



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 06/06/21 to 06/12/21, the Hermantown PD had 255 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

Traffic

Just before 11 p.m. on 06/07/21, Officer Stracek observed a Ford F150 with a brake light out. He conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle and determined that the license plate belonged to a Mercury van. The 51-year-old female driver admitted to switching the plate from her other vehicle because she needed to pick her daughter up from work. The woman was issued a citation for illegal use of plates.

Driving Under the Influence

On 06/10/21, just before 11:30 p.m., Sgt. Pfeiffer was on patrol in the 4200 block of Lavaque Road when he observed a truck backing out of the ditch. The vehicle then began to travel 20 mph in a 40 mph until it came to a stop in the southbound driving lane. Sgt. Pfeiffer activated his emergency lights and the truck began slowly moving in reverse toward his squad car, stopped just short of hitting it. The female driver stated she had been playing volleyball at a bar earlier and had gotten into a fight with her husband and left in his truck. She said she did not believe she had been in the ditch, but Sgt. Pfeiffer returned to the area and confirmed that there were truck tracks where he had seen her. Officer Stracek was working a Toward Zero Death special traffic enforcement shift and he arrived on scene to have the 33-year-old woman perform field sobriety testing. She did not complete the tests successfully; during the walk-and-turn test, she reached step four, said "bomp bomp" and shook her hips. She then laughed and stated that was from Reno 911. The woman refused a preliminary breath test and was placed under arrest. As officers attempted to handcuff her, she locked her arms, screamed, and tried to rip away from officers. She was transported to the Hermantown Police Department for further processing, where she repeatedly asked Officer Stracek to just bring her home. When officers attempted to handcuff her again for transport to the St. Louis County Jail, she screamed "no" and pulled away from officers, kicking at Officer Stracek. She dropped to the ground and had to be carried to a squad car. She was ultimately lodged at jail for 3rd degree test refusal, 4th degree DWI, and obstruction.

At approximately 10:30 p.m. on 06/11/21, Officer Stracek observed a Nissan Rogue roll through the stop sign at the intersection of Lavaque Road and Hermantown Road at 12 mph. He conducted a traffic stop as the vehicle was pulling into the Beacon Sports Bar. The 43-year-old driver initially stated she had just gotten off work at a Proctor bar, but then stated she worked until 9 p.m. and had a drink after. The woman performed field sobriety testing, including a preliminary breath test that resulted in a reading of .097% blood alcohol content. She was issued a citation for 4th degree DWI, .08 or more, and failing to stop at a stop sign. She was then released to a sober party.

Miscellaneous

On the afternoon of 06/06/21, while at Walmart on an unrelated issue, Officer Salo observed a male park his Ford sedan in the fire lane and enter the store. He walked to the vehicle while waiting for the man to come out and noted that the vehicle was running and there were three small children in



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the back seat. Officer Salo waited near the vehicle to ensure the children's safety. When the 40-year-old man returned to the vehicle approximately 10 minutes later, Officer Salo advised him that it was not acceptable to leave small children in the car like that. The man apologized and said it would not happen again. He said their mother does not want him bringing the kids into the store because of COVID. This report was forwarded to Juvenile Detective Johnson to review and follow up.

Accidents

On the morning of 06/08/21, Officer Enright responded to Midway Road and Highway 2 for an accident. A 42-year-old man driving a van stated he was southbound on Midway with a green light when a westbound Blazer stopped at the light, then pulled in front of him. The 52-year-old driver of the Blazer said he stopped at the light before pulling out to turn southbound onto Midway. He stated he couldn't remember what color light he had. Two witnesses told Officer Enright that the Blazer had a red light and the van's light was green. The older driver admitted that his vehicle was not insured. His driving status was revoked. He was cited for driving after revocation, uninsured vehicle, and semaphore violation. Both vehicles were towed due to disabling damage. The Blazer driver had lacerations to his face that were bleeding and paramedics checked him before he left with a friend to go to the hospital.

Theft

At approximately 12:30 p.m. on 06/06/21, Walmart reported a male and female concealing items in a Walmart bag before attempting to leave the store. The 31-year-old female admitted to spending approximately 45 minutes in the store. She told Officer Leibel that she and the male had selected items to steal and concealed them in a plastic Walmart bag they found in the power chair that the man was in. She said she selected Armor All wipes to run through the checkout, as it was inexpensive, and admitted to having no intention to pay for the other items. The 54-year-old man claimed that he had no idea the woman's intention was to steal the items. He said she rang up the Armor All wipes and started to walk away, telling him to follow her. When asked why he did not go back to pay for the items once he realized that she was not going to pay for them, he stated he was done talking. Both parties were cited for theft and trespassed from Walmart properties.

On the morning of 06/07/21, Office Volk took the report of a burglary that occurred over the weekend. A work trailer at the Stebner Park Soccer Complex was broken into and a saw was taken.