



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

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 01/16/22 to 01/22/22, the Hermantown PD had 160 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

### Assault

Shortly after 7:30 p.m. on 01/16/22, officers were advised that a friend was reporting that a domestic assault occurred at a Hermantown residence. Officers responded to the house and observed that a male and female were sitting on chairs on the living room and it did not appear there was an ongoing disturbance. The 59-year-old male agreed to step outside to speak to Officer Battaglia and the 57-year-old woman stayed inside and spoke to Officer Enright. The woman said her boyfriend was looking for his glasses case, which she found and tossed to him. She said that he then accused her of hitting him in the face with the glasses case. She then described that he followed her around the house and threw her down twice. Officer Enright noted several new injuries on the woman with freshly dried blood. The man said that when he came into the house after working in the garage, his girlfriend immediately began arguing with him about money. He said that she later struck him in the shoulder with his glasses case. He said that he believed she was going to damage his computer, which was on the coffee table, so he grabbed her by the arms and pushed her back, admitting that she fell and sustained a scrape on one of her arms. Based on the injuries to the woman and statements obtained, the man was taken into custody. A bindle was found in the man's jacket. He admitted that the bindle contained meth, stating it belonged to his girlfriend and that he went and purchased it for her for \$100. The man was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for domestic assault and possession of methamphetamine.

### Disturbance

At approximately 3:15 a.m. on 01/20/22, a Haines Road resident reported that a person had attempted to come to her door and wanted to come inside. The person attempted to turn the door knob, which was locked, before walking away. Officers located a 35-year-old female matching the description walking on the shoulder of the road. The woman was wearing one glove and talking about the reporting party "ratting her out." The woman could not tell officers what she was doing, where she was coming from, or where she was going. Based on her behavior and the cold temperatures, she was taken to a local hospital.

Shortly after 9 p.m. on 01/21/22, Skyline Lanes staff reported a male disturbing and refusing to leave. Officer Stracek located the male near the front door smoking and causing a disturbance. The 47-year-old man said he saw a woman at the bar that he liked and after trying to talk to her, people started to moan in his ear. He said he then confronted the other people that were moaning in his ear. While speaking to the man, he continued to yell at customers before becoming verbally confrontational with officers. He was trespassed from the property and transported to his home.

On the evening of 01/22/22, officers were advised of a disturbance at the Country Inn & Suites. Employees stated that a group of kids had gotten out of control in the pool area, which made conflict between the parents. Officer Stracek spoke with a woman, who stated that another mother had assaulted one of her kids on the water slide. She admitted that she didn't see the incident, but was adamant that she wanted to press charges, stating that the woman punched and pushed the kids. Officer Stracek then spoke with the other parent, who said that older boys in the other group were giving her kids a hard time. She saw the group pushing her 7-year-old and 3-year-old and she went to the top of the



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slide to try to get to her two children. She said that by the time she got up there, the kids had already pushed her children down the slide and another mother had to help catch them at the bottom. She admitted to moving the other kids out of the way, but denied punching anyone. The woman stated she was concerned for her and her children's safety, so they left the pool area and went to their room. The mother of one of the older boys later contacted Officer Gottschald to advise that her son had his hair pulled by another parents while at a birthday party at the hotel. Officer Gottschald collected video of the incident from the hotel. She advised the woman that the video did not show an assault and that no charges will be pursued.

### Driving Under the Influence

On 01/18/22 at 12:25 a.m., Officer Stracek performed a traffic stop on a Jeep Grand Cherokee after the driver committed two blinker violations. The 49-year-old driver said he was on his way home after being at a local bar. He performed field sobriety testing, including a preliminary breath test that resulted in a reading of .132% blood alcohol content. While at the Hermantown Police Department, Officer Stracek asked the man if he was willing to take a breath test. He declined, stating he already took one. Officer Stracek explained the difference between the preliminary breath test and the breath test at the police department and the man still refused. Reports have been forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges of 3<sup>rd</sup> degree test refusal, 4<sup>th</sup> degree DWI, and failure to signal for turn.

On 01/21/22 at 11:47 p.m., Officer Stracek performed a traffic stop on a Honda SUV that was traveling southbound on Stebner Road, weaving on the road and speeding. The 39-year-old driver was lethargic and slow-moving; his speech was heavily slurred and he had a hard time forming sentences. He performed field sobriety testing and his preliminary breath test showed .155% blood alcohol content. While being processed for DWI at the Hermantown Police Department, Officer Stracek read the Breath Test Advisory to the man, who stated he understood but did not agree with the advisory. The man attempted to consult an attorney, calling the same number multiple times and sitting on the line after the voicemail tone rang, leaving a blank 3-5 minute message while he started at the wall. During the attorney contact time, the man used the phone to contact 911. The man ultimately agreed to take the breath test, but after his first sample, he attempted to cough up phlegm. It took the man several tries before he provided a sufficient sample. The man was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for 2<sup>nd</sup> degree DWI, .08 or more, speed, failing to provide proof of insurance, and failing to drive in a single lane.

### Miscellaneous

On the morning of 01/21/22, Officer Gottschald and Detective Dwyer were dispatched to locate a Ford F350 that had been stolen from Meeker County. The Meeker County Sheriff's Office had received information that the vehicle was located at a Hermantown group home and they provided information on the suspect. Officers located the 30-year-old suspect in the home and attempted to place him under arrest. The man resisted as officers handcuffed him and attempted to place him into the rear of a squad car. Upon arrival at the jail, the man was placed into restraints by jail staff, as he had made comments during transport about not being cooperative. Reports have been forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges of possession of a stolen vehicle.