



Hermantown Police Department
5111 Maple Grove Road, Hermantown, MN 55811
218.729.1200 // cops@hermantownmn.com

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 12/27/20 to 01/02/21, the Hermantown PD had 138 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

Chief

Jim Crace

Commanders

Mark Gunderson
Jon Esterbrooks

Sergeants

William Marsolek
Griffin Pfeiffer - K9

Detective

Lisa Volk

Officers

Jason Salo
Tim Battaglia
Jon Pernu - K9
Jon Enright
Jake Williams
Erika Johnson - SRO
Jeff Dwyer
Quinn Mischke
Olivia Gottschald
Jonathan Stracek

K-9 Officers

Tuuko
Jack

Records

Jessica Sorensen
Dana Ross
Samantha Knapp

Driving Under the Influence

On 12/29/20 at 4 p.m., a Wargin Road resident reported that a vehicle had gone off the road and hit the caller's tractor, which was in her yard. Officers arrived on scene and made contact with the driver, who was attempted to get her vehicle unstuck. The woman had difficulties getting her license and insurance card out of her wallet and officers smelled an odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from her. The 45-year-old woman admitted to drinking whiskey and when asked how much she drank, she stated "all of it." The woman performed field sobriety testing, including a preliminary breath test that resulted in a reading of .206% blood alcohol content. The woman is being charged with 3rd degree DWI and .08 or more.

At approximately 1:15 a.m. on 01/01/21, Officers Gottschald and Williams observed a Kia fail to stop at the northbound stop sign at the intersection of Stebner and Morris Thomas Roads. The Kia was traveling at a high rate of speed and did not appear to make any attempts to stop. There was another vehicle already at the stop sign that had the right of way and the Kia almost caused an accident with that vehicle. Officer Gottschald activated her emergency lights and followed the Kia for approximately half a mile before the driver pulled over. Upon making contact with the 23-year-old driver, officers immediately detected a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage and they noted that he was displaying signs of intoxication. The man refused to perform field sobriety testing and a preliminary breath test, making comments that he was "drunk" and that he knew he would fail. Prior to the Kia being towed, an inventory search was completed and three open Corona bottles were located. The man was transported to the police department for DWI processing and he became more uncooperative as time went on. The man began using his cell phone to video chat with friends, making light of the seriousness of the situation. He was not listening to instructions and arguing during the breath test portion of the process; he failed to provide long steady breaths, causing multiple tests to register deficient readings. The samples he did provide were all well over .20. The man is being charged with 3rd test refusal, 4th degree DWI, open bottle, and failing to stop for a stop sign.

Theft

On the afternoon of 12/27/20, Officer Dwyer responded to a Miller Trunk Highway gas station after receiving the report of a stolen vehicle. The reporting party stated that she and two male acquaintances had been visiting friends in West Duluth and she was giving them a ride to Cloquet. The 38-year-old woman said they stopped at the gas station to use the bathroom and when she exited the store, the vehicle and passengers were gone. She stated



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that her cell phone and personal items were still in the car; she attempted to call her cell phone and no one answered. The vehicle was entered as stolen in the national system. The following morning, Officer Dwyer was advised by a deputy that the vehicle had been located in Brevator Township. The vehicle had been involved in a shooting and was towed to the St. Louis County Sheriff's Department for processing.

Shortly after 11 a.m. on 01/01/21, Pure Pleasure reported two shoplifters in the store. The female involved also called 911 to report that the employee had locked them in the store; she was swearing and screaming before disconnecting the call. Officer Salo arrived at the store and spoke to the employee, who stated that the doors automatically lock and alarm when someone tries to steal items with an alarm tag. He stated that the pair had come back into the store and video showed the man bend over to ditch the items. The female then kicked the items under the counter and across the room to conceal them. The 31-year-old male suspect claimed he put the items in his pockets and forgot about them. He stated he hid the items after being confronted because he didn't want to get in trouble. Officer Salo then spoke to the man's 36-year-old wife, who had gone out to their vehicle. She was uncooperative and refused to give a statement. Employees at the store wanted the pair trespasses due to the woman being rude and yelling in the store. Officer Salo issued both parties citation for theft. The woman threw her ticket on the ground and refused to pick it up. Her husband picked it up for her after Officer Salo advised that she would receive a ticket for littering if it wasn't picked up. The pair stole six items with a total value of \$94.94.

On 01/02/21 at 6 p.m., Fleet Farm reported a male shoplifter that left as a passenger in a Ford pickup truck. The man had stolen a hatchet and knife. Sgt. Pfeiffer located the vehicle and made contact with the suspect. Due to weapons being stolen, Sgt. Pfeiffer performed a pat-down of the 42-year-old man and located brass knuckles in his pocket. The man initially denied the theft, but later admitted that the hatchet and knife were in the front seat area of the truck. The value of the items taken was \$99.98. The man was cited for shoplifting and possession of brass knuckles. He was trespasses from Fleet Farm.