



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

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 09/12/21 to 09/18/21, the Hermantown PD had 204 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 09/13/21, just before 11 p.m., officers were dispatched to the report of a Jeep Cherokee that went in the ditch on Miller Trunk Highway near Sugar Maple Drive. A caller reported that the vehicle had been driving with no lights on and almost caused a few accidents. Officer Enright and Sgt. Pernu were speaking to the 18-year-old male driver of the vehicle and they observed a moderate odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from his breath. The man stated several times that he was drunk, declining to participate in field sobriety testing because he already told officers he was drunk. He did provide a preliminary breath test that resulted in a reading of .12% blood alcohol content. The man was cited for 4<sup>th</sup> degree DWI and .08 or more. He was lodged for a warrant out of Nobles County. Officer Leibel spoke with a 19-year-old female passenger in the vehicle who appeared extremely intoxicated. She admitted to drinking two seltzer beverages and provided a preliminary breath test of .266% blood alcohol content. The woman was sleeping through most of the aftermath of the incident and her level of intoxication made it almost impossible to explain her citation for underage consumption to her in detail. A sober, valid driver responded to the scene. At 12:20 a.m. on 09/14/21, Sgt. Pernu was dispatched to the federal prison camp after guards reported having a 20-year-old drunk male detained. It was determined that the man was related to the vehicle in the ditch from earlier. The man had been located between the guard housing and the prison campus. He had not breached any fences of the prison. The man was obviously intoxicated, as his speech was slurred and he smelled heavily of alcoholic beverage. The man provided a preliminary breath test with a result of .299% blood alcohol content. The man was cited for underage consumption.

Just after 5 p.m. on 09/14/21, a caller reported that a Suburban was traveling upbound on Piedmont Avenue passing vehicles on the right, pulling over, and then doing it again. After the vehicle crossed Haines Road into Hermantown, the caller said that there appeared to be a second vehicle involved, stating that the Suburban was tailgating and honking at an FJ Cruiser. The two vehicles continued to swerve all over the roadway, eventually pulling into a driveway on Morris Thomas Road. The woman later told officers that she called because she was afraid the woman in the FJ Cruiser was in danger. Officer Stracek arrived at the address a short time later and located the Suburban and FJ Cruiser in the driveway. The Suburban was occupied, running, and the radio was playing. The 55-year-old male driver said he had no idea why Officer Stracek was making contact with him. When asked about a road rage incident, the man said "no, I wasn't even here" and further stated that he wasn't coming from anywhere. The man's sister exited the residence and said that she had been driving the FJ Cruiser and the man had been fooling around with her while driving and he shouldn't have been. The man admitted to drinking "two beers" that day. When the man was asked to perform field sobriety testing, the man's sister exclaimed that he was already home. When performing the walk and turn test, the man was unable to assume the position and stated the test was dangerous. He then said his hips were broken. The man was argumentative about the reason for the contact with him. A pipe was located in his pocket before officers transported him to HPD for processing. At the department, the man was uncooperative, yelling and swearing at officers. He kept yelling over Officer Stracek as he attempted to read the Implied Consent Advisory, and eventually threatened violence against officers. The man was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail and charged with 3<sup>rd</sup> degree test refusal, 4<sup>th</sup> degree DWI, obstruction, and possession of drug paraphernalia.



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### Theft

On 09/13/21 at approximately 3 p.m., a Swan Lake Road resident reported that his side-by-side had been stolen from his yard sometime after 9 a.m. that day. He said it was a red 2019 CFMOTO Z Force 800 and it was originally purchased for \$15,000. He said still had both sets of keys but the suspect drove the machine through his yard. The vehicle was later located in a pond by St. Louis County Sheriff's Deputies.



Just before 8 a.m. on 09/16/21, Officer Gottschald responded to Walmart after being advised of a hit and run accident. She arrived on scene and spoke to two males, ages 24 and 28. The men stated that their mother's Ford F150 had been reported stolen in Proctor a few hours earlier. Their mother's fiancé had received an alert that his credit card, which had been in the stolen truck, had been used at Walmart at 6:34 a.m. The suspect had attempted to purchase an iPhone SE and a Smart Talk minute care with a total value of \$276.27. The transaction was declined and the suspect returned to the stolen truck. The two men advised that when they arrived at Walmart, they located their mother's truck and pulled in front of it in an attempt to prevent the driver from leaving. The two men were outside their vehicle when the suspect rammed it. The suspect then hit another vehicle before exiting the lot. Both men advised that they were scared when the suspect rammed their vehicle, as they believed they could have been hit. Officer Riebel of the Proctor Police Department took the initial stolen vehicle report and identified the suspect as a 20-year-old Duluth man. Officer Gottschald was able to positively identify the man using recent jail photos. Reports are being sent to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges of 2<sup>nd</sup> degree assault, possession of a stolen vehicle, fraudulent use of stolen credit card, damage to property, and failing to stop for an accident.



### Animal Complaint

On the evening of 09/15/21, a 47-year-old man reported that his black lab had been attacked by another dog while he was at his friend's house on Hermantown Road. He said a neighbor dog ran over and he had to hit it and pry the attacking dog's mouth open so his dog could get away. The reporting party and his friend both stated that the attacking dog has caused issues in the past, including chasing people and other dogs. The dog's owner said the dog slipped off its harness but he had never seen it attack anyone or another dog before. The dog was due for its rabies shot earlier in the month, and the owner was advised that the dog needed to be quarantined for 10 days.