



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 07/25/21 to 07/31/21, the Hermantown PD had 276 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

Drugs

Shortly after 9 a.m. on 07/26/21, Officer Leibel was advised of a pending medical call on Midway Road. A passerby had reported a female slumped in the driver's seat of a vehicle that was parked on the side of the road. Proctor Officer Carter arrived on the scene first and was able to wake the unconscious woman. Officer Leibel arrived on scene and recognized the 37-year-old female; however, he noted that in previous contacts, her skin was clear and on this date, she had severe scabbing on her face consistent with habitual methamphetamine use. An uncapped syringe was visible in the vehicle. During a further search of the vehicle, officers located approximately 90 unused syringes that were later disposed of, as well as a bindle that the woman stated was most likely Fentanyl. Additionally, a bindle containing .4 grams of heroin, a baggie with trace amounts of methamphetamine, and a syringe with .8 grams of liquid heroin were located. The woman was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for 5th degree possession of a controlled substance, possession of hypodermic needles, and driving after suspension.

Driving Under the Influence

On 07/25/21 at 8 p.m., Officer Stracek was on patrol on Ugstad Road when he observed an approaching vehicle traveling 41 mph in a 30 mph zone. As he turned around after the vehicle, it accelerated away from him. As it approached an address in the 4100 block, it made a hard brake and pulling into the long driveway. By the time Officer Stracek pulled into the driveway behind the vehicle, the male driver was out of the vehicle running toward the back of the residence. Officer Stracek made contact with the 31-year-old man at the rear of the house. He initially stated it was a friend's house and he decided to pop in and visit. He later admitted that he did not know the residents and he pulled in to get away from Officer Stracek. When asked, the man stated he had "not much" to drink; his 22-year-old female passenger said they started drinking at 2 p.m. The pair were headed toward the woman's house. Since the woman had a valid license, Officer Stracek asked why she wasn't driving. She commented that she thought it would be better if the man drove because she was smaller in size, explaining how the amount of alcohol affects the body differently for the size of the person. The man performed field sobriety testing, including a preliminary breath test that resulted in a reading of .095% blood alcohol content. He was issued a citation for 4th degree DWI, .08 or more, driving after revocation, and speeding.

Shortly before 11 p.m. on 07/25/21, Officers Stracek and Enright were dispatched to assist Proctor PD with the report of a domestic assault. The reporting party stated that a female friend had called him stating she was covered in blood and needed help. He later clarified that she did not tell him anyone had assaulted her. While on scene at the woman's residence, Officer Stracek observed a vehicle traveling in the area with occupants that matched the description of the involved parties in the possible domestic incident. While other officers completed the assault investigation, Officer Stracek had the 37-year-old male driver complete field sobriety testing. The man's preliminary breath test result was .136% blood alcohol content. During transport to HPD for processing, the man was upset at being arrested and stated there needed to be a traffic stop in order to be arrested for a DUI. He was ultimately cited for 4th degree DWI, .08 or more, and driving after revocation.

At approximately 10:30 p.m. on 07/30/21, Officer Stracek was advised of an attempt to locate on a Ford F150. He located the vehicle in a parking lot with its lights on and a male was sleeping in the driver's seat. The 42-year-old man admitted to drinking that night and said he pulled over because he felt he needed to due to being



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impaired. The man's preliminary breath test resulted in a reading of .204% blood alcohol content. Charges of 3rd degree DWI are pending.

Accidents

On 07/26/21 at 2:41 a.m., Officer Enright observed a Ford Fusion weaving in its lane and hitting the fog line on Haines Road. At the intersection with Morris Thomas Road, the vehicle's right blinker came on and the vehicle slowly drifted into the right turn lane, straddling the line separating the turn lane from the driving lane. The vehicle stopped, slowly began making a right turn and slowed nearly to a stop before turning its left blinker on and veering back into the intersection, eventually continuing south on Haines Road. Officer Enright then attempted to perform a traffic stop on the Fusion, but the vehicle did not stop and began picking up speed. He pursued the vehicle with speeds reaching into the upper 80 mph range. Officer Enright slowed to navigate the curves on Haines Road and the vehicle gained distance on him. As the vehicle approached Skyline Parkway, it appeared as if it was slowing to turn but could not navigate the turn and crashed head-on into a retaining wall. The male driver exited the vehicle and ran eastbound on Skyline Parkway. A 22-year-old female and a 52-year-old male exited the vehicle and were ultimately transported to a local hospital for their injuries. The pair told officers that the woman was moving and a friend had arranged a ride for her and her uncle, who was helping her. They both claimed to not know the male driver. This incident is under investigation and, if located, the driver could face charges of fleeing in a motor vehicle, fleeing on foot, and criminal vehicular operation.

Missing Person

Just after 3 p.m. on 07/31/21, officers were advised that a 63-year-old resident of a Hermantown Road group home was missing. Officers have been dispatched to help locate this man several times in the previous few months. On this occasion, a staff member came got to work at 3 p.m. and began a set of rounds to check on the clients, but discovered that one was missing. The previous staff member stated the last time she saw the man was 1 p.m. even though the group home requires staff to check on him every half hour. Multiple officers attempted to locate the man; officers attempted a K9 track, as well as trying to use a drone to locate him. The man was ultimately located at approximately 7:15 p.m. in the woods down the road. He was checked by EMTs before being returned to his home.

Theft

On 07/26/21, Officer Stracek was advised of a theft at Fleet Farm. A man had been observed concealing a power tool down his pants. The man later admitted to Officer Stracek that he took the tool because he wanted it and didn't have the money to pay for it. The 37-year-old man was cited for theft and trespassed. The ratchet stolen was valued at \$229.

On the morning of 07/29/21, Fleet Farm advised that a male shoplifter fled in a vehicle. Officer Gottschald was able to make contact with the registered owner of the vehicle, who stated he sold the vehicle. Officer Gottschald used booking photos, including photos of tattoos, to identify the vehicle's new owner as the suspect in the shoplifting. The 44-year-old man had stolen shoe inserts and a pocket knife. A citation was mailed to the suspect.