



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 07/04/21 to 07/10/21, the Hermantown PD had 234 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

Just before 4:30 a.m. on 07/04/21, officers were advised of a domestic incident in which a female had been pushed by her boyfriend. Officers had been dispatched to the residence the previous day for a verbal argument between the pair. Officers arrived at the home and spoke with both parties, who had been drinking prior to the incident. The 38-year-old woman told officers that older bruises on her body were from her dog, but admitted that the fresh red marks on her neck were from her boyfriend. She said he grabbed her by the neck with his hand. The 38-year-old man was ultimately lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for felony domestic assault by strangulation and misdemeanor domestic assault.

Animal Problems

On 07/10/21, Officer Volk was advised of an incident that occurred at Walmart the previous day when a 63-year-old employee was bitten by a customer's dog. The woman said she was near the customer's cart at the self-checks when the dog, which she described as a white Shih Tzu without a collar, lunged at her and bit her in the side. The dog's owner pushed the dog away inside the cart, but the dog lunged a second time. The woman said the dog had been yipping at others in the store, as well, and had lunged at another associate before it bit her. Loss Prevention asked the dog's owner for her name and information and she refused to provide it.

Driving Under the Influence

On 07/09/21 at 1:23 a.m., Officer Gottschald performed a traffic stop on a vehicle traveling 50 mph in a 40 mph zone. The vehicle was slow to stop and the driver was hesitant to provide his driver's license. The 38-year-old man was unable to say how fast he had been going. Officer Gottschald observed that the man had bloodshot eyes and a strong odor of alcohol coming from his breath. He was unwilling to answer any questions regarding if he had been drinking. There appeared to be vomit on the front of his shirt and his pants were wet. Officer Stracek was working a Toward Zero Death traffic enforcement shift and he arrived on scene to work with the driver on field sobriety testing. The man stated he was not willing to perform field sobriety testing or a preliminary breath test. He was transported to the Hermantown Police Department for DWI processing before being lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for 2nd degree DWI, .08 or more, open bottle, driving after revocation, and speeding.

Theft

On 07/04/21 at 2:45 a.m., a 41-year-old Deerfield resident reported that her 2012 Chevy Traverse had been stolen from her driveway. She stated the keys had been left in the cup holder in the vehicle. She said she had last seen her vehicle at approximately 7 p.m. the previous night. Several hours later, at 9:50 a.m., another Deerfield resident reported that his 2020 Dodge Ram had been taken overnight. The 41-year-old man stated he last saw his truck at 10:30 p.m. and he discovered it was missing at approximately 9 a.m. In addition, several residents of the complex reported that their



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vehicles had been entered overnight. On 07/08/21, the Dodge Ram was located unoccupied in Duluth. It was returned to the owner. On 07/10/21, the Traverse was located in Duluth after police there were dispatched to the report of a vehicle in the ditch. Witnesses at that location observed two males run from the vehicle. The men were located and lodged for possession of stolen property and warrants. Sgt. Pernu was advised by other law enforcement that one of the man had been committing crimes in Wisconsin. He was told that a vigilante group had tracked the man down and gunshots were exchanged earlier in the day on 07/10/21. The man may have been using the Traverse while committing burglaries and vehicle prowls.

Shortly before noon on 07/06/21, Fleet Farm reported a shoplifter that left on foot and got onto a DTA bus. Loss prevention staff stated that he arrived on an Arrowhead Transit bus. After entering the store, he selected a Carhartt backpack and concealed items inside. Those items included shoes, fishing reels, tools, knives, and flashlights with a total value of \$1,378.71. Staff also stated that the unknown male had also stolen \$310.95 worth of merchandise from the store on 06/29/21. Officer Volk spoke to Arrowhead Transit in an attempt to identify the suspect and was advised that the man was scheduled to be picked up at 3 p.m. at Miller Hill Mall. Detective Williams located the 39-year-old suspect at the mall and placed him under arrest for felony theft. In addition to the items stolen from Fleet Farm, the man had two shirts and two bottles of cologne from Express in his possession that had been stolen. The male was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for felony theft and four failure to appear warrants stemming from theft and trespassing incidents.

Just after 7 p.m. on 07/07/21, a 25-year-old woman reported that she had been assaulted and robbed at a local gas station. She stated another woman pulled her hair, hit her in the face, and took her purse. A witness also called 911 and stated that she followed the vehicle that the suspect got into after the incident and that it had pulled into the Uhaul lot. Officers surrounded the area and spoke to two occupants of the vehicle, who stated that the 27-year-old suspect and another passenger had bailed out of the vehicle and ran into the woods. The suspect was located near the Country Inn and Suites, where she had jumped into the back of a Domino's delivery vehicle and told the driver to drive away because her boyfriend was after her. She was taken into custody, but transported to a local hospital after admitting to ingesting a large amount of methamphetamine and heroin. A police hold was placed on her when she was admitted to the hospital; she later fled the hospital and reported have been forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office with a request that a warrant be issued. The requested charges include robbery, assault, possession of a controlled substance, possession of hypodermic needles, and possession of drug paraphernalia.