



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 03/28/21 to 04/03/21, the Hermantown PD had 169 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 the evening of 03/29/21, officers were advised of a disturbance that occurred at a Hermantown residence. Officers made contact with a 30-year-old female, who stated that she and her husband had gotten into an argument earlier in the day. She said that they had recently filed divorce paperwork and that she had been trying to leave the house with their kids when her husband got mad. She said he ripped off her shirt while pinning her down and that he blocked the door and wouldn't let her out of the room. The woman had marks on her from the incident. Officers viewed and listened to several recordings of the incident where the woman repeatedly asked the man to let her out of the room. Officers made contact with the 28-year-old man later that night. He said that the woman had been cussing him out and disrespecting him in front of his kids and they argued about it. He admitted that he took her phone out of her hands. When advised that he was under arrest for domestic assault and false imprisonment, the man stated that he also had marks on him.

Shortly after 6:30 p.m. on 03/30/21, Officer Enright handled a theft call at the Timber Ridge Townhomes. A 29-year-old female said that her ex-boyfriend had purchased expensive earrings for her earlier in the day, but they got into an argument and he wanted them back. She said the man has a key to her apartment for child care reason, and although they used to live together elsewhere, she moved into her apartment earlier in the month and he has never lived there. She stated that he then went to her apartment while she was gone and stole a TV, vacuum cleaner, laptop, a school book, and a stroller for their mutual child. The 30-year-old man admitted to taking the items; he said he bought the vacuum when they lived together and she owed him a TV because she broke his. He was advised to return the items and the woman agreed to give the earrings back. At 10:45 p.m., the female reported that the man had been at her apartment and assaulted her. She said that she had been upstairs with her child when she heard the door open. The man admitted to her that he had made a spare key earlier in the day. She told Officer Enright that the man assaulted her several times in the apartment, at one point lifting her off her feet by her throat. The man eventually left the apartment with her phone. The woman was able to find an old phone to call 911 once it had charged enough to turn on. The woman went to a family member's house, as officers were unable to locate the man at that time. Her father later went to her apartment and discovered the man there; he left in his car at a high rate of speed. The man was located at his residence shortly after this, just before 1 a.m. on 04/01/21. He was taken into custody and lodged at the St Louis County Jail for charges of felony domestic assault, felony strangulation, and interfering with a 911 call. On 04/01/21, Detective Dwyer attempted to interview the man at the jail. During their conversation, he admitted to struggling with opiate addiction. The man began to fall asleep and Detective Dwyer ended the interview and left the room. When he and jail staff returned moments later, the man's face was cyanotic. He received two doses of Narcan before becoming responsive and he was transported to a local hospital for treatment. Detective Dwyer is requesting additional charges for stalking, as he returned to the apartment just over 24 hours after the domestic incident and he has engaged in three separate incidents within the last year that have caused the woman to fear him. In addition, Detective Dwyer is requesting charges for the theft of the woman's cell phone.

On 04/02/21 at 11:10 p.m., officers responded to the report of a disturbance at the Beacon Bar. Upon arriving, officers determined that two separate assaults had occurred. A 20-year-old waitress advised that a 27-year-old man swung at her, hitting her in the ear. Witnesses described a similar incident and said that a group of men brought the man outside while police were being called. The man said it would be "unlikely he punched a girl." The waitress did not want to press charges, but requested the man be trespassing. At that time, the victim of the second assault declined to speak with officers and declined medical attention; his wife arrived on scene and transported him to a local hospital. Witnesses at the scene had advised officers that the 32-year-old man had been shouting slurs at another customer and was "running his mouth." The man told Officer Pernu that he didn't know why the group of men that jumped him were mad at him and denied using racial slurs. Officer Pernu was advised that the man likely had a broken collarbone. Medical records have been requested, along with surveillance video from the bar. This incident is under investigation.



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Parking:

On the evening of 03/30/31, a caller reported that a Ford Explorer had parked in a handicapped spot at Walmart. The caller stated there was no placard displayed and the vehicle had done the same thing last week. Officer Stracek made contact with the male driver, who provided a placard for his disabled mother, who was in the passenger seat. He was advised to hang it when parked in the handicapped zone.

Traffic:

On 03/31/21, just after 3 a.m., Officer Stracek observed a silver Acura pull into the Kwik Trip lot on Haines Road. He noted that this vehicle matched the description of a vehicle that fled from a deputy earlier in the evening. The front license plate of the vehicle was from a dealer and the rear plate registered to a Ford Focus. The male driver was aware of Officer Stracek's squad and he quickly pumped gas and left the lot without turning his headlights on. The vehicle accelerated at a high rate of speed down Maple Grove Road, averaging speeds of 120 mph as Officer Stracek pursued. The pursuit was terminated at Lavaque Road, but Officer Stracek received video of the suspect and is attempting to identify him.

On the afternoon of 04/02/21, Officer Stracek observed a vehicle leave the Walmart lot. The vehicle was not displaying license plates and the windshield was cracked, so he performed a traffic stop on it. As he approached the vehicle, he observed a yellow handwritten temp tag in the rear window; Minnesota no longer issues handwritten temp yellow papers. The driver gave Officer Stracek his name and stated he recently purchased the vehicle from a friend in Superior who has a small dealership. The VIN on the man's insurance card was incorrect and the vehicle was not registered in Minnesota or Wisconsin. In addition, Officer Stracek was unable to find the man's information on file in Minnesota or Wisconsin. The man agreed to go to the St. Louis County Jail to be fingerprinted to prove his identity, as he claimed he did not have his driver's license with him. The jail was able to identify the 39-year-old man, whose name was not what he provided to Officer Stracek. The man had three active Douglas County warrants and stated he gave a false name because he didn't want to get in trouble. Reports have been forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges of giving a false name, no Minnesota registration, driving after suspension, and false vehicle insurance.

On 04/03/21 at approximately 9:10 p.m., Officer Pernu performed a traffic stop on a vehicle with a suspended registration status. The female driver stated it was her brother's vehicle and admitted she did not have a valid license. The 42-year-old driver was ultimately cited for driving after suspension and failing to provide proof of insurance. She was advised to call for a valid driver. The female passenger was sitting looking straight forward, wearing a hood and concealing the lower half of her face. When speaking with Officer Pernu and providing her name and date of birth, she continued to look straight forward. When running a name check, Officer Pernu discovered that the woman was not who she said she was; The 30-year-old admitted to having warrants and said she lied because she did not want to go to jail. She then claimed to have swallowed a gram of heroin as Officer Pernu was stopping them. She was taken to the hospital, where she told a nurse she was experiencing leg pain. She was admitted for treatment. Charges are pending for providing a false name of another person.

Theft

On 03/28/21 at 4:30 p.m., Walmart reported that a female had under-rang merchandise in the self-checks by ringing up a 10 cent tumbler instead of the items she was placing in her cart. The 47-year-old woman told Officer Gottschald that she did not plan to shoplift when she arrived at Walmart, but when she realized how much she was going to spend, she decided to under-ring all the items. She said she had money to purchase the items, but decided not to. She admitted to previously shoplifting and being trespassed from Walmart. The total for the items she attempted to take was \$160.27. She was cited for theft and trespassing.

On 03/30/21, Officer Volk was advised that the Disabled American Veterans property on Solway Road had been broken into over the weekend. A donated Buick had been stolen, along with electronic equipment. On 04/04/21, the reporting party advised officers that he found the vehicle in West Duluth. The vehicle was displaying plates from another vehicle that registered to a Lavaque Road resident.