



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 12/05/21 to 12/11/21, the Hermantown PD had 180 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

On the afternoon of 12/06/21, a woman reported a disturbance on behalf of her client, who is a vulnerable adult and works at Walmart. The 21-year-old male employee told Officer Stracek that he was in a bathroom stall when an older man entered the bathroom and looked in the crack of the stall. He stated he believed the man was looking into his stall for two minutes. The employee said that when another person entered the bathroom, the older man would just back into the other stall and wait for the person to leave. Officer Stracek made contact with the older man as he was leaving the store. The 87-year-old said he thought he'd been at the store for around 30 minutes. While speaking with Officer Stracek, the man admitted to exposing himself to others. The older man was cited for indecent exposure and disorderly conduct. Management allowed the employee to go home early.

On 12/10/21, Officer Salo was advised that a 63-year-old female resident had received a certified letter from her 52-year-old neighbor in violation of a harassment order. The woman had applied for the harassment order on 09/13/21 and it was served on the defendant on 11/12/21. The reporting party allowed Officer Salo to open to the letter, which was a demand for payment for property damage in the amount of \$4,000,000. In addition, it requested the reporting party's health insurance information, attorney, and service technicians for her address. Officer Salo was unable to locate the woman who sent to the letter and a citation was sent to her residence for violating the harassment order.

Driving Under the Influence

Shortly before 7 p.m. on 12/11/21, Officer Leibel was dispatched to the report of a hit and run accident in which the reporting party said he had been sideswiped and had followed the suspect to the Deerfield Townhomes. When Officer Leibel arrived on scene, the 33-year-old man pointed out the suspect truck. Officer Leibel pulled up to the truck as a male exited and shut the driver's door. The man began to approach the front door to the apartment and Officer Leibel asked him to stop and discuss the hit and run incident that he was involved in. He noted that the man's speech was heavily slurred, his movements were lethargic, and he seemed unsteady on his feet. He also observed that the edge of the truck's mirror had been broken off and the marker light was hanging from its power wire. When Officer Leibel pointed out the damage, the 23-year-old man admitted that he hit the mirror, but would not provide his driver's license and proof of insurance and then began denying that he was involved in an accident. The man eventually provided his driver's license but continued to refuse to provide proof of insurance. When asked if he'd been drinking that night, he said, "absolutely" but declined to say how much he drank. While being processed for DWI at the police department, the man admitted to hitting the other vehicle's mirror and stated he would be buy the owner a new mirror. During officers' contact with the man, he remarked several times that they were ruining his life. The man was ultimately lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for 3rd degree test refusal, 4th degree DWI, failing to stop for an accident and failing to provide personal information after an accident.

Accidents

On 12/05/21 at 6:45 p.m., Officer Gottschald responded to an accident in the area of Stebner Road and Miller Trunk Highway. She met with a 37-year-old man, who said he was southbound on Miller Trunk approaching the intersection; the light turned red and the vehicle behind him rear-ended him. He said the suspect vehicle did not stop and turned onto Stebner Road and into the trailer park off Village Drive. There were two children in the reporting party's vehicle. Both were wearing seatbelts and did not complain of any injuries. Assisting



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officers were able to locate the suspect vehicle. They made contact with a 34-year-old man who admitted to sliding into the rear of the other vehicle. He also admitted to eating food while driving and officers observed a Burger King bag and fresh fries spilled on the floorboard of the front passenger seat. The man could not provide any reason why he did not stop at the scene. He was cited for hit and run.

Miscellaneous

On 12/06/21, Officer Stracek was advised by a St Louis County Deputy that a trailer stolen in the city of Hermantown had been located. The deputy was taking the report of a burglary in which the suspect cut a lock on the fence to hunting property. The stolen trailer from Hermantown was left at the scene and a different trailer from stolen from the property. The 2018 Aluma 12 foot trailer had been reported stolen in November 2019. The owner's son retrieved the trailer.

Theft

Just before 12:30 p.m. on 12/06/21, Officer Enright was advised of a shoplifting incident at Walmart in which a male and female fled in a vehicle. The reporting party advised that all the items the suspects attempted to steal had been recovered. The suspect vehicle was not located at the time of the incident. Loss prevention staff stated the pair had been acting suspicious in the clearance aisle and that's why he began watching them. He said that they went into the self-check area selected three reusable bags. They began scanning items and placing them into the reusable bags, which had not been scanned. Several items on the bottom of the cart were never taken out to be scanned. The bagged merchandise was placed back into the bag and the female inserted a card for payment while the man walked away with the cart. The transaction did not go through and the female inserted the same card again. After it was declined a second time, she pulled out a different card and held it by the card reader as if she was going to insert it, but instead she walked away from the register without completing payment for any of the items. When confronted, the pair left the cart and fled in a Pontiac G6. Officer Stracek determined that the vehicle was involved in a traffic stop at 1:30 a.m., approximately 11 hours before the shoplifting incident. The man in the G6 at the time of the traffic stop was identified as the 41-year-old male shoplifting suspect. Using police records and body cam footage of the traffic stop, the 29-year-old female shoplifting suspect was also identified. Both parties had Twin Cities metro addresses on their driver's licenses. Reports were sent to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges of gross misdemeanor theft, as the value of the items they attempted to steal was \$565.29.

On 12/08/21, a 47-year-old woman reported that she had left her vehicle outside of a Miller Trunk Highway business overnight and it had been broken into. She said that a small window had been broken and a number of items were taken. The items stolen included a CPAP machine, shepherd's hook, clothing, and a blanket.

On 12/08/21, an Arrowhead Road resident reported that sometime between the afternoon of 12/06/21 and the morning of 12/08/21, someone stole the rear license plate off her vehicle.

On 12/09/21, Officer Mischke received a theft report from the Frito Lay Warehouse. The reporting party advised that one of their vans had the catalytic converter cut off and he believed this happened approximately one week before. In addition, the catalytic converter was cut off of a van owned by the company that services Frito Lay's vehicles.