



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 10/10/21 to 10/16/21, the Hermantown PD had 198 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 12:45 a.m. on 10/16/21, officers responded to Tamarack Lane after a woman reported that her roommate was intoxicated and punching holes in the walls. The woman left the apartment and waited down the road. She told dispatch that there were firearms in the garage and possibly one in the night stand next to the man's bed. The woman said that the 22-year-old man had gotten into an argument with his girlfriend's sister and that the girlfriend and her sister had left. As officers were positioning themselves outside the apartment, they could see the shirtless man moving around in his bedroom. As Sgt. Pernu was preparing to call the man, he heard a single gunshot. Shortly after, the man opened the apartment door and walked outside. It appeared that the male was trying to determine what just happened. The man was detained in handcuffs and when asked what the noise was, he said he didn't know and came out to investigate. Officers then performed a safety sweep of the residence and noted a strong smell in the man's bedroom that was consistent with a gun being fired in a confined space. When Sgt. Pernu went to speak with the man, he said he thought someone was breaking into his apartment, so he shot a warning shot into the ceiling. Officers executed a search warrant at the apartment and located multiple firearms, along with a spent 9mm casing in the man's bedroom. Later that afternoon, Officer Leibel responded back to the apartment after the man's girlfriend located damage caused by the bullet. It appears that the man attempted to shoot through a narrow gap in the window that was between the AC unit and the window frame. The bullet appeared to have struck the AC unit, causing it to deflect and partially fragment prior to hitting the siding of the apartment across the street. Occupants there indicated that they did not believe the bullet came through the outside wall into the residence. The man was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for reckless discharge of a firearm.

Damage to Property

Just before 1 a.m. on 10/12/21, officers were advised of a male at the Kwik Trip on Haines Road that had taken a 12-pack of beer without paying and began drinking it. The man's hand was bleeding and he had blood on his clothes. While speaking with the man, it was determined that he drove to the Kwik Trip while intoxicated. He also admitted to breaking windshields at a nearby car dealership. The man was transported to the hospital for treatment to his injured hand; while there, officers served a search warrant for a urine test for possible DWI charges. Officers determined that the man had broken two windshields on vehicles at Volkswagen of Duluth on Loberg Avenue and had also damaged the hood and grill of a third vehicle. Shortly before 4 a.m., a Sam's Club employee reported that the windows in the front of the store had been broken. Surveillance video showed that the same man had caused the damage with a heavy chain he had in the back of his vehicle. Officers then checked other area businesses and found broken windows at Lake Effect Vapor and King of Creams. After being released from the hospital, the 22-year-old man was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail on four counts of felony property damage. Charges of DWI and theft from Kwik Trip are pending results of the man's urine test. During an interview later in the day on 10/12/21, the man was not



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remorseful about the damage he caused, stating that the businesses have insurance and further stating that the glass couldn't have been too high quality because he broke them all easily.

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Theft

At noon on 10/10/21, Walmart loss prevention reported a suspicious person in the store. He recognized the woman from a previous shoplifting incident. She was carrying two expensive Lego sets and she staged other items in the store. By the time squads arrived, the woman had left. An hour later, loss prevention reported that the woman had returned with a man and they stole several items before leaving in a vehicle. Using video, loss prevention determined that the 28-year-old woman stole a Lego set, a baby monitor, and two smaller items with a total value of \$283.88. A citation for theft was mailed to the woman's registered address.

On 10/13/21, Officer Gottschald was advised that a 92-year-old resident had been scammed out of \$2,501. The reporting party said that a police report had been filed over the summer after a similar scam took place. The man lost approximately \$17,000 at that time. He changed his number, but approximately one month ago, the phone calls started again. The victim said that the callers told him he won three million dollars but he needed to send money. He said they were very persuasive. In September, he sent \$2,500 to Florida. A couple weeks later, he was upset with the scammer because he had not received the money, so he sent \$1 instead of the \$4,500 they asked for. On 10/12/21, the man sent a \$4,500 check, but a family member canceled it. This incident is under investigation.

On 10/13/21 at 10:45 a.m., an Arrowhead Road resident reported that a neighbor had seen a male attempting to break into her garage. The neighbor had yelled at the man and the man left. Officers located the 25-year-old man, who said he stopped by a garage to get out of the rain so he could use his phone. The man denied trying the handle or burglarizing the garage. The neighbor and homeowner confirmed that the male suspect did not get inside the garage. At 1 p.m. on 10/13/21, Menards reported a shoplifting in which a male selected a knife and flashlight. He opened the package of the knife and discarded it, then went into the bathroom with the flashlight. The suspect was stopped at the door and returned the knife and flashlight. He was uncooperative and fled the store. Officer Salo watched surveillance video of the suspect and recognized him as the man involved in the garage incident that morning. The value of the knife and flashlight was \$32.98. A theft citation was mailed to the man's address.

Shortly before 5 p.m. on 10/14/21, Officer Gottschald was advised of a shoplifting incident at Fleet Farm in which one female opened a package of \$49.99 bear spray and gave it to a second female, who concealed it. A third female was with them and all three walked out and got into a vehicle. Officer Gottschald made contact with the females at their vehicle. Both suspects, ages 17 and 19, were read their Miranda rights, but both declined to speak with Officer Gottschald. The juvenile stated that the 26-year-old female with them was her guardian. Both suspects were issued citations for theft.