



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 04/03/22 to 04/09/22, the Hermantown PD had 142 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 04/06/22 at 12:49 a.m., Officer Stracek observed a Chevy pickup without a passenger side headlight. He also observed the truck drift into a left turn lane without a blinker before correcting itself back into the driving lane. He conducted a traffic stop and made contact with the 24-year-old driver, who was unable to provide proof of insurance, stating she assumed her sister had insurance on the vehicle. The woman provided an identification card and Officer Stracek discovered that her driving status was revoked. The woman was fidgety and her voice was raspy. Officer Stracek noted that her pupils were dilated. He asked the woman to exit the vehicle to perform field sobriety testing. At one point, the woman raised both arms over her head and spun in a circle as she walked into the driving lane. The woman admitted to using methamphetamine several days prior. Officer Stracek transported the female to the Hermantown Police Department for a drug influence evaluation. Officer Leibel waited with the vehicle for a family member to pick up the driver's dog. Before the vehicle was towed, Officer Leibel performed an inventory search, locating several items of note. A baggie containing a green leafy substance mixed with a white powdery substance that tested positive for fentanyl was found in the woman's purse. There was a prescription bottle in the woman's purse that was labeled for a male and contained one Clonazepam pill. According to the bottle, the prescription was filled on 04/01/22 with 30 pills. Under a blanket on the driver's seat, he found a loaded needle that tested positive for methamphetamine. The woman was later transported to a local hospital, where a blood draw was executed. Charges are pending results of the blood test.

Drugs

At 2:30 a.m. on 04/07/22, Officer Enright observed two vehicles pull into the parking lot of the Midway Calumet Station, drive around behind the gas station, and turn off their lights. Doors on both vehicles opened and people were getting in and out. Both vehicles then turned their lights on and drove back around the building. Officer Enright stopped both vehicles and identified the drivers. Both told him that the male drove the woman and the two girls with her to her ex-boyfriend's house so she could get her car. An argument or altercation occurred and the woman got in her vehicle and left, while the man followed with the girls in his vehicle. Both pulled into the gas station so the girls could switch vehicles. When Officer Enright had initially approached the man's vehicle, he smelled the distinct odor of marijuana before seeing it in the center console. When asked, the 42-year-old male driver said a friend gave it to him and he forgot about it. During a search of the vehicle, officers located a baggie containing methamphetamine, along with drug paraphernalia. Officer Enright later told the man that the amount of meth in the vehicle was more than a person would normally have just for personal use. The man agreed, but said he gets a good deal when buying and he has the scale so he doesn't get ripped off, but denied selling it. The man was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for 3rd degree possession of methamphetamine, possession of a small amount of marijuana, and possession of drug paraphernalia. The methamphetamine, later weighed at the Hermantown Police Department, was 20.8 grams. \$270 located in the man's pocket was seized for forfeiture.

Disturbance

At 12:50 p.m. on 04/09/22, Officer Salo took a theft call in which a 32-year-old man reported that his girlfriend's mother took his handgun. Officer Salo determined that the 63-year-old woman took the gun because the man owed her \$200 for rent. Both parties wanted to resolve the issue without criminal charges. At 7:15 p.m. that same day, the woman had called in to report that her 28-year-old daughter took her car keys. She initially denied to Officer Battaglia that she had the man's gun, but later said she moved it and won't tell him where it is until he pays her the \$200 he owes her for rent. Officer Battaglia advised her she would more than likely get her keys back if she returned the gun. She then asked how to remove her daughter and her boyfriend from the property and was advised on the eviction process. At 8:42 p.m., officers were again called to the residence; the man reported that his girlfriend came out of the house bloody and said that her mother threw her across the room. Sgt. Pfeiffer and Officer Battaglia spoke to the older woman, who said her daughter came in to the house and confront her about the missing handgun. She said her daughter grabbed her and threw her to the ground,



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choking her, before walking out of the house and to the camper on the property that she stays in. She said after her daughter left the house, she cut the power to the camper. Officer Enright spoke to the younger woman, who said she received a text message from her mother saying that her cat was dead. She said she went to the house to retrieve the cat when her mother came up behind her, grabbed her hair and ripped her to the ground. She said once she was on the ground, her mother pulled the cat from her arms and began punching and scratching her, along with hitting her head on the floor. When officers went back to speak to the older woman again, she was drinking a beer and she admitted to having two cans prior. She denied that there were cats in the house but later said the cat must have run outside. She also claimed that her daughter smashed her own head onto the floor during the altercation. The older woman was ultimately lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for domestic assault.

Theft

On 04/04/22 at 2:43 a.m., Officer Leibel was on patrol when he observed fresh foot prints in the snow near the City of Hermantown's impound lot. Officer Leibel noted that it had stopped snowing at 1:30 a.m. and the prints had been made after that time. Officer Stracek arrived to assist and he followed the prints to a corner of the lot, where he observed that the fence had been cut. After he entered the lot through the hole, he followed one set of prints to a nearby row of vehicles, where he observed a male partially underneath a truck. The man was placed under arrest and stated his accomplice was in a gray Toyota Tundra. Assisting officers searched the area but were unable to locate that vehicle. Officers Leibel and Stracek followed the man's footprints on the road and observed a vehicle in a nearby lot. The 56-year-old man in the driver's seat was fully reclined so he couldn't be seen from the roadway. Officer Stracek noted that upon his approach to the vehicle, the man appeared to be "fake sleeping". It was later determined that the man was involved with the attempted theft and he was placed under arrest. During an inventory search of the vehicle, a drug kit containing a small amount of methamphetamine was located in the driver's door. The 37-year-old man found under the truck told Officer Leibel that he couch surfs in the area and heard people talking about the location of the City's impound lot. He said he asked the older man for a ride and that the older man provided the tools for the theft. The man stated several times that he had never attempted to steal a catalytic converter before and that he had to Google what it looked like; however, Detective Williams had been attempting to locate this man to interview him regarding a previous catalytic converter theft. The younger man was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for felony theft, damage to property, 3rd degree burglary, possession of burglary tools, tampering with a motor vehicle, and trespassing. The older man was lodged for aiding and abetting theft, damage to property, 3rd degree burglary, possession of burglary tools, and 5th degree possession of a controlled substance.

On 04/04/22, just before 9:30 p.m., officers were dispatched to Walmart for the report of a shoplifting in progress. Loss Prevention stated that the female had been in the store for four hours and had started concealing merchandise in a suitcase and backpack that she had selected. The woman then made her way to the self-checkout lanes, where she rang up all of the items inside the backpack and suitcase but failed to ring up a Mountain Dew that she was drinking. The total of the items was around \$593. The woman left the checkout with her cart of merchandise without paying for any of it. She went into the women's bathroom for a short time, then pushed her cart to the general merchandise doors. When she discovered they were barricaded, she pushed the cart to the grocery doors, where she was pacing and appeared to be waiting for a ride. The woman eventually exited the doors with her Mountain Dew, leaving the cart of merchandise behind. The woman got into a Ford Taurus and Officer Stracek pulled behind it as it began backing out of its parking spot. When he made contact with her, the 36-year-old woman stated she forgot to pay for the pop and offered to go back inside to pay for it. Officer Stracek noted that she appeared to be under the influence of a stimulant; she denied the use of methamphetamine that day, but admitted that she had used recently. Officer Stracek then made contact with the two male occupants of the vehicle. The 40-year-old driver was sweating profusely and also appeared to be under the influence of a stimulant. He admitted to "shooting up" around three hours prior. When asked, the 42-year-old male passenger admitted that he had a small amount of marijuana and paraphernalia, including two pipes and a small baggie with a trace of suspected methamphetamine. Officer Stracek later weighed the marijuana at 10.2 grams. A citation was issued to the man for possession of marijuana. The two men were given a ride to a residence in Duluth. The woman was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for an active warrant. There were no local charges stemming from the attempted shoplifting incident, but she was trespassed from Walmart properties.