



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 02/21/21 to 02/27/21, the Hermantown PD had 145 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 the afternoon of 02/23/21, officers were requested to check the welfare of a child that was yelling out a motel window for their mother to come back. The caller stated she could hear it from the other side of the highway. Officer Stracek made contact with a 49-year-old man at the residence, who said his daughter was upset that her mother wouldn't let her go to the store. Officer Stracek asked the man about a no contact order involving two of his children that prevented him from being at the apartment; the man stated he wasn't active and had been dropped. Officers were unable to find record of the order being cancelled. Officer Stracek then made contact with the children's mother, who stated that one of the kids involved with the order had been at the home earlier but had just gone to the store with her. The man was then arrested for the violation of the no contact order. He argued that the order had been cancelled, but officers advised him they have to go with the information they had, which was that the order was still active.

Suspicious Activity:

At 6:40 a.m. on 02/23/21, Officer Stracek was advised of a suspicious vehicle in the Burger King parking lot. According to employees, the vehicle had been there since at least 5:45 a.m. and the restaurant does not open until 7. Officer Stracek made contact with the 34-year-old driver, who stated he was there using the wi-fi. When Officer Stracek asked why there are no plates on the vehicle, the man stated he had just bought it from a friend who lives in Wisconsin. The man was advised to park the vehicle at his residence until it was insured and registered.

Driving Under the Influence

At 4 a.m. on 02/21/21, Officer Pernu was on routine patrol when he observed a running F-150 in the parking lot of a local bar, five hours after bar close. He had to knock on the window multiple times to wake the male in the driver's seat. The man then attempted to roll down the window, but rolled the back window instead. He was unable to roll down the correct window and instead open the door and exited the truck. When he opened the door, Officer Pernu observed a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage and he asked the man to perform field sobriety testing. The man stated he had 6-7 beers and a shot that night. His preliminary breath test resulted in a reading of .149% blood alcohol content. The man was issued a citation for 4th degree DWI and .08 or more.

Theft

Just before 5 a.m. on 02/23/21, an Airport Road resident reported the theft of a truck toolbox from outside his house. The victim was initially following the suspect vehicle, but he lost sight as it was traveling north on Miller Trunk Highway. On the evening of 02/23/21, Officer Gottschald contacted the suspect vehicle's registered owner, who stated her 46-year-old son had been using her vehicle recently. The man later contacted Officer Gottschald and admitted to taking the toolbox. He said he was in the market for a toolbox and his friend told him there was one near a dumpster on Airport Road. He was unable to say why he chose 4:30 a.m. to pick up the toolbox and he would not tell



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Officer Gottschald his friend's full name. He admitted to seeing a vehicle follow him after he took the toolbox and he said he thought it might have been the owner. The toolbox was returned to the owner, who stated that the value was approximately \$1200. Reports are being forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for possible charges of felony theft.

On 02/23/21 at 11 a.m., Menards reported a shoplifting incident. A man selected a jacket, removed the tags, and put the jacket on. When the man attempted to leave, employees confronted him about the jacket. He then removed it and left the store, getting into a truck in the lot. Officer Dwyer located the truck and performed a traffic stop; the 46-year-old male suspect immediately exited the passenger seat and stated he did nothing wrong. He admitted to putting the jacket on, but said he did not leave the store with it. Menards employees then contacted Officer Dwyer to advise him that the man had taken a face mask from the store. When asked, the Man said, "What about it?" before taking it off and admitting he did not pay for it. The man was issued a citation for theft.

At 12:30 p.m. on 02/23/21, a 30-year-old woman reported that her 2011 Honda Pilot had been stolen from the Econo Lodge parking lot. She said she started her vehicle to warm it up and when she went back out 10 minutes later, it was gone. The woman stated the vehicle is valued at \$13,000.

On 02/24/21, Ugstad Road residents reported that a check had been stolen from the mailbox. The couple stated that they had written a void check and had it placed in their mailbox to set up an automatic withdrawal at the food shelf. The pair had found out the previous day that it had been cashed for \$227.52. The name it was written out to is a man known to have committed fraud in the area. On 02/26/21, a Copley Road resident reported that she had put a \$600 check in her mailbox earlier in the month and she had just discovered that it had been stolen and cashed. The name written on the check was the same as the other check. These incidents are under investigation.

On the evening of 02/27/21, Officer Williams was advised of a shoplifting that occurred at Fleet Farm. A Loss Prevention employee stated that two male had entered the store together and selected power tools. They then selected numerous men's clothing items. The males made their way to the front of the store with arms full of items, running out the entrance without attempting to pay. The pair got into the rear seat of a maroon Tahoe or Suburban, which fled the lot. Loss Prevention estimates that each man stole \$700-900 worth of merchandise. A short time later, Menards reported a shoplifting in which the male suspect stole of security camera valued at \$344.09. The male suspect exited the store and left in a maroon Tahoe or Suburban. These incidents are under investigation.

Just before 8 p.m. on 02/27/21, Walmart reported a shoplifting in progress. The female suspect had been in the store for approximately five hours and had selected hundreds of items and had changed clothes before attempting to leave. The woman was ultimately lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for felony theft. She had stolen 314 items with a total value of \$2,443.07.