family-friendly event celebrates local artistry while giving art lovers a chance to explore one-of-a-kind artwork, handmade goods, artisan

foods, and unique clothing. A variety of art mediums were featured throughout the park, including photography, pottery, painting, embroidery and more.



(SUN PHOTOS BY NATALIE TRIMBLE)

TOP LEFT: Colorful beaded teapots fill the shelves of the Whimsy booth during the annual Arts in the Park event at Purgatory Creek Park in Eden Prairie Aug. 15. **TOP RIGHT:** Sebastian Hyland sifts through a collection of toys. **ABOVE:** Small prints and greeting cards by local artist Nhat Dang lay across a table at the annual Arts in the Park event. **SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 22.**

Cities along Highway 7 unite to chase critical safety funding

TMO feasibility study brings three phase program to safety, improving mobility

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Over the past decade, crashes, fatalities, and injuries have grown on the 18-mile corridor of Highway 7 with the road seeing five deaths in 2024, making it the deadliest year on record.

Although the targeted enforcement efforts of the Highway 7 Safety Coalition — led by the South Lake Minnetonka Police Department — helped lead to zero fatal crashes in 2025, corridor leaders emphasize that significant work remains to address long-term safety and mobility.

To turn temporary enforcement wins into permanent road fixes, a coalition is forming to chase millions in state and federal funding.

By coordinating their advocacy through a newly studied Transportation Management Organization (TMO) framework, local leaders hope to bridge an \$11 million funding gap for roundabouts and structural safety upgrades along the 18-mile stretch.

The Shorewood City Council got the chance to hear the results of a Transportation Management Organization (TMO) study commissioned by corridor

stakeholders from nine cities and five school districts during its meeting Aug. 10.

After receiving results from the MnDOT study of Highway 7 conducted in 2024, stakeholders Minnetonka, Deephaven, Greenwood, Excelsior, Shorewood, Chanhassen, Victoria, Minnetrista, St. Bonifacius, Minnetonka Public Schools, Eastern Carver County Schools, Westonka Public Schools, Hopkins Public Schools and Waconia Public Schools commissioned an expert team led by SRF Consulting Group with support from Smart Mobility Associates and Toole Design Group to determine future initiatives for Highway 7 improvements and the possibility of forming a TMO.

"We've been working with our communities along Highway 7 to look at different ways that we can collaborate and speak about Highway 7 with one voice. We were successful, to our surprise, to get funding directly from the state legislature to do this analysis and do the study," Shorewood City Administrator Marc Nevinski shared.

With MnDOT being responsible for physical improvements to the corridor, MnDOT committed \$48 million to a 2029 resurfacing project due to its study findings. However, it was determined approximately \$11 million is still needed in funding in

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