



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 03/20/22 to 03/26/22, the Hermantown PD had 148 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

Disturbance

On 03/20/22 at 9:08 p.m., officers responded to a Park Drive residence for a disturbance. A mother and her adult daughter were arguing and the 19-year-old stated she wanted to leave but would not do so until she found her purse with money in it. The young woman would look for the bag for a few minutes, then attempt to argue with her mother for several more until it appeared she had searched most possible locations for the bag and was focusing solely on insulting her mother. Officers were able to convince her that it would be best to separate for the night and look again tomorrow for her purse.

On 03/21/22, School Resource Officer Johnson was notified of a fight that occurred between two students after one had attempted several times to give the other a wedgie. One of the boys said he first tried to keep the other at arm's length to get him to stop, but that escalated into pushing, choking, and kicking. Administration reviewed video and determined that both students participated in the back and forth physical fighting and will receive consequences for fighting according to the Middle School Handbook.

Fire

On the afternoon of 03/20/22, Sgt. Pernu was advised of a vehicle fire in a driveway on Highway 194. The vehicle owner had come to the property to bring a neighbor some dinner. He reported smelling a stronger than normal exhaust. He left the truck running when he went inside and it started on fire. The owner was able to get the truck in neutral and push it away from the garage. The truck was a total loss.

Damage to Property

On 03/25/22, just after 9 p.m., Sgt. Pfeiffer responded to an alarm at HobbyTown USA. When he arrived minutes later, he immediately noticed fresh damage to the rear door. The door was 1-2 inches ajar, had damage to the deadbolt and surround area, and the doorknob was broken off and laying on the ground. There were fresh shoe prints in the snow that walked away and disappeared where a vehicle would have most likely parked. The business owner arrived and entered the front of the store with Sgt. Pfeiffer. No one was located inside and nothing appeared to be missing.

Theft

On the afternoon of 03/20/22, Officer Gottschald was dispatched to a shoplifting incident in which the suspect left the merchandise behind and left in a vehicle. Loss Prevention staff showed Officer Gottschald surveillance video where the female suspect can be seen walking throughout the store with a shopping cart, selecting items and placing them in the cart. The suspect had a cart full of unpaid merchandise and was also wheeling a bicycle out of the store with her. When confronted by staff, she stated she had a brain injury and could not remember if she paid for the merchandise. The



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suspect tried to get into a taxi but was unable to get a ride. She was then picked up in a Toyota Camry with three other occupants. The suspect had been in the store with a male, who had been seen watching the exit doors. The man left before the female suspect. She had attempted to leave with a total of 38 items valued at \$736.16. This incident is under investigation.

On 03/22/22, Officer Gottschald was dispatched to the report of a theft at the Frito Lay warehouse on Midway Road. The reporting party stated that six extension cords had been stolen overnight. Video of the incident shows a red Toyota sedan pull into the back of the parking lot at 11:27 p.m. A female passenger was seen exiting the vehicle twice. She walked out of camera view to the side of the warehouse where the extension cords were located. She was out of camera view for a few seconds before walking back to the vehicle with her hands in her jacket. The vehicle then left the parking lot. The extension cords are valued at \$28.50 each for a total loss of \$171.00. This incident is under investigation.

At 2:30 p.m. on 03/22/22, Officer Gottschald was advised of a gas drive off at the Amoco Gas Station on Haines Road. The reporting party stated the total for the gas was \$51.21 and provided a license plate number of the suspect vehicle. Officer Gottschald noted that the 35-year-old registered owner of the vehicle has been cited and listed as a suspect in multiple gas drive offs in 2022 and he currently had an active warrant. Based on the description of the suspect given by the reporting party matching the registered owner and his recent history with gas drive offs, a citation was issued for theft of gas.

On 03/24/22, just after 4:30 p.m., Walmart reported that a man and woman had concealed merchandise into a storage tote. As Officer Mischke arrived at the store, he was advised that the suspects had gotten into a silver passenger car. The suspect vehicle passed his squad car and he observed the male suspect driving and the female suspect in the passenger seat. He caught up to the vehicle after it turned into the Volkswagen parking lot. He noted that the female was no longer in the passenger seat. The male lied and stated that there was never a female in the vehicle. The 31-year-old man was transported back to Walmart, where loss prevention showed Officer Mischke a storage ottoman that contained the stolen merchandise, which included a variety of household items valued at \$225.67. He was cited for theft and trespassed from Walmart properties. The 25-year-old female was located after running from the Volkswagen lot. She was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for an active warrant.