



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

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 01/30/22 to 02/05/22, the Hermantown PD had 120 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

At approximately 1:30 a.m. on 02/05/22, Officer Stracek noticed a suspicious vehicle at the end of a driveway on Lavaque Road. He made contact with the 18-year-old driver, who stated he was just pulling into his friend's house. He then corrected himself and stated that he was actually at the address and had come out to his vehicle to take a break from the dogs. He said he was planning on spending the night at the residence. Officer Stracek detected a strong odor of alcoholic beverage emitting from the vehicle and the man appeared disoriented and drowsy. The driver admitted to drinking and stated he only drove to the end of the driveway. He performed field sobriety testing and submitted to a preliminary breath test that resulted in a reading of .09% blood alcohol content. He later said that he was headed back to his house in Saginaw, admitting that he had 4-5 shots and was thinking about waiting in the driveway until morning because he felt impaired. He was issued a citation for 4<sup>th</sup> degree DWI, .08 or more, and underage drinking and driving.

### Miscellaneous

On 02/01/22, a 37-year-old Hermantown resident that someone stole 50 prescription pills. He stated the pills are valued at \$50 each. He suspects that his ex-fiancé took them, as they were the only two people with access to the residence. Detective Dwyer spoke to the man's former fiancé, who denied taking the pills. At 1:48 p.m., the woman's sister requested a welfare check on the woman. Detective Dwyer advised that he spoke to the woman that morning and she made no request for law enforcement. On 02/02/22, just after 11 a.m., the man reported that his ex-fiancé had used his Durango over the weekend and he had just found a folded piece of tin foil that he believed contained drugs. Officer Enright collected the tin foil and a one hitter from the vehicle. The suspected drugs tested positive for methamphetamine. At approximately 2 p.m. on 02/02/22, the woman requested that officers standby while she responded to the address to pick up her child. After the woman left with the child, Officer Enright explained to the man that, because he and the woman were not married and he had not gone to court to seek any legal custody rights, the woman has total custody and officers could not stop her from taking the child. The man then stated that the Dodge Ram the woman was in belonged to his father and he wanted to report it stolen. He was advised that the woman has had regular freedom to use the vehicle in the past and the man had not mentioned this truck earlier in the day when he reported finding drugs in a different vehicle. At 4 p.m. on the same date, the man again attempted to report the Dodge Ram as being stolen. Officer Enright again explained that she has had regular permission to use it and the man had no problem with this until she showed up to take their child. The man then stated that he found out the woman was at a Duluth bar and he wanted officer assistance in getting the truck back. The man and his father are the only registered owners of the vehicle, so he was advised that he can go get the truck if he wants. He stated there's only one key and wanted officers to help get the key from the woman.



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He was advised that the bar is in Duluth so he would need to request Duluth Police Department's assistance.

At approximately 8:40 p.m. on 02/01/22, a resident reported that he arrived home and found a portable ice fishing house, ice auger, and power painter in his front yard. He told Sgt. Pernu that none of the items belonged to him and he wanted them off his property.

### Fires

Just before 4:30 p.m. on 01/30/22, a Stebner Road resident called 911 to report that they were going to burn a couch because someone spilled diesel fuel on it and they believed it was going to generate a lot of smoke. Dispatch advised that this may not be permitted. Officer Enright contacted the 59-year-old female to tell her not to burn the couch, as it would not be legal, but it had already been done. HVFD and Officer Enright responded to the residence and again advised the woman on burning laws.

On 02/03/22 at approximately 10 p.m., Sgt. Pfeiffer was notified of a structure fire on Arrowhead Road. When he arrived on scene, he noted that the business had large plumes of smoke coming from the building. A 55-year-old man at the scene yelled that he wanted the fire department, not the police department. He was attempting to go inside the building and was repeatedly told to stop. Dispatch notified Sgt. Pfeiffer that the man had multiple active warrants and he was taken into custody. A firefighter on scene located personal property outside the front door of the building including a bag containing a large amount of cash, which was placed into the Hermantown Police Department property room for safekeeping.

### Accident

On 02/03/22 at 8:45 a.m., Officer Salo responded to an accident at the intersection of Midway and Arrowhead Roads. A 24-year-old man driving a Dodge Ram southbound rear-ended a Honda Accord driven by a 55-year-old woman. The pickup then swerved into the oncoming lane and side-swiped a semi with a trailer hauling gasoline. The drivers of the Honda and Dodge were both transported to local hospitals for pain caused by the accident. The young man was issued a citation for inattentive driving.

### Theft

On 01/31/22 at 6:17 a.m., a 51-year-old man reported that his truck had been entered in the Econo Lodge parking lot the day before. He said he parked the truck at 1 p.m. and when he went back to it at 5:30 p.m., he discovered that a duffel bag with identification cards, dress shoes, and two suits had been stolen.