



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 06/13/21 to 06/19/21, 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

Assault

At 3:09 a.m. on 06/13/21, 911 dispatch received a second-hand report of a domestic incident at a Meadow Parkway residence. The caller stated a friend had called him and asked him to call 911 because her boyfriend was beating her. The man stated that she hung up on him and he believed the phone had been taken away from her. Officer Stracek arrived at the residence and heard a female screaming and sounds of a struggle from inside. As he made entry into the apartment, a female ran down the stairs crying hysterically and screaming for help. A male was chasing her and Officer Stracek pulled his taser and commanded the man to sit down with his hands visible. The 50-year-old man complied and was brought outside to speak with officers. He said they argued earlier over money at the casino in Duluth. He initially stated it was just an argument, but later admitted he hit a basket out of the woman's hands after she threw her engagement ring at him. He said that if the woman is pressing charges, he also wanted to; he then changed his mind and said he just wanted her to leave for this to go away. He claimed the woman was trying to set him up. Officer Stracek observed swelling under the man's eye and on his forehead. The man put his hand over his face and would not allow photos to be taken of his injuries. The 39-year-old woman told Officer Stracek they argued earlier and once they got home, she got a hamper and began putting her stuff inside. She said the man slammed her shoulder into a door frame and ripped the hamper out of her hands, cutting her finger. The woman stated she attempted to call 911 but he took her phone away and ended the call. Sgt. Pernu later verified with 911 that an incomplete call came in from her number. The woman further stated that the man had punched and scratched himself in the face while telling her that he was going to tell law enforcement she caused the injuries. The woman provided a recording in which the man admitted to hurting himself because he didn't want to go to jail. The woman also told Officer Stracek that the man had placed his hand over her mouth, causing her to be unable to breathe. The man was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for domestic assault by strangulation, domestic assault, and impeding/disrupting a 911 call.

Driving Under the Influence

Just after 11 p.m. on 06/18/21, officers were dispatched to a disturbance at the Chalet Lounge. An intoxicated male involved in the disturbance left in a Ford F150; Officer Gottschald located and stopped the vehicle. Sgt. Pernu, who was working a Toward Zero Death special traffic enforcement shift, responded to the scene to go through field sobriety testing with the 32-year-old driver. The man was unsteady on his feet and was slurring his words, but repeatedly made comments that he was only driving because he needed to leave the situation at the bar, claiming another man there was going to beat him up. The man estimated having 8-9 drinks, although a witness stated he had approximately 11. The man performed poorly on the field sobriety testing and he submitted to a preliminary breath test with a reading of .120% blood alcohol content. A



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bartender told officers that the man had been in the bar regularly for the past week and had been making female employees feel uneasy with inappropriate comments. Tonight, another customer noticed this behavior and assisted staff in trying to get the man to leave, during which time the customer and the man began pushing each other before the man left in his vehicle. The man was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for 2nd degree DWI, .08 or more, driving with impounded plates, and driving after revocation. His pickup truck is being held for forfeiture.

Accidents:

On 06/15/21, just after 4:30 p.m., Officer Leibel and Sgt. Pernu responded to an accident with injuries in the 5600 block of Maple Grove Road. A 49-year-old woman told Officer Leibel that the vehicle she was in was stopped in the eastbound lane waiting to turn into a driveway when they were rear-ended by an SUV. The 73-year-old driver of her vehicle was complaining of pain; she was checked by first responders and ultimately transported to a local hospital by ambulance. The 25-year-old driver of the SUV told Sgt. Pernu that she "spaced out" and returned to reality as her vehicle hit the stopped car. She was issued a citation for inattentive driving.

Miscellaneous

On 06/16/21, a Timber Ridge resident reported a possible scam. She stated that she found a link on Facebook about signing kids up for a McGruff Amber Alert kit. She then received a call from "Matt," who asked a lot of questions and wanted to make an appointment to come to her house. She stated he was continuing to call her. Officer Salo attempted to contact Matt. He did a Google search of the company name on Matt's voicemail, which showed it to be a life insurance company that was compared to a pyramid scheme. The company uses the McGruff kit to get in the door with possible clients. Officer Salo advised the woman of his findings and she blocked the phone number.

Theft

On the morning of 06/15/21, Officer Leibel was dispatched to a residence in the 4900 block of Maple Grove Road for the report of a theft. The 48-year-old resident stated he had a truck for sale parked at the end of his driveway. He said he was mowing the grass that morning and had started to move the truck when he found that the catalytic converter had been stolen and the heat shield was on the ground. This theft appeared to have occurred during the week prior to it being discovered.