



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 03/14/21 to 03/20/21, the Hermantown PD had 179 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 03/19/21, shortly after 11 p.m., officers were dispatched to the Econo Lodge for the report of a disturbance in the lobby. According to witnesses, a 37-year-old man got into a verbal argument with his girlfriend. She stated she went to another room where some acquaintances were staying. Shortly after, the man went to that room and another argument occurred. Another guest had heard the argument and stepped out of his room to intervene. He said the suspect had bloody knuckles and he witnessed the man push his girlfriend. He said the suspect got in his face and he backed away from the man, they moved down the hall into the lobby. Other motel guests stated that the suspect had been yelling and disturbing constantly during their stay. Staff wanted the man trespass from the property, so officers provided him a ride to another hotel. He was cited for disorderly conduct.

Fires:

Just before 9 p.m. on 03/20/21, Officer Enright was dispatched to a possible structure fire on Morris Thomas Road. A passerby had reported seeing huge flames on the property. Officer Enright arrived at the residence and confirmed the fire was a very large brush/garbage fire behind two outbuildings. The flames were well over the top of both buildings and were releasing a large amount of embers into the air, blowing into the trees and onto the roof of the house and outbuildings. It was very windy and there was a red flag warning in place for high fire danger. Officer Enright observed bed frames and box springs in the fire. The 37-year-old homeowner stated he did not have a permit, but was monitoring the fire. He was unaware of the red flag warning. HVFD put the fire out just as it spread to the grass right up to the side of one of the outbuildings. The homeowner was cited for careless/negligent fires.



Driving Under the Influence

At approximately 1:15 a.m. on 03/20/21, Officer Stracek observed a black Silverado traveling southbound on Miller Trunk Highway at a high rate of speed. Radar indicated the vehicle was travelling at 73 and then 68 mph in a 55 mph zone. After performing a traffic stop on the vehicle, the driver stated he believed he was going 60-65 mph. During his contact with the driver, Officer Stracek observed an odor of an alcoholic beverage on the man's breath. The 21-year-old man admitted to drinking around five beers, but said he had a previous DUI and is strict about driving after drinking.



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He performed field sobriety testing at Officer Stracek's request, including a preliminary breath test that resulted in a reading of .124% blood alcohol content. The man later told Officer Stracek that he got home around 5 p.m. and had 3-4 beers, then went to a party, where he had another three beers. Reports are being forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges of 3rd degree DWI, .08 or more, and speeding.

Miscellaneous

On 03/15/21 at approximately 5:45 p.m., a 61-year-old man requested a police standby while he got belongings out of a residence he owns on Old Midway Road. The man had made multiple calls during the previous two weeks regarding this residence and the woman he allowed to live in the home. These calls ranged from police standby to possible drug incidents. He was advised of the eviction process and on 03/14/21, Officer Salo clearly told him that he could not report drug activity just to get the attention of officers. He was advised to contact his attorney regarding his landlord rights. When requesting the policy standby on 03/15/21, he stated that there is an unserved Harassment Order against the 22-year-old son of the woman living in the home. While reviewing the application for the Harassment Order, Officer Enright observed that the man misrepresented several points, including listing his home address as the Old Midway Road residence when he doesn't live there and hasn't for months. In addition, he lists the younger man's address as "unknown" even though he had been staying at the home with his mother. Officer Enright advised that man that he believed he was attempting to use the Harassment Order as a way to circumvent the eviction process. He advised that a report would be sent to the prosecuting attorney for possible charges of perjury.

On the evening of 03/20/21, Officer Stracek was on patrol when he observed a male in the Walmart parking lot urinating next to a pickup truck. There were no other cars around and he was visible to all traffic entering the lot. The 28-year-old man stated he thought it would just be fast and easy to relieve himself instead of going inside. Officer Stracek cited the man for indecent exposure.

Theft

On 03/16/21 at 4:30 p.m., Fleet Farm reported the theft of a long BB gun. Staff advised that two juvenile males were in the store together and one had put the gun down his pants before leaving in a vehicle with a driver that had been waiting for them. The BB gun is valued at \$179.99. At approximately 6:30 p.m. that evening, a state trooper performed a traffic stop on the suspect vehicle for speeding. The 17-year-old driver stated she and her 16-year-old male passenger had dropped the other male at his residence. The occupants both denied knowing the young man's last name. The passenger was verbally defiant during the contact with law enforcement by yelling, swearing, and calling officers names. Parents of the occupants came to the scene. The BB gun was not located during a search of the vehicle. This incident is under investigation.