



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 03/07/21 to 03/13/21, the Hermantown PD had 199 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

Assault:

On 03/09/21 at 11:10 p.m., a 65-year-old Hermantown resident reported that his 38-year-old daughter was being aggressive and had punched him in the face, breaking his glasses. The woman told officers that she was in the garage when her father got home. She admitted to confronting him and stated she believed her family has been lying to her. The woman then got upset and told officers to identify the man, implying that she believed he was an imposter. The woman was transported to the St. Louis County Jail for domestic assault.

Disturbance:

On 03/09/21, just before 9 a.m., a passerby reported a disturbance in which a female with a crowbar was waving it around and blocking in another vehicle. The woman then left, along with the other vehicle. Officers spoke with a 35-year-old man, who stated the incident involved him and his ex-girlfriend. He said he was coming to pick up his friend and his 37-year-old ex had followed him to the house from Mesaba Avenue. He said that she did have a crowbar and she might have been swinging it around. He denied that she made threats toward him. He stated that the argument was over him breaking up with her and said that after a short verbal argument, she left and then followed him down to Skyline Road, where they went their separate ways. He was advised on the process for obtaining a harassment order.

Public Assist:

At noon on 03/08/21, officers were requested to check the welfare of a man in the 5300 block of Hermantown Road that appeared lost. Officer Gottschald made contact with the 63-year-old, who was confused and unable to tell her where he lived or where he came from. Officers determined that the man lived at a group home in the area; he was brought home and left in the care of staff.

Driving Under the Influence

At 12:30 a.m. on 03/07/21, Officer Stracek was on patrol when he observed a vehicle whose registered owner had a revoked driving status. The female driver matched the description of the registered owner and Officer Stracek performed a traffic stop on the vehicle. The 25-year-old driver was confirmed to be the registered owner. She told Officer Stracek she was on her way home from a birthday party, but could not explain why she turned into and attempted to drive through the neighborhood of the traffic stop. She admitted to drinking two 8-ounce glasses of wine at the party but did not believe the alcohol affected her driving. The woman performed field sobriety testing, including a preliminary breath test that resulted in a reading of .214% blood alcohol content. The woman will be charged with 3rd degree DWI, .08 or more, and driving after revocation.

On 03/07/21, just before 2:30 a.m., a Sheriff's Deputy came upon a vehicle in the ditch near Hermantown and Almquist Roads. Officer Stracek was requested to respond to the scene, as the 40-year-old driver appeared to be under the influence of alcohol. The man admitted to drinking at the



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Dry Dock that night and stated he “slipped” on his way home. While doing the walk and turn portion of the field sobriety testing, the man stated, “I can’t even do this sober.” His preliminary breath test showed a blood alcohol content of .201%. While being processed for DWI at the Hermantown Police Department, the man initially agreed to take a breath test, but then stated he wanted a blood test. Officers advised him a blood test was not being offered and he refused to perform a breath test. Charges are being requested for 3rd degree test refusal and 4th degree DWI.

Traffic:

During the week of 03/07/21 to 03/13/21, Hermantown officers performed 89 traffic stops. 64 of these were during a Toward Zero Death special traffic enforcement shift. Drivers were cited for a total of 14 offenses and warned for 91.

Accidents:

At 11:20 p.m. on 03/07/21, an ambulance driver reported hitting a coyote in the northbound lane of the 5200 block of Miller Trunk Highway. The caller believed the animal was deceased, but stated it was now in the southbound lane. She stated there was no damage to the ambulance. A second caller stated that the coyote was alive but had broken back legs. Sgt. Marsolek noted that the coyote had dragged itself into the woods and he trailed it until the snow became too deep inside the tree line.

On 03/13/21, shortly before 1:30 p.m., Officer Battaglia responded to Sam’s Club for the report of an accident. A 41-year-old man advised that he had backed out of his parking space and had stopped in the driving lane to turn his wheels and drive away. He stated that he saw a Highlander begin to reverse out of a parking space; he said he honked his horn to get the driver’s attention, but was unsuccessful. The 34-year-old female driver of the Highlander told Officer Battaglia that she did not see the man in his Camry. When asked if she had a backup camera on her vehicle, she admitted that it was dirty. There was minor damage to both vehicles.

Theft

On the afternoon of 03/12/21, Sam’s Club reported a man stole two security cameras and fled in a silver Ford F150. A witness was able to provide the license plate of the vehicle, which registered to a Duluth address. Officer Salo went to the address and saw the truck pull up with three occupants. He observed the boxes for the stolen items in plain view and identified the 36-year-old suspect. Reports will be sent to the prosecuting attorney when Officer Salo receives the video and receipt from Sam’s Club.