



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 05/23/21 to 05/29/21, the Hermantown PD had 193 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

Chief

Jim Crace

Commanders

Mark Gunderson
Jon Esterbrooks

Sergeants

Griffin Pfeiffer - K9
Jon Pernu - K9

Detective

Jake Williams
Jeff Dwyer

Officers

Jason Salo
Lisa Volk
Tim Battaglia
Jon Enright
Erika Johnson - SRO
Quinn Mischke
Olivia Gottschald
Jonathan Stracek
Andrew Leibel

K-9 Officers

Tuuko
Jack

Records

Jessica Sorensen
Dana Ross
Samantha Knapp

Suspicious Activity:

At approximately 11:30 a.m. on 05/24/21, officers were advised of a possible drug deal involving a vehicle on Sarah Lane. Officer Volk responded to the area and spoke with the 33-year-old driver of the vehicle. He stated he was waiting for a relative who went in the house but was taking a while to come back out. Officer Volk then identified the relative, a 19-year-old man who stated he was using the bathroom.

On 05/26/21, shortly before 1 a.m., Officer Stracek was patrolling in the area of Keene's Creek when he located a 27-year-old woman camping in her vehicle. She was advised of the park hours and sent on her way.

Accidents:

On the afternoon of 05/24/21, Officer Leibel responded to a two-vehicle accident on Stebner Road. A 38-year-old woman was driving northbound when she observed a graduation sign that caught her attention. She admitted that when she looked back at the road, the Nissan in front of her was stopped immediate in front of her for a UPS truck. The woman said she braked hard and swerved left, but she still collided with the vehicle in front of her, which was driven by an 18-year-old female. The older woman was cited for inattentive driving. Both vehicles were disabled and towed from the scene.

Just before 11 a.m. on 05/27/21, Sgt. Pernu responded to the intersection of Midway and Rose Roads for an accident. A 17-year-old female driving a Ford Escape stated she was northbound slowing to turn left onto Rose Road. She said she began to turn and the Silverado behind her attempted to pass her on the left, causing the passenger side of his vehicle to collide with her driver's side front bumper. The 68-year-old driver of the Silverado stated he thought she was turning right onto Rose Road so he attempted to pass her. An independent witness corroborated the young woman's statement. There is a solid yellow no passing line for northbound Midway Road traffic at the location of the accident. The man was cited for centerline violation.

Traffic

On the morning of 05/25/21, Officer Leibel spoke with a resident in the area of Getchell Road and Jonan Drive who stated she observed a vehicle traveling approximately 60 mph through the neighborhood. She stated she tried flagging the driver to slow down but the driver paid no attention. She said she then approached the residence, a group home, to speak with the driver but was told the woman was in a meeting. Officer Leibel made contact with the 25-year-old driver, who was apologetic but did not think she was going as fast as 60. She was advised that even though she may not have been traveling that fast, she disturbed the neighborhood to the point that people were knocking on the door to the residence. She was advised on the driving conduct and told to speak with coworkers to make sure everyone slows down in the area.



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Theft

Shortly before 8 p.m. on 05/23/21, Walmart reported that two males had walked out of the store after one of them had concealed items in a backpack while the other blocked him. The man who concealed items ran out and got into a vehicle, where someone waiting in the driver's seat. The other man left on foot. This incident is pending.

On 05/24/21 at 1:17 p.m., Walmart reported a shoplifting incident in which the male suspect had left the cart and got into a Pontiac Sunfire with a bungee cord holding the trunk shut. The vehicle then left the parking lot and officers were unable to locate the vehicle or suspect at that time. Walmart recovered a cart full of merchandise that totaled \$777.88. Officers were unable to make contact with the female registered owner of the vehicle, who was from Wisconsin. On 05/30/21, Sgt. Pernu observed the suspect vehicle at Kwik Trip on Haines Road. He spoke with the male driver of the vehicle, who stated he bought it a couple days prior from another man. He denied being at Walmart or having involvement in the theft. Sgt. Pernu was able to confirm with surveillance video that this 43-year-old man was the suspect. Reports have been sent to the prosecuting attorney for charges of gross misdemeanor shoplifting.

On 05/26/21 at approximately 9 p.m., officers were advised of a shoplifting incident at Walmart in which the male suspect pulled up his sweatshirt and grabbed a handgun out of his waistband before running toward a vehicle without the merchandise. A female followed him out of the store and got into the vehicle with him. Officers determined that the suspect vehicle had also been involved in the Superior, WI, robbery of CVS from earlier in the day. The vehicle was not immediately located, but a short time later was located in Superior and a pursuit ensued. The pursuit left Superior and entered Duluth, where State Patrol and St. Louis County Deputies continued the pursuit and successfully performed a PIT maneuver. Detective Dwyer interviewed the 19-year-old female passenger in the vehicle, who stated that the male driver was her brother. She admitted to being at Walmart with the man and told Officer Dwyer that various locations in the area that they had been to that afternoon and evening. The 25-year-old male suspect declined to speak with Detective Dwyer. He was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for 2nd degree Assault with a dangerous weapon, fleeing, theft, and possessing stolen property. The value of the items he attempted to steal was \$751.64. The gun he flashed at loss prevention was determined to be a silver revolver style pellet/BB gun.