



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

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 08/15/21 to 08/21/21, the Hermantown PD had 192 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 after 4 p.m. on 08/21/21, Officer Enright and assisting officers were dispatched to Walmart after a 48-year-old man reported that his girlfriend punched him three times. While driving northbound on Loberg Avenue, Officer Enright observed the female walking southbound on the sidewalk and he pulled over and made contact with her. The 37-year-old woman told Officer Enright that she and the man had taken the bus to Walmart to return an air mattress as well as some other items. She said that she went back to select a new air mattress and the man went to make the returns. She said that he refused to give her the proceeds of the return for her other items. She initially told Officer Enright that the man pushed her and she "might have pushed him back" and denied hitting him. When Officer Enright mentioned that he was going to review surveillance video, the woman admitted to hitting the man but said "it wasn't hard." Once back at Walmart, the man stated that they got into an argument over money and she punched him multiple times. It was determined that because the woman had several previous domestic convictions, she would be lodged at the St. Louis County Jail on felony domestic assault charges. She was trespassing from Walmart property. Loss Prevention also requested that the male be trespassing, as he had been rude to the customer service employee helping him with his return.

### Damage to Property

On 08/20/21, an employee at an auto business on Miller Trunk Highway reported that there was a knife left sticking out in the side of a flat tire on a Lincoln in the parking lot. He also discovered puncture marks in two of the tires on a nearby vehicle.

### Driving Under the Influence

On 08/17/21, just after 3 p.m., a caller reported that a Chevy Malibu hit a mailbox on Anderson Road in Duluth and the driver appeared impaired. The vehicle continued into Hermantown and was swerving as it drove westbound on Maple Grove Road. Commander Gunderson performed a traffic stop on the vehicle and Officer Enright responded to assist. The 28-year-old female driver stated she knew she hit a mailbox but didn't stop because she was nervous. The woman was shaky and nervous while speaking to officers. She admitted that she was on methadone and had taken it approximately four hours prior. When asked if she believed it affected her ability to drive, she said she was already tired from being up during the night with a baby. Officer Enright had the woman perform field sobriety testing and then a drug recognition evaluation. Possible charges of driving under the influence are pending the results of a blood test.

### Accidents

Shortly before 4 p.m. on 08/16/21, Officer Enright responded to the scene of an accident in the 3900 block of Stebner Road. A witness stated that he was driving behind a Chevy Impala when he watched it smack into the back of a mail truck. The 27-year-old man driving the mail truck stated he was just pulling up to a mailbox with his flashers on when he was hit from behind. The 83-year-old



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driver of the Impala told Officer Enright he just left the eye clinic and couldn't see anything because his eyes were dilated. He said he never saw the mail truck. He was checked by HVFD, as he had a half-dollar sized spot on his arm that was bleeding. He was issued a citation for inattentive driving. His vehicle was towed due to disabling damage.

### Theft

At 6 a.m. on 08/16/21, a 33-year-old man reported that his vehicle had been entered overnight. He said it was parked with the doors locked, but the front passenger door had been pried open. He said that \$960 in cash and two packs of cigarettes had been taken.

On 08/16/21, Fleet Farm advised Detective Dwyer of the issuance of four dishonored checks. They provided documentation that the checks were returned as the bank account was "frozen." The checks were used in early July to purchase a total of \$743.84 worth of items, including gasoline, tools, cigarettes, and socks. Fleet Farm provided surveillance video and photos and Detective Dwyer was able to identify the 45-year-old suspect. This incident is under investigation.

On the morning of 08/20/21, Duluth Dodge reported the theft of two catalytic converters that week. One of the trucks was brand new and had been dropped off earlier in the week. When they brought the truck into the shop on the morning of the 20<sup>th</sup>, they discovered that the catalytic converter had been cut off. Staff then checked other vehicles and found that a catalytic converter was cut off their plow truck, as well. Officer Enright was provided with a parts invoice for the new truck which totaled \$6,293.22. This incident is under investigation.

Just before 11 a.m. on 08/20/21, Officer Enright responded to Walmart after being advised that a female shopper was switching price tags on clothing items. Officer Enright made contact with the 34-year-old woman as she was exiting the doors and told her she needed to go back inside. He escorted her to the loss prevention office, where she stated she wasn't going in and started pushing her cart out of the door. She said she paid for her items and therefore could leave. As she entered the vestibule, Officer Enright told her to stop and grabbed her cart, blocking her path to the door. He told her she was being detained and was not free to leave. The woman continued to attempt to leave the store and resisted when Officer Enright attempted to handcuff her. She ultimately was brought to the loss prevention office. The woman provided a receipt that showed she paid \$38.12 for 15 items. Of the 15 items, she paid the correct price for only two of them. The actual value of the rest of the items was \$170.17. She continued to deny switching price stickers, despite staff observing her doing so. The woman was cited for shoplifting and obstruction with force. She was trespassed from Walmart properties.