



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

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 11/28/21 to 12/04/21, the Hermantown PD had 182 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

### Order Violation

On the evening of 11/28/21, officers were advised that a 24-year-old male had left a Duluth address and was walking toward a family member's Hermantown address. There was an active Domestic Assault No Contact Order (DANCO) in place between the pair. Officers checked the area and did not locate the young man. The reporting party advised that she was able to see the male's location on her phone and indicated he was at the back door of the Hermantown residence. Officers made contact with the man, who stated he went to the residence because he was looking for a place to stay that night. He said he thought the DANCO order had been dropped. He admitted to knocking on the door but stated he did not have contact with the resident. Officers confirmed with the resident that the man had not made contact. Officers determined that because the man had attempted to make contact with the resident, he violated the DANCO order. Reports have been sent to the prosecuting attorney for charging.

### Driving Under the Influence

Just after midnight on 12/03/21, Officer Stracek performed a traffic stop on a vehicle driven by a 57-year-old man. While speaking with the driver, Officer Stracek observed a strong odor of alcoholic beverage emitting from the driver's breath. The man appeared lethargic, slow moving, and he was slurring his words. During field sobriety testing, the man admitted to having one beer and stated he wasn't supposed to drink because he had five heart attacks. He also stated he was "jumped" in September and his brain was bleeding because of it. The man was cooperative during the testing and submitted to a preliminary breath test that resulted in a reading of .115% blood alcohol content. The man was transported to a local hospital for a blood test; while there, he became upset and belligerent. He stated he wanted to fight the phlebotomist and told Officer Stracek to take off his belt and fight him. The man was left in the care of ER staff until he could sober up and take care of himself. Charges are pending results of the blood test.

### Traffic

At 8:48 p.m. on 12/02/21, Officer Stracek observed a Chevy Tahoe pulling an older Volkswagen with a tow strap. Officer Stracek discovered that the Tahoe was displaying Fond Du Lac plates that belonged to a Chevy sedan, not a Tahoe. Officer Stracek performed a traffic stop; when the vehicles stopped, the driver of the Tahoe jumped out and unhooked the tow strap before getting back into his vehicle. Officer Stracek spoke with the 27-year-old male driver of the Volkswagen, who stated he just bought the car and needed to get it to his place. The man was nervous and had a hard time sitting still in his seat. He admitted that he had a warrant out of Washington County. Officer Stracek then spoke to the 50-year-old driver of the Tahoe. He stated the vehicle belonged to his mother and he didn't put the plates on it. He said that she



Hermantown Police Department  
5111 Maple Grove Road, Hermantown, MN 55811  
218.729.1200 // [cops@hermantownmn.com](mailto:cops@hermantownmn.com)

# AROUND TOWN

## 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

had multiple cars and the plates could have been mixed up. He stated he did not have identification on him and verbally identified himself. After attempting to run the man's information in police records, Officer Stracek approached the Tahoe again to confirm his middle name. As Officer Stracek made it to the rear of his bumper, the driver put the Tahoe into gear and fled. The driver of the Volkswagen was lodged for his warrant. Reports have been sent to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges against the Tahoe driver of fleeing in a motor vehicle, illegal use of plates, and driving after revocation.

Just after 10:30 p.m. on 12/04/21, Officer Gottschald was on patrol in the area of Maple Grove and Stebner Roads. The vehicle in front of her was turned left onto Stebner Road and had a yellow flashing light. The vehicle failed to yield to oncoming traffic and almost caused an accident. The vehicle with the right of way had to swerve out of their lane to avoid being hit. Officer Gottschald performed a traffic stop on the vehicle and made contact with the 34-year-old female driver, who had glossed over eyes. There was an odor of an alcoholic beverage emitting from the vehicle. The woman stated she didn't realize that she failed to yield to oncoming traffic which almost caused an accident. The woman admitted to drinking but passed field sobriety testing. She was cited for inattentive driving and called someone for a ride.

### Theft

On 11/29/21, a 38-year-old man reported the theft of a vehicle from a Hermantown dealership. He stated that on 11/10/18, he had his vehicle towed to the dealership to get an estimate for possible service work. He stated the vehicle was not his daily driver so it wasn't on his mind after it was dropped off. He said that recently, he came across some insurance paperwork and was reminded about the vehicle. The man contacted the dealership and was told they had no record of the vehicle in their system. The man said he still has the title and he checked with the DMV to make sure it had not been re-titled. He estimated the value of the vehicle at \$5,000.

On 11/30/21, an employee at Kolar reported that a 2016 Chevy Cruze was missing, along with the keys. They believed a customer had been loaned the vehicle, but the customer denied this. Detective Dwyer contacted OnStar for assistance with the vehicle's location, but OnStar stated the vehicle was no longer connected.