



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 10/24/21 to 10/30/21, the Hermantown PD had 172 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 2 a.m. on 10/29/21, Officer Battaglia and Sgt. Pernu were dispatched to a physical domestic call after a female reported that her husband hit her and had since left the residence. The 31-year-old woman told dispatch that he had hit her head on the floor, choked her, and pulled out some of her hair. She stated he had been drinking. When officers arrived at the home, they immediately noted that the woman was crying and she had visible signs of injury to her face and neck, including a bloody lip. First responders arrived and tended to the woman's injuries. The woman told officers that she and her husband had gotten into an argument and it had turned physical. It was determined that there was probable cause to arrest the 35-year-old man and shortly after, a patrolling deputy located the man's truck in the North Shore Bank parking lot. Sgt. Pernu responded to the scene and officers made contact with the male in the vehicle, who was identified as the suspect. He stated that his wife had hit him in the face, first stating she hit him six or seven times, then later saying it was 10-12 times. He told officers he didn't know how she got the bruises and cuts, stating she kept hitting him, so he pushed her off him and left. He was ultimately lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for charges of domestic assault and domestic assault by strangulation.

Driving Under the Influence

Just before 11 p.m. on 10/27/21, Officer Stracek was on patrol southbound on Midway Road approaching the roundabout. A Jeep ahead of him entered the roundabout and then continued southbound on Midway. The Jeep accelerated at a high rate and Officer Stracek locked the speed at 69 mph in a 55 mph zone. The vehicle then swayed over the centerline and corrected itself. As Officer Stracek turned on his emergency lights to perform a traffic stop, the driver threw out a lit cigarette. He made contact with the female driver, who was displaying signs of impairment and had a moderate odor of alcoholic beverage coming from her person. The 42-year-old woman admitted to having four tall beers at the deer shack. She assured Officer Stracek that she was okay to drive and said he could follow her home to make sure. Officer Stracek requested that she perform field sobriety tests and she agreed; however, during the second test, she stated "I'm just going to end up in jail anyways" and "just take me in." Her preliminary breath test resulted in a reading of .166% blood alcohol content. The woman was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for 2nd degree DWI, .08 or more, and speeding.

On 10/30/21 at approximately 11:15 p.m., Officer Stracek had cleared an assault call that he assisted the Proctor Police Department with. As he was on his way back to the City of Hermantown, he observed a vehicle in front of him with an equipment violation. He performed a traffic stop on the vehicle and detected a strong odor of alcoholic beverage coming from the driver. The 61-year-old man admitted to drinking five beers and stated he started drinking at 4 p.m. He performed field sobriety testing, including a preliminary breath test with a reading of .229% blood alcohol content. Reports have been forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges of 3rd degree DWI, .08 or more.



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Underage Drinking

On the evening of 10/30/21, School Resource Officer Johnson observed two students with bloodshot watery eyes and smelled of alcoholic beverage at the Haunted Trail, which took place on school property. Officers provided preliminary breath tests to the teenagers with results of .014% and .047% blood alcohol content. One of the teens said they were surprised because they thought it would be out of their system by that time. Both were issued underage consumption citations.

Drugs

On 10/25/21, Officer Enright was advised that U-haul employees had located drugs in a moving truck. An employee told him that a 29-year-old woman had rented the truck on 10/14/21 and it was supposed to be returned on 10/18/21. On 10/19/21, the Duluth Police Department found it abandoned in Lincoln Park and it was towed back to U-haul. On 10/23/21, a 54-year-old man called and spoke to a U-haul employee, stating that he was the renter's uncle and he wanted to collect her items from the vehicle. The glovebox was locked at the time and no one had a key, so it was not entered at that time. On 10/25/21, the man called back and said he wanted to again go to U-haul to collect the items from the glove box. U-haul was able to get a key made for the glove box and when they opened it, they located a Crown Royal bag containing what appeared to be methamphetamine. Officer Enright responded to the business and observed the Crown Royal bag in the glove box with the suspected meth in a plastic sandwich bag inside of it. The substance tested positive for methamphetamine and weight almost 20 grams.

Miscellaneous

On the morning of 10/24/21, an 80-year-old resident stopped at the police department because she was concerned about why a squad stopped by her parked vehicle on Lindahl Road earlier while she was walking her dog. Officer Salo told her he saw the vehicle and ran the plate to make sure it wasn't a stolen vehicle, as it was parked on the side of the road in a place where vehicles normally do not park. He explained that it was his job to patrol the city and look for unusual and suspicious things. He did remember seeing her and her dog down the road from the car. She asked if the vehicle was parked legally and Officer Salo told her it was.

Stolen Property

While on routine patrol just after 8:30 p.m. on 10/25/21, Officer Stracek observed a white Toyota Avalon pull into the pumps at Kwik Trip on Haines Road. He conducted a routine query on the license plate and it came back as a recent stolen vehicle out of Duluth. By the time he pulled into the lot, the single occupant was gone and a large dog was left in the car. Sgt. Pernu was able to view video of the female driver entering the woman's restroom and officers were able to take the woman into custody. As she was being placed into the rear of a squad car, the 27-year-old was screaming that the owner gave her permission to have the vehicle if she located it. The woman told Officer Stracek that she found the car in West Duluth and called the owner, who said she would let the police know it had been located. Officers contacted the owner of the vehicle, who confirmed that the woman could use the vehicle, but said that the woman never told her it had been found. She told officers there was no insurance on the vehicle. The driver was found to have a suspended driving status and she was issued a citation for that and uninsured vehicle.