



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 10/17/21 to 10/23/21, the Hermantown PD had 163 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

Accidents:

On 10/23/21 shortly after 10 p.m., officers responded to the intersection of Midway Road and Hwy 194 for an accident. A 29-year-old male was traveling eastbound on Hwy 194 in a Chevy Tahoe when his light turned yellow. He admitted that he thought he could make it before the light turned red; when he entered the intersection, he was struck on the right rear passenger side by a northbound Toyota Camry that had entered the intersection when his light turned green. The Camry, driven by a 19-year-old man, sustained severe damage. The Tahoe came to a stop approximately 40-50 yards east of the intersection in a south ditch. The right side airbags deployed. Both vehicles were towed from the scene.



On the afternoon of 10/23/21, Officer Gottschald responded to a 3-vehicle accident on Loberg Avenue near Market Street. All parties stated that a vehicle in front of Unit 1 turned into the Home Furniture lot but did not use the turn lane. Unit 1 had to make a sudden stop and avoided hitting the vehicle. Unit 2 was able to stop in time, but Unit 3 was not and pushed Unit 2 into Unit 1. No injuries were reported.

Disturbance

On the afternoon of 10/19/21, Officers Leibel and Stracek responded to the Sam's Club parking lot for a disturbance. A 19-year-old woman stated that the other woman entered the parking space rather quickly and she was concerned about being hit. She said the other woman exited her door carefully, but when she entered the rear door, the door edge bumped the 19-year-old's car multiple times. When she exited the car to make sure there was no damage, the other woman began yelling. The woman wanted nothing done, as she could not find any damage. When officers arrived on scene, the other woman, age 63, was very upset and was yelling at the younger woman, calling her names and accusing her of being racist. She was causing a scene as officers were speaking to her. As there was no damage to either vehicle, the woman was advised she was free to go. She then ran over Officer Stracek's toe with her shopping cart and left.



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Driving Under the Influence

Just before 11 p.m. on 10/17/21, officers were dispatched to attempt to locate a Dodge Ram that was reported to be driving all over the road. Officers were unable to locate the vehicle at that time. At 11:12 p.m., Sgt. Pernu spoke to the reporting party outside Kwik Trip on Sugar Maple Drive. He stated that the truck was currently parked on the north side of the building. As Sgt. Pernu watched the vehicle, the vehicle left the lot and turned onto the highway. While the pickup was traveling northbound, Sgt. Pernu noted a broken taillight and observed the vehicle cross the fog line and centerline. Sgt. Pernu performed a traffic stop on the vehicle and made contact with the 35-year-old driver. Sgt. Pernu observed the man's eyes to be glossy, his speech to be slurred, and a strong of alcoholic beverage coming from inside the truck. The driver acknowledged that he had been drinking at a nearby bar. The man declined to perform field sobriety testing due to medical issues, but he agreed to take a preliminary breath test, which resulted in a reading of .246% blood alcohol content. He told Sgt. Pernu that he had been arrested for DWI before in other states but was never convicted. The man was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for 3rd degree DWI, .08 or more, open container, and crossing the fog line.

Theft

On 10/18/21, Officer Leibel took a report from a Hermantown School District staff member, who stated that someone had routed her check to an unauthorized account. The victim said that she noticed on Friday that her check did not deposit into her account. She spoke with someone in payroll, who said that she received an email on 10/12/21 that she believed was from the victim. The email requested to update bank information before the next payroll and provided new account information. This incident is under investigation.

On 10/21/21, Kwik Trip reported a theft of gas that occurred on the evening of 10/19/21. Officer Gottschald responded to the gas station and viewed surveillance footage of the incident. A truck pulled into a gas pump and a male driver and two passengers got out. The female passenger got into the driver's seat and drove the truck out of the lot without the two males. The male that had been driving the vehicle pumped \$16.33 worth of gas into a gas can and the two men then walked through the lot toward the back of the building. Officer Gottschald was unable to contact the truck's registered owner by phone, so she drove to the 35-year-old woman's address and located the vehicle. The woman identified the man who pumped the gas as her 30-year-old "baby daddy." There is an active Order for Protection between the pair prohibiting the man from having any contact with the woman. Reports have been sent to the prosecuting attorney's office for possible charges of Order violation and theft.

At 7:30 a.m. on 10/23/21, Walmart reported a male shoplifter that attempted to leave the store with a \$217 Votex bow. The man dropped the bow when confronted by loss prevention and fled on foot with other stolen items. The man was located between St. Luke's Clinic and the Holiday Inn Express. Officers gave multiple commands to the suspect to stop, but he continued to run away. An assisting DPD officer made contact with the suspect and gave multiple commands to get on the ground. The suspect then lifted his shirt and began to pull a long black object, later identified as stolen bolt cutters, from his waistband; the Duluth officer tased the man and he was placed into handcuffs. The 31 year-old had taken \$260.26 worth of items from Walmart. He was cited for theft and fleeing on foot.