



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 10/31/21 to 11/06/21, the Hermantown PD had 196 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

At approximately 12:45 a.m. on 10/31/21, a male reported that his 24-year-old friend had been drinking and got into an accident when trying to leave. He said the man was back at the apartment, was bleeding from the nose, and had passed out, but the caller didn't know if it was due to the man hitting his head or from drinking. Officer Stracek arrived at the residence and observed the man lying on the floor with minor blood coming from his nose. The man was unresponsive but breathing and his eyes were rolled back, so Officer Stracek performed a sternum rub. The man was transported to a local hospital. The group at the apartment said that the man had consumed 10-12 beers and a couple shots throughout the evening. They said that he became agitated and wanted to leave; the group attempted to stop him and offered to get him a cab, but he left in his vehicle. Officer Stracek responded to the scene of the crash and located the pole that the man hit near the intersection of Market Street and Westberg Road. Officer Stracek completed a search warrant for a blood draw of the man, which was executed at the hospital. Possible charges of DWI are pending results of the blood test.

On 11/01/21 at 2:46 a.m., Officer Stracek observed an eastbound vehicle turn abnormally hard onto northbound Haines Road. When he ran a check on the license plate of the vehicle, he observed that a 22-year-old female had been cited in September for driving after suspension and in October for speed. Officer Stracek observed that the driver of the vehicle matched the description of the driver in the previous stops. When he performed a traffic stop and made contact with the driver, Officer Stracek immediately detected a strong odor of alcoholic beverage emitting from her breath. When asked how much she had to drink that night, she quickly responded "none" and changed the subject. The woman failed field sobriety testing and gave a preliminary breath sample of .15% blood alcohol content. She was ultimately released to a sober family member and was cited for 4th degree DWI, .08 or more, driving after suspension, and speed.

On 11/04/21 at approximately 11:30 p.m., Officer Mischke observed a Grand Am travelling northbound on Stebner Road approaching the stop sign at Morris Thomas. The vehicle stopped well before the stop sign and then accelerated through the intersection at a high rate of speed. As he followed the vehicle, Officer Mischke observed it swerve over the center line several times. As it began to turn onto Oak Ridge Drive, it almost came to a stop and went well over the fog line. Officer Mischke performed a traffic stop and made contact with the 46-year-old male driver. When asked why he was driving all over the road, he said he was watching out for deer. The man declined to perform field sobriety testing due to previous strokes, but did submit to a preliminary breath test, which resulted in a reading of .200% blood alcohol content. Reports were forwarded to the prosecuting attorney for charges of 2nd degree DWI, .08 or more, driving after revocation, and failure to drive in a single lane.

Officer Stracek was working a Toward Zero Death special traffic enforcement shift just after 10 p.m. on 11/06/21 when he observed a vehicle travelling 63 mph in a 50 mph zone. He conducted a traffic stop and made contact with the 24-year-old male driver. As he approached the vehicle, Officer Stracek observed a liquor bottle in the rear passenger seat and a plastic cup with ice and liquid in the center console. The man said he was going to a friend's house and then he would be headed to work. The man said he drinks every night, but denied drinking in the previous 6-7 hours. He admitted to having a couple shots of vodka earlier that day, but did not believe what he had to drink affected his driving. The man performed field sobriety testing, but refused to provide a preliminary breath sample. He admitted that he had a previous DWI in another state. While being processed at the Hermantown Police Department, he admitted to drinking a bottle of Hennessy



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prior to driving. Reports were forwarded to the prosecuting attorney for charges of 3rd degree DWI, .08 or more, possessing an open bottle, and speed.

Traffic

On 11/02/21 at 2 a.m., Officer Stracek stopped a vehicle for not having a license plate light. He discovered 19 and 17 year old parents headed to the overnight boxing gym with their newborn in the backseat. An odor of marijuana was present and drug paraphernalia was located in the vehicle.

Miscellaneous

On 11/04/21, just after noon, a Miller Trunk gas station employee reported that there was an elderly woman in the store who didn't know how to get home. Officer Salo responded and the 81-year-old woman told him she was trying to go to Walmart and then go back home. When asked if she made it to Walmart, she said she didn't remember. One month prior, she had the same thing happen and officers led her back home. At this time, Officer Salo did not believe it was safe for her to drive with the memory issues she was experiencing and he offered her a ride home. When they were near her home, she said her son lived nearby but she couldn't remember where. Officer Salo was able to determine where her son lives and he brought her there at her request. Her son stated he had been trying to keep her from driving but she sneaks out sometimes. The woman said she would keep driving no matter what, even if she lost her license. Officer Salo advised her strongly against driving with her memory issues, as she lives far out of town and could get lost on a side road instead of a gas station.

Theft

Just before 5 a.m. on 11/02/21, Pure Pleasure reported a shoplifting. The 21-year-old male had concealed a \$19.99 item in his pants and attempted to walk out the door without paying. The man admitted to Officer Stracek that he had the money to pay for the item but was too embarrassed. He was cited for shoplifting and trespassed.

On 11/02/21 at approximately 6:30 p.m., a Hermantown resident reported that someone had his wife and they were running around town buying gift cards. He then stated that she was headed home from Cub Foods and someone was following her. He requested that officers intercept her, as he had just gotten off the phone with her. Officer Stracek arrived at the residence and the 63-year-old woman pulled in behind him with no one following her. The woman stated she had been on her computer that morning when an alert popped up on the screen. She couldn't click out of the alert and it said she needed to call the number provided and not turn off her computer. When she called the number, the male said he was with her bank and instructed her to provide her credit card numbers. He then confirmed the 1-800 number listed on the back to reassure her that he was there to help her. The man then instructed the woman to visit different stores and buy gift cards to unlock her account. He told her to tell the store clerks that the gift cards were for her grandchildren. Throughout the afternoon, the woman spent a total of \$7700 on gift cards at Best Buy, Target, Walgreens, Holiday, Speedway, and Kwik Trip. She provided the gift card information to the suspect.