



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

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 12/12/21 to 12/18/21, the Hermantown PD had 190 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 12/14/21, a 63-year-old female resident reported that she received a second certified letter from her neighbor in violation of a harassment order. Sgt. Pernu responded and took possession of the letter, which was dated 12/05/21. Both letters demanded payment for property damage in the amount of \$4,000,000 and requested insurance information from the recipient. The woman had reported receiving the first letter on 12/10/21 and the woman was cited for that offense. Sgt. Pernu spoke at length to the reporting party, who stated she is fearful of what her neighbor might do next and that she is concerned the woman might retaliate after being charged with violating the harassment order. She stated that she caught the 53-year-old woman on multiple occasions in her yard and sneaking around the exterior of her home. The suspect wasn't located during the probable cause window of time and she was cited for the offense.

### Driving Under the Influence

At approximately 12:30 a.m. on 12/18/21, Officer Stracek observed a vehicle driving 16 mph over the speed limit and he performed a traffic stop. The man stated he didn't know why he was being stopped. The man displayed indicators of being intoxicated and Officer Stracek requested that he perform field sobriety testing. Several times, the man said he had "nothing at all" to drink that night. After performed field sobriety testing, the man submitted to a preliminary breath test that resulted in a reading of .088% blood alcohol content. The man later admitted to drinking two 24 oz beers and a couple of shots while bowling in Duluth that night. He also stated he was a "speed demon." He was cited for 4<sup>th</sup> degree DWI, .08 or more, and speed.

At 2:12 a.m. on 12/18/21, Officer Stracek performed a traffic stop on a vehicle with a burned out headlight and tabs that expired in September 2021. The 21-year-old female driver was also the vehicle's owner and she admitted to knowing the tabs were expired. Officer Stracek observed a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from the woman and he requested that she perform field sobriety testing. The woman admitted to having a couple twisted teas, but said she didn't think the alcoholic beverages impacted her driving. Her preliminary breath test showed a result of .218% blood alcohol content. The woman had a prior DWI in 2019. She was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail on charges of 2<sup>nd</sup> degree DWI, .08 or more, open bottle, expired tabs, and headlight violation.

On 12/18/21 at 8:53 p.m., Sgt. Pernu was working a Toward Zero Death special traffic enforcement shift when he was requested by Officer Battaglia to respond to his traffic stop. Officer Battaglia advised that the 22-year-old male driver was the only occupant of the vehicle, there was a beer bottle on the floor of the truck, and the man smelled strongly of alcoholic beverage. The man told Sgt. Pernu that he had been at Mont Du Lac for 3-4 hours and he drank 4-5 bottles of Coors Light, including one in the truck. After field sobriety testing, the man submitted to a preliminary breath test that resulted in a reading of .094% blood alcohol content. The man was cited for 4<sup>th</sup> degree DWI, .08 or more, and open bottle.



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### Accidents

At 11 a.m. on 12/15/21, Officer Salo responded to a three-vehicle accident; conditions were extremely foggy with limited visibility and rain/sleet. After speaking to all drivers and a witness, Officer Salo determined that a 60-year-old man driving a Chevy Colorado was at a red light on Sugar Maple at Miller Trunk; when the light turned green, he proceeded through the intersection. A 65-year-old man driving a Ford F250 with a large trailer was northbound on Miller Trunk with a red light that he ran without slowing. He struck the Colorado on the front driver's side, then bounced into the oncoming lane and struck a FedEx van head-on and pushed it backwards. The F250 then bounced back into the northbound lane. The driver of the Colorado was checked by medical personnel at the scene and later went to the hospital for a back injury. The F250 driver was cited for running the red light. He stated he did not see the light until too late and was not able to stop. Excessive speed under the foggy conditions likely contributed.



### Miscellaneous

On 12/11/21, Officer Leibel contacted a 29-year-old Hermantown resident requesting a predatory offender check in to confirm that no information had changed and to get more updated photographs. The man admitted that some days he stays with a coworker in Duluth. The man stated that he could meet Officer Leibel at his Hermantown address on the evening of 12/12/21 after 6 p.m. Officer Leibel attempted to contact the man several times on the evening of 12/12/21 and was unsuccessful so he responded to the man's address, where he met with a family member who stated that the man had gone to the family cabin out of town. Officer Leibel was told there was little cellular coverage at the cabin. The family member stays at the residence a couple days a week, but also stays with a coworker in Duluth. The man did attempt to contact Officer Leibel later that evening but Officer Leibel was unable to answer at that time. Officer Leibel attempted again to contact the man by phone on 12/20/21. After being unsuccessful, he went to the residence and met with the same family member. The family member stated that the last time they had contact with the man was on December 12. Officer Leibel then made contact with the man's employer, who hadn't seen the man since Friday and did not know where the man stayed at night. Due to the man's failure to update his information and evasive behavior, reports have been forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for possible charges of failing to fulfill registration requirement.