



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 07/18/21 to 07/24/21, the Hermantown PD had 203 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

Fraud

On 07/19/21, a 57-year-old resident reported fraud and identity theft. She stated she received a notice from Credit Karma advising her of a hard inquiry. She contacted the bank that performed the inquiry and was told that a \$9,500 loan was taken out in her name with the funds set to be transferred to an online bank. The company told her the application was done online and the suspect used an old address, her social security number, and birth date. The woman had already frozen her credit with all three bureaus and completed an online identity theft report.

Suspicious Activity

On 07/22/21 at 4:38 a.m., a resident reported a suspicious vehicle in the area of Maple Grove and Sangstrom Roads. The resident reported seeing the vehicle parked in the area in the early morning hours multiple times in the past week, but said it was always gone by later in the morning. He said that he recently read on a community page that a resident nearby reported two younger males knocking on the door at 4 a.m. asking if they ordered Taco John's and he suggested this might be related. Officer Enright located the vehicle parked half on the road and half on the ditch; he waited down the road until a 16-year-old male returned to the vehicle shortly before 6 a.m. The teenager stated he had been parking there because he's been going to a female friend's house at night. He admitted that he wasn't supposed to be at his friend's house so he didn't want to park in the driveway. Parents of both the young man and his friend were contacted and advised of the early morning visits.

Driving Under the Influence

At approximately 9 p.m. on 07/24/21, Officer Stracek observed a vehicle traveling eastbound on Highway 194 at what appeared to be the speed limit. As he watched the vehicle, it jerked to the right and drove onto the rumble strips before jerking back into the lane and hitting the center line. Officer Stracek conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle and made contact with the male driver, who believed the reason for the stop was that he was speeding. The man said that he and his young son, who was in the vehicle, had been out shooting and were going home. Officer Stracek observed a moderate odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from the man and requested that he perform field sobriety testing. Although the man stated his last drink had been a couple hours prior, his preliminary breath test showed a blood alcohol content of .167%. The man had an unloaded pistol in his waistband. In addition, two more handguns, a rifle, and a BB gun rifle were located in the vehicle. An open bottle of vodka was found under the passenger seat next to a pistol. The 29-year-old man was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for 2nd degree DWI, .08 or more, carrying while under the influence, possess open bottle, and failure to drive in a single lane.



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Accidents

Shortly before 5 p.m. on 07/19/21, 911 received multiple calls about a Ford F150 that was all over the road northbound on Highway 53. Officers were then notified that the truck went in the ditch north of Stebner Road. It was determined that the 57-year-old driver had diabetes and his blood sugar was low. He drove the truck into the ditch and hit a sign, causing damage to his windshield. No injuries were reported. Family members responded to pick up the occupants of the truck.

On 07/22/21 at 1 p.m., Officer Gottschald was dispatched to an accident on Arrowhead Road at Miller Trunk Highway. A 65-year-old woman was stopped at a red light and had backed into the vehicle behind her as she was trying to move into the turn lane.

At 1:39 p.m. on 07/23/21, Officer Leibel was advised of an accident on Midway Road at Morris Thomas Road. A 47-year-old female driving a Ford Escape stated she had been stopped for a train crossing before the line of traffic began to proceed. She said when she cleared the crossing, she looked away momentarily. When she looked forward again, a Chevy Suburban was stopped directly in front of her and she was unable to avoid a collision. The woman was cited for inattentive driving.

Traffic

On 07/19/21 at approximately 11:45 p.m., Officer Stracek observed a vehicle traveling 56 mph in a 40 mph zone on Lavaque Road. When asked if she knew the reason for the traffic stop, the 25-year-old driver stated she did not dim her headlights. Officer Stracek advised her that she was stopped for speeding and she said she was unaware of the speed limit. She was unable to provide proof of insurance. Officer Stracek observed a cardboard box in the backseat containing liquor and a pink container with a package labeled with "THC". The woman said the liquor and gummies were her friend's items and did not belong to her. The package contained THC gummies that later tested positive and were weighed at 54.9 grams. Reports are being forwarded to the prosecuting attorney for felony possession, no proof of insurance, and speed.

Theft

On 07/19/21 at 8:30 p.m., Northern Tool and Equipment reported an attempted theft that occurred earlier in the evening. An unknown female had loaded a cart with a welder and other supplies before walking out the rear door. In the parking lot, the welder fell from the cart. The woman was unable to lift it due to its weight, so she fled to a vehicle across Cirrus Drive. The driver of the vehicle had also been inside the store just before the suspect.