



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 08/08/21 to 08/14/21, the Hermantown PD had 209 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

Suspicious Activity:

On 08/08/21 at 1:39 a.m., Officer Enright began performing extra patrol at a Lightning Drive business. Five minutes later, a Subaru pulled into the lot in front of him, parked in a parking spot and shut the lights off. Officer Enright approached the vehicle on foot and made contact with the female driver and male passenger. The pair stated they were on their way to the man's house nearby, but stopped in the parking lot to roll and smoke some cigarettes first. As he ran a check on the vehicle, Officer Enright was advised that it was a freshly signed stolen vehicle out of Carlton County. The registered owner reported that her daughter, who was identified as the 36-year-old female driver, had taken the vehicle without permission. The woman was then taken into custody for possession of the stolen vehicle. She adamantly denied stealing the vehicle, stating her dad gave her the keys and permission to use it the previous day. At that time, Carlton County Deputies made contact with the woman's parents, who confirmed that she was not given permission to take the vehicle. When officers performed an inventory search of the vehicle due to the woman's arrest, multiple hypodermic needles, small baggies, a cooking tin, and methamphetamine were located in a small box in the center console. In addition, a digital scale was found in the vehicle. During an interview, the woman admitted that the methamphetamine and needles were hers. She was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for possession of a stolen vehicle, possession of methamphetamine, and possession of hypodermic needles.

Driving Under the Influence

On 08/14/21, just after 8:15 p.m., Officer Mischke observed a vehicle traveling on Haines Road with expired registration. In addition, the male driver was "ashing" his cigarette out the window onto the ground. Officer Mischke performed a traffic stop on the vehicle and made contact with the 41-year-old driver, who stated the vehicle belonged to his and he was test driving it, as he was possibly going to buy it. When running a check on the man, Officer Mischke was advised that he had a revoked driving status out of Wisconsin and he was required to have an ignition interlock system in Minnesota. The man admitted that he should not have been driving a vehicle without an interlock system and advised that his license was an occupational license with restrictions, including times he was allowed to drive and an alcohol restriction. Officer Mischke noted an odor of alcohol coming from the vehicle and he requested that the man perform field sobriety testing. The man provided a preliminary breath test that resulted in a reading of .088% blood alcohol content. Charges are being requested for 3rd degree DWI, .08 or more, driving without an interlock system, driver's license alcohol violation, and expired registration.

Accidents:

Just before 9:30 a.m. on 08/10/21, Officer Leibel was dispatched to an accident on Miller Trunk Highway at the Stebner Road intersection. A 27-year-old man stated he was traveling southbound in an Econoline van when he saw the Ford Fusion in front of him slowing for the yellow light at the intersection. He said he was approximately two car lengths behind the Fusion and he was unable to



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stop. The van struck the rear of the Fusion, which was driven by a 17-year-old female, pushing the trunk in. The man was issued a citation for following too closely. He was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for an active warrant.



Miscellaneous

On 08/11/21, with the help of a volunteer under the age of 21, Officer Johnson conducted alcohol and liquor compliance checks on 30 Hermantown liquor stores, gas stations, bars, restaurants, and retail stores. Two businesses sold tobacco and three sold alcohol to the volunteer. Officer Johnson will provide training to all businesses that did not pass the compliance checks.

Theft

On the morning of 08/08/21, Officer Mischke responded to Fleet Farm for the theft of a wallet. Fleet Farm provided video that showed the 62-year-old victim enter the store. His wallet can be seen falling out of his pants pocket and a male suspect picked it up and put it in his own pocket. The victim advised that he had over \$1,000 in cash in the wallet, along with several credit cards and a tax ID number. This incident is under investigation.

On 08/09/21, administration for a local fast food restaurant reported employee theft, stating that they had noticed suspicious activity with their bank account around 07/13/21, where deposits were being delayed. By 07/23/21, 10 deposits not been recorded at the bank. The 32-year-old woman responsible for making the deposits made excuses to administration. After reviewing surveillance footage, administration told Officer Leibel that the woman had left the business alone with the deposits on 13 separate occasions and the current monetary loss was \$15,270.75. Administration stated they had attempted to offer the woman a payment plan to recover the missing funds without involving law enforcement, but the woman denied any wrongdoing and stated she was looking all over for find the missing deposits. The woman has been suspended from her position pending the investigation of the missing funds.