



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 09/05/21 to 09/11/21, the Hermantown PD had 213 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

Driving Under the Influence

On 09/05/21 at 12:13 a.m., Officer Leibel was travelling southbound on Miller Trunk Highway while responding to assist another officer at a traffic stop. He observed a vehicle traveling northbound in the southbound left lane approaching him. He activated his emergency lights in an attempt to stop the vehicle. The vehicle appeared to move toward the shoulder of the road and slowed down, but continued northbound. Officer Leibel moved his squad into the left lane and the vehicle moved further toward the shoulder but did still did not stop. Officer Leibel then moved completely into the left lane and toward a left turn lane when the vehicle merged onto the shoulder and stopped abruptly before hitting the squad car. The 34-year-old female driver said she thought she had been going in the wrong direction and that she was not from the area. She said she and her passengers had just left Skyline Lanes and were headed home to the Range. The woman admitted she drank one wine at 5 p.m. The woman then performed and failed field sobriety testing. When asked to provide a preliminary breath sample, the woman refused and said she wanted to be brought to the hospital to do it. She was advised that was not an option. The woman then stated that a breath sample would probably be over the legal limit, but said that didn't mean she was not capable of driving. At Hermantown PD for processing, the woman was provided an opportunity to contact an attorney using a landline in the building and a cell phone. The woman cried for an extended time before actively attempting to contact an attorney. She struggled with dialing and finding phone numbers and at one point, called 911 twice and hung up on them. She then became fixated on calling her ex but she was unable to remember the correct number and she called a stranger multiple times at 1:40 a.m. The woman also forgot that she had checked her purse for her phone and began accusing officers of digging through it. After an hour, the woman was asked if she would take a breath test. She declined, stating that her reason was that Officer Leibel could not tell her when the last calibration of his PBT machine was, even though that was not the breath test being offered at that time. The woman's children were in the backseat of her vehicle at the time of the stop, causing her charges to be enhanced. She was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for 2nd degree test refusal, 3rd degree DWI, and driving the wrong way on a one way.

At 11:30 p.m. on 09/06/21, Officer Stracek was dispatched to an accident in the 4800 block of Hermantown Road. A resident reported hearing a loud crash and saw a truck sitting sideways in the road. Officer Stracek made contact with the 27-year-old driver of the Silverado, who estimated his speed at 45-50 mph. He said he looked down at his cell phone and didn't know what happened next. He told Officer Stracek he dropped his girlfriend off



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and was headed to his parents' house in Duluth. The man admitted that his driver's license is suspended and there was no insurance on the vehicle. He said he just purchased the truck a couple weeks ago and had not yet transferred the title. When asked about drinking that evening, he said he had five shots of tequila and four beers at a friend's house. He then stated he is on probation for a DWI earlier this year. After unsuccessfully performing field sobriety testing, the man submitted to a preliminary breath test with a result of .207% blood alcohol content. While being processed at the Hermantown Police Department, the man again said he looked at his phone and once he looked up, he was in the ditch. He said he remembered seeing sparks and found himself on the road and he would have kept driving if his vehicle wasn't disabled. He was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for 2nd degree DWI, .08 or more, driving after revocation, no insurance, and open bottle. Sgt. Pernu backtracked the vehicle's route to determine what had been hit in the accident. He discovered numerous power lines and utility lines strewn about. It appeared that the vehicle first entered the ditch approximately 100 feet west of a driveway, traveled through the ditch, hit a driveway embankment, and crossed another driver before striking a power pole, causing it to break into two pieces.



On 09/07/21 at 11:30 p.m., Officer Stracek observed a vehicle in the 5000 block of Hermantown Road that he recognized as belonging to a man without a valid driver's license. As he attempted to perform a traffic stop, the vehicle pulled into a driveway and struck a parked vehicle. The 41-year-old male driver didn't know why he had been pulled over and asked if Officer Stracek could just "let this go" and let him go inside. The man then wanted to discuss his previous DWI, which Officer Stracek had arrested him for six months earlier. When asked how much he had to drink that night, he admitted he had two drinks. When asked if he would perform field sobriety testing, the man asked Officer Stracek if he could just drive away and find someone else that was "more hammered" than him. The man did perform field sobriety testing. He gave a preliminary breath test sample that resulted in a reading of .214% blood alcohol content. The man was ultimately lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for 2nd degree DWI, .08 or more, and driving after revocation.



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Driving Under the Influence (continued)

At approximately 9:30 p.m. on 09/08/21, Officer Battaglia was dispatched to attempt to locate a vehicle near the Beacon Bar. The caller reported that the two occupants of the vehicle were intoxicated and had been fighting with each other. The caller also stated that the vehicle was driving around the parking lot slowly before leaving eastbound on Hermantown Road with no headlights on. Officer Battaglia located the vehicle parked on the side of the 4900 block of Hermantown Road, partially blocking the eastbound lane. The 32-year-old female driver admitted that the pair had gotten into an argument at the bar. When asked how much she had to drink, the woman said she was sober and would do the "sober test." She then stated he had a Screw Up and later added that she had also had a Jag Bomb. The woman was very cooperative and performed field sobriety testing, including a preliminary breath test that resulted in a reading of .136% blood alcohol content. The woman was cited for 4th degree DWI and .08 or more.

At 10:30 p.m. on 09/09/21, Officer Stracek was working a Toward Zero Death special traffic enforcement shift when he observed a vehicle traveling at a higher rate of speed in a construction zone. The speed limit for the zone was 45 mph and was marked with large signs. The vehicle was traveling 54 mph and did not slow down as it approached workers that were near the center line. The 42-year-old male driver admitted to having 3-4 beers that evening. He performed field sobriety testing and provided a preliminary breath test sample with a reading of .179% blood alcohol content. Reports have been forwarded to the prosecuting attorney for charges of 3rd degree DWI, .08 or more, and speeding in a construction zone.

Order Violation

At approximately 1 p.m. on 09/08/21, Fleet Farm reported a male shoplifter that concealed a BB gun and left in a vehicle. Officer Williams located the vehicle and performed a traffic stop on Loberg Avenue. The vehicle was slow to stop and the male driver was making sudden movements in the vehicle. When Officer Williams approached and made contact with the man, he appeared nervous. The 30-year-old man denied any knowledge or involvement in the theft. The 40-year-old female passenger also claimed to not know anything about the theft and said she was separated from the man in the store. Fleet Farm employees confirmed that this was not true and the woman can be observed on video standing right next to the man. She later admitted that the man shoved a gun under the driver's seat. Officers located the BB gun, valued at \$69.99, under the seat. Officers were advised by dispatch that there is an active domestic abuse no contact order between the



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couple and the man was taken into custody for violating the order. The man later admitted to living with the woman in Duluth in violation of the order. The woman also admitted that the pair was married and said she tried to have the order dropped several months prior but it was denied. The man was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for gross misdemeanor order violation and theft. The woman was advised to park the vehicle and get additional car seats for the children before moving it, as there was only one car seat and three children.

Traffic

At 9:35 p.m. on 09/09/21, Officer Mischke observed a vehicle traveling northbound on Miller Trunk Highway. The vehicle made a u-turn to travel southbound on the highway, accelerating at a high rate of speed. Officer Mischke clocked the Acura at 91 mph in a clearly marked 55 mph zone. The 20-year-old male driver admitted that he knew the speed limited and said he was definitely going too fast. He said he just bought the vehicle last weekend and he did not have it insured yet. He was cited for speed and uninsured vehicle.

Theft

On the morning of 09/07/21, Officers Enright and Volk were advised that three storage units had been burglarized after a hole had been cut in the back fence at EZ Storage. The locks on the three units had been cut off. The renter of one unit stated that he runs a street ministry and all that's in the unit is large bags of rice and cans of beans. He said he would check the unit and advise officers if anything was missing. The second unit was rented by a Coon Rapid business and there were boxes and barrels of automotive fluid in the unit. An employee for the company stated he would do an inventory of the unit. The renter of the third unit stated that a 40-gallon plastic tote had been taken, but the contents were dumped out inside her storage unit.

On the morning of 09/09/21, a Stearn County Sheriff's Office Investigator called Hermantown PD with information on a missing family from the St. Cloud area. A 34-year-old man, his wife, and their kids were on the run and the man was actively violating a protection order by being with his wife and kids. The investigator said that the man's EBT card was used at the Hermantown Walmart the previous day. Working with loss prevention, Detective Williams watched surveillance video of the family arriving in their vehicle. The man entered the store alone, selected items and paid at the self-check lanes; however, he did not scan all the items in his cart. The stolen item was identified as a tent. Upon following up with the investigator, Detective Williams was advised that the family was located. The man will be cited for the misdemeanor theft of the tent.