



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 01/02/22 to 01/08/22, 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

On 01/08/22 at 12 a.m., Officer Stracek observed a vehicle approach a four-way stop. The vehicle did not signal correctly and failed to come to a complete stop for the stop sign. When he was pulled over, the driver stated he was not aware of why he was being stopped. Officer Stracek observed a mild odor of alcoholic beverage emitting from the 50-year-old man's breath and noted that he had glossy eyes and was having a hard time navigating his phone to find his insurance. The driver admitted to coming from an area bar. He performed field sobriety testing and submitted to a preliminary breath test that resulted in a reading of .155% blood alcohol content. Reports were forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges of 3rd degree DWI, .08 or more, open bottle, failure to stop at a stop sign, and improper signal.

Accidents

On the afternoon of 01/05/22, Officer Salo responded to a two-vehicle accident in the 5200 block of Maple Grove Road. A witness stated that she was facing east on Maple Grove, waiting to turn into her driveway and a Honda Civic was driving west approaching her. She said that a Toyota Prius behind her was coming too fast and could not stop; it slid and swerved into the oncoming lane and into the Honda Civic. The 52-year-old Prius driver was cited for failing to drive with due care on the slippery roads. Both vehicles were towed from the scene. No injuries were reported.



Miscellaneous

Just before 10 a.m. on 01/02/22, Menards employees reported an unwanted person in the store. Staff stated that the 34-year-old man had been at Menards the previous day trying to return stolen wire. Staff knew it had been stolen from a different store, so they took it from the man and did not refund him for the wire he tried to return. The man got upset and began yelling at staff. The employees stated that when they refused the transaction, the man started making comments such as "You don't want to make me mad" and "I will be back tomorrow." Menards management verbally



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trespassed the man, but he would not stay to fill out the paperwork, so the notice was mailed to his most recent address.

Animal Complaints

On the afternoon of 01/02/22, a caller reported that a dog had been crying in an apartment since 12/30/21. The caller asked for advice on what to do and was told to contact management for the complex to request that they check inside for the dog, as law enforcement was unable to force entry.

Also on the afternoon of 01/02/22, Officer Gottschald was advised that a caller reported hearing a dog barking outside for several hours on Hermantown Road. The caller stated that they drove past a house and saw a dog chained up barking and they were concerned for the dog due to the cold temperatures. Officer Gottschald drove past the house and did not see or hear a dog outside. She noted that people were coming in and out of the house and believed the dog may have been let inside.

Theft

On the afternoon of 01/04/22, several employees from St. Luke's Clinic reported that their vehicles had been broken into. Officers responded to the parking lot and noted that windows on three vehicles had been broken out. One victim stated that \$647.61 worth of items had been taken, including a Duluth Pack bag and a Pizzazz Pizza oven. A second victim reported that a 31 bag containing reusable shopping bags, and a gift had been taken. She estimated the total value to be \$250. The third victim said that she had over \$10,000 worth of items stolen from her vehicle. The items taken included exercise gear, jewelry, clothing, and Apple AirPods. Over the following several days, officers were able to view surveillance video from St. Luke's and nearby businesses. The parking lot video showed that the suspect was in the lot for a total of only five minutes. Walmart was able to locate the suspect vehicle on camera and loss prevention recognized the suspect as being involved in a shoplifting incident on 01/05/22 in which he fled in the same vehicle. At that time, the man stole a television valued at \$328. While investigating the shoplifting, Officer Gottschald identified the 50-year-old suspect. On 01/09/22, Detective Williams located the suspect vehicle and detained the male driver. The man admitted to the thefts, stating he has a fentanyl addiction, and also expressed that he felt bad about breaking people's windows and stealing their things. A number of the stolen items were located in the man's vehicle. He also directed Detective Williams to a dumpster near Menards where he had dumped additional items. The man said that he traded the TV he stole for drugs, but declined to say who he did the trade with. The man was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for felony theft and felony damage to property.