



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

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 08/22/21 to 08/28/21, the Hermantown PD had 207 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

### Disturbance

At approximately 11:30 a.m. on 08/23/21, Officer Enright and assisting officers were advised that an Ugstad Road resident reported someone driving a mini bike on the soccer field at the Fichtner Park complex. Officer Enright walked onto the field and attempted to get the driver's attention, but the driver drove across a foot bridge toward the baseball field parking lot. The driver then drove onto Ugstad Road and into the apartment complex parking lot across the street. At this time, Officer Enright was close enough to the driver to positively identify her as a 33-year-old Hermantown resident that HPD has had contact with before. Officers attempted to stop her multiple times and, although she looked at officers and was aware they were trying to stop her, she continued driving in the area, including driving again through the soccer field, parking lot, and down the sidewalk in an attempt to evade officers. She then left the area travelling westbound on Maple Grove Road. Officers pursued the driver for a short time, but ultimately terminated the pursuit. Reports have been forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges of felony fleeing in a motor vehicle and driving with a status of canceled – inimical to public safety.

### Suspicious Activity:

On 08/24/21 at 12:30 p.m., officers were advised that a woman was trying to break into a trailer on Alderberry Drive and the caller believed the woman was the resident's ex-wife. The caller stated the woman attempted to kick in the door before leaving in a blue sedan with a male driver. Officers arrived in the area and located the suspect vehicle. Because of the alleged crime, officers performed a felony traffic stop and held the vehicle at gunpoint until the occupants could be detained. The female passenger began sticking her upper body out the window and was holding a cell phone toward officers while yelling. When the woman exited the vehicle, she did not walk backwards toward officers as directed; instead, she walked straight back while holding her phone in her hand. Officers were able to handcuff her and remove the phone from her hands. The 45-year-old woman admitted to kicking the doors because she doesn't have a key for the lock, but said she had a legal right to be there, as she had lived there briefly and because she and her husband were not legally separated or divorced. She also said driver was her son and he didn't do anything but drive her to the residence at her request. While officers were trying to sort out the situation, the woman's other children arrived and began filming the scene. After determining that the woman had the right to be at the property, officers answered questions about the incident that the woman's children had. The woman and her son continued to yell at officers, so officers left the scene. After clearing the scene, a neighbor again reported that the woman was back kicking the door. The neighbor was advised that the woman could be there and officers would not be responding. The 41-year-old resident later contacted Officer Enright and was very upset with what the woman was doing.

### Damage to Property

On 08/27/21, Officer Salo took the report of vandalism at the Hermantown school bus garage. The reporting party stated that sometimes between 3 p.m. and 4:25 p.m., kids broke into a bus. The door was forced open, ice cream was dumped on the seat, garbage was thrown around, and a seat was cut. The total damage was around \$200. The suspects appeared to arrive and leave on bikes.



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### Accidents

At 11:37 p.m. on 08/27/21, Officer Mischke responded to Miller Trunk Highway near Arrowhead Road, where a 47-year-old man reported that he hit a bear with his truck.

### Theft

On the evening of 08/22/21, Walmart reported a female shoplifter that was observed concealing jewelry, shampoos, and other items in a bag she brought with her. Officer Leibel arrived at the store and met with loss prevention staff and the suspect, who appeared to be uncooperative. When Officer Leibel advised her she did not have a choice and she needed to go to the loss prevention office, she did so. She told the employee that she had intended on walking out to her vehicle to get another form of payment and claimed that the self-check attendant allowed her to take a bag of unpaid merchandise with her while she did this. The woman had concealed 26 items with a total value of \$176.56. The 33-year-old female was trespassed from Walmart after being issued a citation for shoplifting.

On 08/24/21 at approximately 3:45 a.m., Officer Leibel made a left turn from northbound Loberg onto northbound Miller Trunk Highway and observed a Subaru behind him on northbound Miller Trunk fail to dim the high beam lights. The vehicle then moved from the driving lane to the left turn lane and made a u-turn to travel southbound on Miller Trunk. Officer Leibel turned around and was following the Subaru onto northbound Haines Road when it pulled into the Camping World parking lot and pulled up to the front doors. Officer Leibel made contact with the 30-year-old male driver and asked what he was doing. The man began talking about how he believed there was an influx of Taliban members on the road this evening and he was on a mission to get his goddaughter to the military base. He said he went to her house but observed a male through the window pointing a rifle at him, so he abandoned that part of the mission and decided to head directly to the base. He walked from her house to a nearby auto shop that he claimed was owned by a friend. He said that his friend had given him permission to take a vehicle in the event that this mission needed to occur. He could not tell Officer Leibel who the owner of the vehicle was. During their conversation, the man peered across the street and mentioned that someone was looking at him from across the street and that there was no way that person could successfully shoot him from that position. Officers were able to make contact with the 23-year-old registered owner of the Subaru, who advised that his vehicle was at a repair shop for scheduled service and no one had permission to use it. Officer Leibel responded to the repair shop and immediately observed an open office window; as he approached, he saw an air conditioning window unit laying on the floor inside the building. The Subaru keys were hooked to several other key fobs and Officer Leibel determined that they were for other vehicles in the lot. The business owner advised that he believed all the keys had been on a desk inside the office. The suspect was initially transported to a local hospital but was ultimately lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for charges of burglary, vehicle theft, damage to property, and failing to dim high beams.

On 08/27/21, a 40-year-old Hermantown resident reported that she had received and opened a text message from an unknown number. Immediately after opening the text, someone called her phone. Soon after, someone took control of her phone. The suspects got into her gmail account and locked her out. She went to AT&T and they helped her get her phone back and close down her gmail. The woman found that the suspects had accessed her email and found credit card information; she then found a fraudulent money gram purchase for \$997 on her credit card.