



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

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 02/28/21 to 03/06/21, the Hermantown PD had 191 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

### Suspicious Activity:

On 03/02/21, just before 3 a.m., Officer Stracek observed an occupied vehicle parked in a wash bay at the Corridor 53 Wash. After running the plate on the vehicle, Officer Stracek was advised by Dispatch that the vehicle had been stolen in Pine County the previous day. The 37-year-old female and 21-year-old male occupants were identified and interviewed. Both stated that the man's uncle had loaned the vehicle to them around 1 a.m. and they were able to show officers Facebook messages confirming that. Drug paraphernalia and methamphetamine was located in the vehicle. The vehicle was towed and the parties were released from custody. Both were advised that reports will be sent in to the prosecuting attorney for charges.

On 03/03/21 at 12:15 a.m., Officer Stracek located a running, locked, and unoccupied vehicle in the middle of the lot at a Miller Trunk Highway business. The 2018 Jeep Cherokee was registered to a dealership in Virginia, MN. Upon contacting the owner of the dealership, it was determined that the vehicle had been stolen. The dealership requested that the vehicle be towed.

### Driving Under the Influence

Just before 10:30 a.m. on 03/01/21, Officer Gottschald was requested to respond to a Haines Road gas station to make contact with a driver suspected of being under the influence. The reporting party had observed the vehicle driving erratically, swerving, and crossing the lines. The vehicle eventually pulled into the gas station lot. When Officer Gottschald began speaking to the 37-year-old driver, he appeared to be confused and disoriented and had trouble answering questions. The man also had a difficult time keeping his eyes open while Officer Gottschald was speaking to him. Based on Officer Gottschald's observations and the man's performance during field sobriety testing, he was placed under arrest for suspicion of DWI-drugs. A search warrant for his blood was executed at a local hospital. Officers searched the vehicle and located a number of hypodermic needles, drug paraphernalia, and a baggie containing methamphetamine residue. Charges are pending the results of the blood test.

### Accidents:

Shortly before 9 a.m. on 02/28/21, Officer Battaglia responded to the 4700 block of Hermantown Road for a one-vehicle accident. A 95-year-old man was traveling eastbound when he lost control of the vehicle on the snow-covered road and went into the north ditch. He struck a mailbox and some trees in the process. There was significant front end damage to his vehicle and it was towed from the scene.

On 03/06/21 at 1:30 p.m., Officer Gottschald responded to Loberg Avenue for an accident. A Dodge Ram driven by a 29-year-old man was northbound on Loberg. A 57-year-old woman driving a Toyota Corolla pulled out of the Sam's Club parking lot to go southbound on Loberg when she crashed into



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the Ram. Both vehicles had severe damage and were towed from the scene. The woman was cited for failing to yield.



## Theft

Beginning at 4:52 a.m. on 02/28/21, several guests of a local hotel reported that their vehicles had been broken into. At least two of the trucks had windows broken out. Items taken included clothing, a lunch box, an iPad, and binoculars. One of the victims was able to track his missing iPad to East Duluth. Officer Salo went to that area and located a 32-year-old male walking away from a vehicle carrying clothing and bags. Among the items in his possession were Carhartt bibs and a winter jacket that had been stolen from one of the vehicles in the hotel lot. This incident is under investigation.

On 03/01/21 at approximately 2 p.m., Walmart reported a male and female under-ringing items in the self-check lanes. They paid about \$54.00 for a full cart of merchandise that was later found to be valued at \$788.69. The 19-year-old woman confessed and stated she is the only one involved. She said the man only bagged some items and had no idea what the total was, as she had paid.

On 03/02/21, the renter of a storage unit reported that it had been broken into and a bike had been taken. He estimated the value of the bike to be \$250-350 and said it was neon green. The man stated he had last been at the unit on New Year's Day.

On the afternoon of 03/02/21, a Morris Thomas Road resident reported that three checks had been taken from his mailbox that day and someone attempted to cash them in Superior. The total value of the checks was \$2069.42.