



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

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 03/21/21 to 03/27/21, the Hermantown PD had 226 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 03/24/21, at approximately 7:20 p.m., a taxi driver reported an incident in which a male flashed a gun at him. The man said that he had dropped someone off near the fire lane at Walmart and a Ford Explorer had gone around him quickly as he began to pull away from the sidewalk. Both vehicles left the parking lot and approached the Miller Trunk Highway intersection. The reporting party said that he got into the right lane and began to pass by the Ford when the male passenger yelled at him through the open window and while flashing a handgun. The suspect vehicle was not located at that time. Officers have identified suspects in this incident and are continuing to investigate.

### Suspicious Activity:

On the afternoon of 03/24/21, a resident reported that a female had come to her door saying she didn't have a phone and she had a flat tire. The reporting party called a cab for the woman. A few minutes later, she saw the female on her phone in the car before driving off.

On 03/27/21 at 12:30 a.m., Officer Battaglia observed a 38-year-old man and 22-year-old woman standing next to vehicles near the entrance to the Stebner Soccer Complex. All appeared well and both were advised to move along for the night.

### Driving Under the Influence

Around 10:30 p.m. on 3/27/21, Chief Crace noticed a vehicle driving on Arrowhead Road without its headlights illuminated. Upon performing a traffic stop and coming into contact with the 39-year-old female, Chief Crace noticed an odor of alcoholic beverage. The female stated that she had one alcoholic beverage. After failing Standardized Field Sobriety Tests and the breath test, she was arrested for 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree DWI.

### Fires:

On the morning of 03/21/21, Officer Pernu was advised of an ATV on fire at a Midway Road address. Upon arriving, he spoke to a 23-year-old man, who stated he recently purchased the ATV and it had less than 50 miles on it. He said he took it for a drive this morning and parked it in the driveway. A neighbor came over a short while later to tell him it was on fire. The fire was almost out by the time Officer Pernu arrived. It appeared to have started underneath the front end.



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## Traffic:

Officers issued several citations for engaging with a cellular device while driving this week. Please see Minnesota Statute 169.475 for more information on this. You could be fined up to \$275.00.

## Theft

Just before 9 p.m. on 03/21/21, officers responded to Walmart for a shoplifter. Staff stated that a female stole merchandise and attempted to leave in a taxi. While officers were on the way to the scene, staff reported that the suspect had gotten out of the cab and got into a vehicle in the lot. Occupants of the vehicle later advised that they did not know the woman. The 35-year-old female initially stated that she was returning the items to Walmart but she had no receipts. Surveillance video showed the woman arrived with a bag that was less than half full. As the woman attempted to walk out with a cart of merchandise, she was confronted; she continued grabbing items from the cart to put into her bag before walking out. The woman had been cited by the Duluth Police for shoplifting just hours earlier. The value of the items taken was \$670.99. Reports are being forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges.

On 03/22/21, Camping World reported that a camper had been broken into overnight. The lock had been drilled out and a TV was taken. While on scene, Officer Pernu took the report of another camper that had been broken into the previous week.

On 03/23/21, the owner of an Arrowhead Road business reported that a catalytic converter had been stolen from a vehicle in his lot. He said this occurred between 03/10/21 and 03/15/21. He stated he located four Sawzall blades that the suspect(s) had left behind.

At approximately 5:20 p.m. on 03/24/21, Officer Gottschald was dispatched to Walmart for the theft of a cell phone. A 55-year-old woman left her phone at the customer service counter and shortly after, a man took it. The suspect was with several other people and he got into a black Ford Fusion with dealer plates. This incident is under investigation.