



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

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 03/27/22 to 04/02/22, the Hermantown PD had 107 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

Just before 6:30 p.m. on 03/29/22, Officer Leibel and Sgt. Pernu were dispatched to Park Drive after 911 received a call in which a woman was yelling for help. Over the previous several weeks, officers had been dispatched to the house multiple times for disturbances. Upon arrival, Sgt. Pernu noted that the 48-year-old woman had swelling and bruising under her right eye. During the time that officers were at the residence, the woman's bruising and swelling had significantly increased and there was also swelling under her left eye. After providing a statement, she was checked by first responders. The woman stated that she found her daughter sleeping in her car in the driveway that morning. She said she was going to bring her to get something to eat, but forgot her debit card and had to drive back home. After leaving the house again, the young woman began yelling, so the mother drove back home and told her daughter to get out of the car. She said that her daughter refused, so she attempted to call 911 and her daughter slapped the phone into her face and started hitting her. After a struggle, she managed to get out of the car, grab her phone, and ask dispatch to send officers. Officer Leibel spoke with the 19-year-old woman, but she went off on a confusing, profanity-laced rant. She adamantly denied that the older woman is her mother and at one point, she gestured out the window toward Sgt. Pernu, mistakenly thinking he was the other woman's son, despite him being in full uniform. The younger woman was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for interfering with a 911 call and domestic assault.

### Driving Under the Influence

On 03/31/22 at 4:30 p.m., Officer Mischke was traveling on Sugar Maple Drive. As he approached parking lot exit, a silver SUV exited the lot and turned in front of him and nearly hit the side of the squad car. It also appeared that the vehicle ran over the curb as it turned. Officer Mischke conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle and identified the 29-year-old driver. He noted that the man had slow, slurred speech and there was an odor of alcohol emitting from the vehicle. The man initially denied having any alcohol, but then admitted to having a drink before leaving work. The man performed field sobriety testing and submitted to a preliminary breath test, which resulted in a reading of .253% blood alcohol content. Reports have been forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges of 3<sup>rd</sup> degree DWI, .08 or more, and failing to yield the right away while entering a roadway.

### Fraud

On 03/29/22, Detective Williams was advised by a 54-year-old Hermantown resident and she had discovered a large amount of fraudulent charges and money transfers on her checking account totaling nearly \$34,000. Between 03/25/22 and 03/28/22, several phone transfers were made, moving money from a saving account to the checking account. Following the large



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transfers of money were numerous debit charges at various Florida locations or online retailers. The woman stated that she had been on a cruise from Florida and had no phone reception during the time frame of the fraudulent transactions.

### Theft

On the morning of 03/28/22, Officer Gottschald was dispatched to Asphalt of Duluth, where an employee stated that five company vehicles had catalytic converters cut off or had damaged fuel lines. The total cost to replace the damaged and missing parts was approximately \$4500.

At 3:13 a.m. on 03/30/22, Officer Leibel was dispatched to Lightning Drive for suspicious activity. The reporting party stated that he caught two males in his lot trying to steal catalytic converters. The males left in a white Jeep Liberty and the caller stated that the plate appeared to be intentionally covered. The man told Officer Leibel that he heard a strange noise and saw a flashlight outside of his shop. He said he went outside and found two males, one of whom was under a vehicle with a sawzall. He yelled at the men, who jumped in their vehicle and fled. The caller stated he kicked the rear fender of the Jeep, potentially causing a dent in the rear quarter panel. While following the tracks of the suspect vehicle, he observed then turn in and out of another Lightning Drive business. There were two trucks in the parking lot, and laying on the ground next to them was a sawzall blade. When he looked under the vehicles, he noted that the catalytic converter had been cut from one of them.

On 03/30/22 at 8:03 a.m., Officer Mischke was advised of a vehicle prowling in the parking lot of the Econo Lodge. The 37-year-old victim stated he went out to start his vehicle at 4:30 a.m. and he left it running unattended until approximately 5:07 a.m. He said the vehicle was left unlocked during this time and when he returned, he opened his trunk and noticed his box and amplifier were missing. He also stated there was a gym bag with its contents that had been taken.

On the afternoon of 03/30/22, a China Star employee reported that her purse had been taken from the restaurant between 12 and 1:30 p.m. Employees stated that the suspect, who was wearing a medical mask, came into the restaurant during that time and ordered a meal to go. The male paid cash for his meal, but left without it. Witnesses did not see the male take the purse, but did see him close to where the purse was located. The purse was located in a snowbank near Maple Grove and Lindahl Roads and turned into the police department on 04/01/22. The victim said that \$2950 in cash was missing, but everything else was there.