



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

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 04/11/21 to 04/17/21, the Hermantown PD had 150 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:

At approximately 8 p.m. on 04/15/21, officers were advised of two males fighting near the front of the store at Walmart. One of the males then left with a female in a Ford Expedition. Officer Battaglia was in the area and observed the SUV pull into the Sam's Club parking lot. He approached the vehicle and made contact with the occupants. The 21-year-old driver stated that the other male had accused him of hitting his girl, which he denied doing. Officer Battaglia had the 18-year-old female exit the vehicle to speak with him. She assured him everything was fine. While Officer Battaglia was with the vehicle, Sgt. Pfeiffer was able to view surveillance video from Walmart, which first showed the man hit a vehicle while parking the Expedition. Video then showed the pair entering the vestibule, where the man throws a punch toward the woman. She appears to block it, but video shows her in a defensive position with her back against the glass doors. A third video shows the altercation that police were initially called for, a fight between two males. At one point, the suspect is seen spitting on the other man after punches were thrown. Sgt. Pfeiffer informed Officers Battaglia and Mischke, who had arrived on scene, that there was probable cause to arrest the man for domestic assault. While placing the male under arrest, Officer Mischke smelled the odor of alcohol emitting from the man. After a preliminary breath test resulting in a reading of .119 blood alcohol content, the man was transported to the Hermantown Police Department for DWI processing. The man was ultimately lodged at the St Louis County Jail for DWI and domestic assault. As he had two previous domestic convictions, this incident was enhanced to a felony.

### Disturbance

On the afternoon of 04/17/21, a Lavaque Road resident reported that four males on ATVs were driving up and down the sewer line on private property. Officer Stracek located the teenagers, who stated they didn't know it wasn't public land. Officer Stracek advised them that there were posted signs on all ends of the property and it wasn't okay to drive on. The riders were sent on their way and Officer Stracek documented the damage with photos.

### Driving Under the Influence

On 04/13/21 at 8:30 p.m., Officer Enright observed a vehicle failing to maintain its lane on Miller Trunk Highway. He performed a traffic stop and the 64-year-old male driver stated he was doing something with the radio. The man told Officer Enright that he just came from the gym and was headed home to Cloquet. As the man attempted to find his driver's license and proof of insurance, Officer Enright noted that the man's speech was slurred and there was an odor coming from the vehicle that was similar to that of an alcoholic beverage. The man performed field sobriety testing, although the tests were cut short for safety concerns, as the man could not keep his balance. The man's preliminary breath test resulted in a reading of .000 and Officer Enright, a DRE (Drug Recognition Expert), then performed an additional evaluation determining that the man was under the influence of a depressant and was unable to safely operate a motor vehicle. A search warrant for a blood sample was executed. Charges are pending the results of the blood test.



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## Check Welfare:

At approximately 11:45 a.m. on 04/14/21, officers were advised of a female sitting on the ground with a bag in front of the doors at Walmart wailing that she wants to go home. Officers located the woman lying on the ground, extremely intoxicated. She was transported to a local hospital for assistance.

## Theft

Just before 7:30 a.m. on 04/11/21, staff from the Holiday Inn Express reported that two trucks parked next to each other in the lot had broken windows. Officers Gottschald and Salo made contact with the vehicle owners. One of them, a 51-year-old man from Baudette, stated that he had arrived at the hotel at 11 p.m. the night before. He said the only thing stolen was a Craftsman tool set of ratchets and wrenches from the backseat. The suspects appeared to have pried on both the front and back driver's side windows and ultimately broke the front one. The 58-year-old owner of the other vehicle stated that a Ruger 9mm gun had been taken, along with the holster and a pair of prescription sunglasses. Later that morning, another guest reported that his unlocked vehicle had been entered overnight and his Nintendo Switch and a game had been taken.

On 04/15/21 at 7:18 p.m., a Hom Furniture employee reported that his vehicle had been entered and items had been taken. He stated all items were in his vehicle when he got back to work at 3:30 p.m. after his lunch break. The 21-year-old man stated an older TV, ratchet set, and Pokeman cards were missing.

At approximately 10 a.m. on 04/17/21, Walmart reported that a male was ticket-switching. Officer Stracek arrived on scene and made contact with the suspect, who declined to give a statement. The 35-year-old man had four barcodes that were laminated with tape and had the prices on the back. The used tape to stick these barcodes over the real barcodes of various items. The man had been charged with shoplifting from the Cloquet Walmart in March 2021 and he had an outstanding warrant from Crow Wing County for shoplifting. The value of the items was \$578.87. The man was trespassed and reports are being forwarded to the prosecuting attorney for charges of gross misdemeanor shoplifting.