



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 02/14/21 to 02/20/21, the Hermantown PD had 144 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

Disturbance

On 02/17/21 at approximately 5:15 p.m., officers were advised of a disturbance at Camping World. Employees had observed two males taking merchandise out of its packaging. When confronted outside the store, the males were argumentative and one of them lifted his shirt to show he had a gun in his waistband. A third male exited the store and all of them left in a vehicle. A short time later, a Duluth resident reported suspicious activity involving the same vehicle. The caller located packaging for a handgun magazine and laser sight after the vehicle left the area. Suspects have been identified and this incident is under investigation.

Drugs:

On 02/18/21, School Resource Officer Johnson was notified by the high school principal that he had located a vape in a gym locker of a 9th grade student. The cartridge in the vape appeared to have a thick, oily substance consistent with a marijuana or THC vaping product. The device has been sent to the BCA for testing.

Traffic:

On the afternoon of 02/14/21, Officer Gottschald observed a Chevy Trailblazer on Maple Grove Road with expired tabs. A further check determined that the plates registered to a Ford Explorer. The 57-year-old driver stated he bought the vehicle a few weeks prior and was unaware that the plates were not correct. The man was cited for failing to transfer the vehicle title. The plates were removed and the man called for a tow to get the vehicle.

Just after 6:30 p.m. on 02/16/21, Officer Pernu observed a vehicle with expired tabs leaving Walmart. The 38-year-old driver was found to have a Washington County warrant and he was taken into custody. He stated his wife bought the vehicle six months ago and hasn't transferred it into her name. The vehicle has history since then in the area for shoplifting.

A driver was warned for driving on the wrong side of the road just after 11 p.m. on 02/17/21. The man said he pulled over to look at a bag in the road, thinking there might be animals inside, and he did not know he was westbound in the eastbound lanes.

Accidents:

On 02/15/21 at 7 a.m., Officer Dwyer was advised of a vehicle in the ditch near the Beacon Sports Bar on Hermantown Road. Residents in the area stated that they observed on their security camera two people on their property a couple hours prior. Officer Dwyer was eventually able to get in contact with the registered owner, who stated he sold the car about



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a month before. He provided the phone number for the new owner, but there was no answer when Officer Dwyer attempted to call. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

Shortly before 5 p.m. on 02/18/21, Officer Gottschald and assisting officers were dispatched to the report of a Hyundai Santa Fe that was rolled over in the ditch in the 4800 block of Hermantown Road. The caller stated the driver appeared to be intoxicated and had been picked up by a pickup truck. Witnesses identified the 63-year-old driver of the vehicle; it was determined that his vehicle had rolled across the street from his brother's house and there was a Domestic Abuse No Contact Order that prohibited the man from being at or near the residence. The driver left his dog in his vehicle when he was picked up from the scene, so a family member took the dog to care for it. The driver's son, who had been at the residence, stated that his father had been sending threatening messages to him that day, including a message that stated in part, "I'm coming for you." The tabs on the rear plate of the Santa Fe registered to a Chevy Silverado belonging to someone else and the tabs on the front plate did not match the tabs on rear plate. Reports have been sent to the prosecuting attorney's office for possible charges of threats of violence, violation of a no contact order, driving after cancelation inimical to public safety, altering registration, and failing to report an accident.

Theft

On 02/14/21 at 12:35 a.m., a 54-year-old Cloquet man reported that his Chevy Silverado had been taken from the parking lot of a local bar. He said the vehicle had been running. Just after 11:30 a.m., he advised officers that he had his vehicle back.

At approximately 10 p.m. on 02/14/21, Officer Stracek was requested to assist Superior PD with a gas-drive off incident involving a possible stolen license plate. The suspect vehicle, a Jeep, was displaying a license plate for a Dodge Nitro that registered to a Hermantown resident. Officer Stracek made contact with the license plate owner, who stated that her vehicle had been at a repair shop for 2-3 weeks. Officer Stracek checked with the repair shop and determined that the vehicle was missing.

On 02/16/21, Officer Enright took the report of the theft of a catalytic converter. A work vehicle had been parked in a repair shop lot since the end of January and it was unknown when the theft occurred.