



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

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 12/19/21 to 12/25/21, the Hermantown PD had 147 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 12/22/21, Officer Salo was dispatched to a call in which a 52-year-old sent a certified letter to her neighbor in violation of a harassment order. The woman had been cited twice already in December for violating the order by sending certified mail. This letter was postmarked December 10, but it had just been delivered; the recipient's address was incorrect and likely delayed delivery of the letter. The letter was very similar to the previous two, and the woman again demanded \$4,000,000 for damage to property, along with health insurance, homeowner's insurance, and attorney contact information. Officer Salo noted that the sender was not at her residence and there were no tracks leading to or from the house. The reporting party stated that it appeared the woman had moved out days before. A citation was issued for the order violation.

### Driving Under the Influence

On 12/20/21 at 1:20 p.m., Officer Stracek was requested to attempt to locate a possibly impaired driver on Hermantown Road. Another driver had reported a white Tahoe nearly hitting oncoming traffic and almost going into the ditch, speeding at 70 mph. Officer Stracek located the vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed near Okerstrom Road. He performed a traffic stop as the vehicle passed Haines Road. As Officer Stracek made contact with the 24-year-old male driver, he detected a strong odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. The driver was sitting low in his seat and had it reclined back. He was slow-moving and his eyes were droopy. The man denied the driving conduct that was reported to 911. The man performed poorly on field sobriety testing and submitted to a preliminary breath test with a result of .000% blood alcohol content. Based on Officer Stracek's observations, drug paraphernalia located in the vehicle, and the 911 call, the man was placed under arrest and transported to the Hermantown Police Department, where he participated in a drug evaluation. A search warrant for the man's blood was executed at a local hospital and he was left in the care of his girlfriend. Charges are pending the results of the man's blood test. He had a previous DWI charge in 2014. Officer Stracek later spoke to the reporting party, who told him that the vehicle was all over the road and oncoming cars had to swerve to avoid a head-on collision. He said that the Tahoe almost went into the ditch five or six times.

### Traffic

At 9:30 p.m. on 12/20/21, Officer Leibel observed a vehicle drive through the back parking lot of the police department, past the "Authorized Access Only" sign. The front side windows of the vehicle were heavily frosted. The 17-year-old driver claimed he had missed the turn to bring his female passenger home, so he used the back lot as a thoroughfare. He was advised on how his choice of travel drew attention to himself and he was warned for the frosty windows and no proof of insurance.



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### Theft

Just after 10 a.m. on 12/19/21, Officer Salo was dispatched to the report of a shoplifting at Menards in which a male stole multiple items, then fled in a Chevy Impala. Dispatch ran the plate and discovered that the vehicle had recently been sold to a man with three zero-bail felony warrants, including two for fleeing. Officer Mischke was on Lightning Drive when he observed the Impala traveling westbound, then turning around in a driveway and traveling back the way it came from. As Officer Mischke attempted to catch up to it, the vehicle noticeably increased its speed. As they traveling south on Stebner Road, Officer Mischke clocked the vehicle at speeds up to 65 mph as it attempted to flee from him. The Impala ultimately went into the ditch in the 3700 block of Stebner Road. The occupants were ordered from the vehicle at gunpoint. At the scene, it was discovered that the proper plate for the vehicle was on the rear and a fraudulent plate belonging to a Chevy Uplander was on the front of the vehicle. The tabs on the fraudulent plate expired in 2014. During a search of the vehicle, Officer Salo located \$430.89 worth of items belonging to Menards, including a security camera system, spray paint, and other items. A drug kit including pipes, syringes, scales, and Narcan was located in the backseat of the Impala. The 25-year-old female driver told Officer Mischke that the male passenger had stolen items from Menards. She admitted to seeing the squad car on Lightning Drive and speeding up to get away. She said she should have pulled over when she saw the emergency lights, but the passenger told her to "speed up and get away." The woman was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for felony fleeing in a motor vehicle, no proof of insurance, speeding, driving after suspension, and illegal use of plates. The 27-year-old male was cited for theft and possession of drug paraphernalia.

On 12/21/21, a 53-year-old woman reported that her vehicle had been prowled between 1:15 and 2 p.m. while she was inside Walmart. She did not initially notice anything missing, but stated the interior was rummaged through and she would call if she found anything missing. The woman's husband later contacted Officer Stracek to advise him that a number of items were missing from the vehicle, including prescription glasses, vehicle entertainment center items. In addition, he stated there was paint damage to the vehicle and damage to the glove box and center console. The damage was estimated to cost \$1550 to fix. The estimated cost of the items taken was around \$3000.

At 8:30 a.m. on 12/24/21, Officer Leibel was advised of a gas drive off at the Kwik Trip on Sugar Maple Drive. The reporting party provided a license plate, which registered to a truck owned by Kolar Chevrolet. Officer Leibel responded to Kolar and, in the back lot, located a 2016 GMC Sierra without a front plate. There were foot tracks to the front of the vehicle and the threaded fasteners for the plate were laying in the snow. He confirmed that the missing plate was the one used in the gas drive off. The Kwik Trip manager provided surveillance footage of a man pumping \$106 worth of diesel into an older GMC Sierra before getting back into the truck and leaving the lot. Officer Leibel made contact with a supervisor at Kolar, who requested that the license plate be entered as stolen.