



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

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 01/09/22 to 01/15/22, the Hermantown PD had 157 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

### Drugs

On 01/11/22 at 11:30 p.m., Officer Leibel observed a vehicle without a license plate light. After performing a traffic stop, the 45-year-old man admitted that his license was probably not valid. He stated he had insurance but was unable to provide proof. Officer Leibel was advised that the driver had an active warrant out of Ramsey County and he took the man into custody. An inventory search of the vehicle turned up a drug kit containing .1 grams of methamphetamine and pipes that are commonly used for smoking meth. The man was lodged for 5<sup>th</sup> degree possession, possession of drug paraphernalia, driving after revocation, and no proof of insurance, as well as for his warrant.

### Traffic

On 01/11/22 at 1:52 a.m., Officer Stracek performed a traffic stop on a pickup that had drifted over the fog line. The 34-year-old driver admitting to knowing that she wasn't supposed to be driving and stated she was heading home from work. She was unable to provide proof of insurance. The driver also admitted to owning the truck for a while without transferring the title. Reports have been forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges of gross misdemeanor Driving After Cancellation – Inimical to Public Safety and for failing to provide insurance.

### Accidents

At 5:30 p.m. on 01/11/22, Officer Gottschald responded to Maple Grove Road and Getchell Road for a two-vehicle accident in which a Toyota Camry was t-boned by a Jeep Wrangler. A witness stated that the Camry failed to yield and made a left turn in front of the westbound Jeep. The 53-year-old driver of the Camry was cited for inattentive driving. Both vehicles were towed due to the damages. There were no injuries reported on the scene.





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### Theft

On the afternoon of 01/12/22, Officers Mischke and Salo were advised by loss prevention that a female had been in the store for approximately one hour and she had a cart with high value items. The female had removed security spider wire from several high value items and loss prevention believed that the woman was going to steal them. Approximately an hour and a half later, the female left the cart in the store prior to walking out but had concealed merchandise on her person and in her bag. The 29-year-old woman was escorted back inside the store and identified. She admitted to taking items to pawn, stating she needed to get her daughter some milk and pampers. Two baggies of suspected fentanyl were located in the woman's wallet. Prior to being transported to the St. Louis County Jail, the woman stated that her newborn baby was at home with a babysitter. She was given the opportunity to contact the babysitter and officers contacted St. Louis County Initial Intervention Unit, who agreed to meet with the woman's mother to assist in caring for the child. The woman was lodged at jail for felony theft, possession of a controlled substance, and a warrant. The total packaged weight of the suspected fentanyl was 1.9 grams. The value of the items stolen from Walmart was over \$1,000.

On 01/14/22, Menards reported fraudulent card use at their store on 01/08/22. The reporting party said that on 01/08/22, there was a suspicious male shopping with merchandise worth several hundred dollars in his cart. The male ultimately paid for the items with a Menards credit card. The reporting party advised Officer Mischke that he followed up with their corporate office to make sure the purchase was approved and after a few days, he received notice that the credit card was reported stolen. He said that the cardholder was reimbursed for the transaction, but Menards was not compensated for the \$1007.96 worth of merchandise. Officer Mischke contacted the cardholder, who stated he lost his wallet on 01/07/22 and someone stole it and began using several of his cards at businesses throughout the area. This incident is under investigation.

On 01/14/22, Fleet Farm reported that a male had selected a high-speed ratchet and two lithium batteries. He concealed them in tin foil and put them in his jacket before leaving the store without paying. The value of the stolen merchandise was \$386.95. Loss prevention provided Officer Mischke was the license plate of the vehicle that the suspect left in. The suspect matched the description of the 41-year-old registered owner. Reports have been forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges of shoplifting and possession of shoplifting gear.

On 01/14/22, Fleet Farm reported a female shoplifter that concealed flashlights in her purse. The 39-year-old woman was cooperative and returned three flashlights to loss prevention. She was trespassed and cited for theft. As she was leaving the store, the security alarms went off again and turned over two other items she had concealed. The merchandise was valued at \$116.95.