



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

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 03/13/22 to 03/19/22, the Hermantown PD had 163 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 03/18/22 at 1:50 a.m., Officer Stracek observed a Chevy SUV weaving within its lane. In addition, the vehicle was traveling 39 mph in a 30 mph zone. After conducting a traffic stop, Officer Stracek made contact with the 23-year-old driver and observed that he had glossy eyes and a mild odor of alcoholic beverage emitting from his breath. The man told Officer Stracek that he had two beers but had stopped drinking at 11 p.m. He later admitting that his last drink was a little after 11 p.m. and he was drinking vodka lemonade. The man stated he did not believe what he had to drink impacted his ability to drive and that he didn't think he was over the legal limit. After performing field sobriety testing, the man submitted to a preliminary breath that resulted in a reading of .136% blood alcohol content. The man was ultimately cited for 4<sup>th</sup> degree DWI, .08 or more, and speed.

Just before 1:30 a.m. on 03/19/22, Officer Stracek was on patrol northbound when he observed a red Jeep traveling southbound at what appeared to be a speed greater than the 40 mph speed limit. He was unable to activate his radar before the vehicle disappeared around the bend in the road. He turned around and caught up to the vehicle just before it entered the city of Proctor. He noted that the vehicle was weaving within its lane, crossing the centerline, and traveling 43 mph in a 30 mph zone. He performed a traffic stop on the vehicle and as he approached, he noted that the female driver had tears and mascara running down both sides of her face. He asked if she was having a hard night and she said yes, but declined to elaborate. The woman showed signs of intoxication and Officer Stracek asked her to perform field sobriety testing. Outside her vehicle, the woman lost her balance several times. She performed poorly on the tests and her preliminary breath test registered .188% blood alcohol content. The woman admitted to consuming four tall Crown and Diet Cokes and said she regretted not calling for a sober ride. Reports have been forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges of 2<sup>nd</sup> degree DWI, .08 or more, and speed.

### Unwanted Person

On the afternoon of 03/14/22, Walmart Loss Prevention staff reported that a female that had previously been trespassed was in the store. Officer Gottschald had cited her on 03/05/22 for trespassing and noted that the woman had been trespassed numerous times by Walmart. The 28-year-old woman told Officer Gottschald she knew she was trespassed but needed to tell her boyfriend, who was in the store, something and that's why she went inside. She was again cited for trespassing.

### Missing Person

On 03/19/22, just before 5 p.m., Officer Leibel was advised of a group home resident that had returned home at her curfew time. The reporting party stated that the 35-year-old was going to work at Arby's that evening; however, when staff contacted Arby's, they stated the woman had never worked there. The woman had also mentioned that she was planning to fly to Florida or Texas before she eloped. Due to narrow roads with no shoulder, deep ditches and ravines near the



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woman's residence, along with below-freezing temperatures, Officer Leibel requested a ping of the woman's phone. The ping location was south of Eagan, Minnesota, but the accuracy was so poor that it was impossible to request local officers do a welfare check. Staff stated that the woman had been in almost daily contact with a family member recently and that family member lived near Eagan, but staff had no contact information for that person.

### Damage to Property

On 03/19/22, Officer Gottschald was dispatched to the report of a burglary. The 21-year-old reporting party stated she had been watching her parents' house for several months while they were out of town. She said when she arrived on this day, there was water damage resulting from flooding in an upstairs shower and she believed someone had entered the house and broke the shower handle. She said she had last been at the residence three days before and before she left, she ensured the temperature was set to 64 degrees and the water was turned off. Officer Gottschald noted that the house was less than 40 degrees and it appeared the heat was not functioning, causing the pipes to freeze and burst, causing extensive damage on all three floors of the house. According to City utility records, the meter reading between 03/15/22 and 03/21/22 was 42,100 gallons of water.

### Theft

Shortly after 3 a.m. on 03/13/22, Officer Enright respond to Pure Pleasure after being of a shoplifting incident. The clerk stated the male suspect had made a purchase but set the alarms off as he walked out the door. The man then gave back an item that he had concealed on his person. The value of the stolen item was \$18.99. The 18-year-old suspect was cited for shoplifting.

On 03/19/22, a 60-year-old man reported that his front license plate was stolen off his vehicle and he believed that the theft occurred at Sam's Club. He stated he was at the store from approximately 10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. He told Officer Battaglia that he saw the plate on his vehicle at his house this morning and noticed it missing when he returned home from Sam's Club. He said he did not go anywhere else and there is no way the plate could have fallen off.

On 03/19/22 at 7:45 p.m., Officer Stracek conducted a license plate query on a Honda Odyssey and he discovered that the plate was listed as a previous plate for the vehicle. In addition, the registered owner of the vehicle had a revoked driving status. He performed a traffic stop on the vehicle; the driver was identified and was not the registered owner of the vehicle. Officer Stracek also observed a tote-like bag on the floor directly behind the driver's seat that contained Walmart merchandise, including a package of white shirts that was still secured together but was missing the exterior packaging. The woman claimed she bought the items yesterday and that all her receipts are emailed but claimed she didn't have her phone with her at the time of the traffic stop. After Officer Stracek advised it that it was strange she had multiple Walmart items with no receipt, the woman admitted that she stole socks and shirts for her child. The items had a total value of \$30.94 and were returned to Walmart. The 34-year-old woman was cited for theft. Officer Stracek also wrote the woman a citation for driving after revocation and she claimed she took care of her driver's license and should be valid. She was advised to take care of a \$100 shoplifting warrant and told to call a valid driver.