



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 04/10/22 to 04/16/22, the Hermantown PD had 191 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 04/10/22 at 2:37 p.m., Officer Mischke was advised of a fight in the 5200 block of Maple Grove Road. Upon arrival, Officer Mischke recognized two males as staff from a nearby group home and a third male as a resident of the home. A 29-year-old staff member stated that the resident had wanted to go for a run to the stop sign and back. The staff member told the man he could do that, but that staff would need to watch him. The 32-year-old resident became agitated when staff followed him and the staff member stated that the man ultimately hit him in the face, causing a broken blood vessel in his eye, before staff was able to get the man restrained. The resident was issued a citation for assault.

Drugs

On 04/11/22, a McDonald's manager reported a drug incident in which a customer gave an employee a jar of marijuana. The 58-year-old employee said that a customer asked how her day was going. When she stated she wasn't having the best day, the man handed her a jar and said he had something for her. The woman said she had never seen marijuana before and initially thought there was chocolate in the jar.

Driving Under the Influence

At 11:30 p.m. on 04/16/22, Officer Leibel observed two westbound vehicles brake harder than normal for the stop sign at Stebner Road. As the vehicles continued, it appeared they were traveling at a speed greater than the posted limit. Officer Leibel attempted to obtain a radar lock on the vehicles, but they had dipped into a valley and when they reappeared, they were stopping for another stop sign. Officer Leibel noted that the brake light on one of the vehicles was not illuminated and that the driver failed to signal as the vehicle turned onto Ugstad Road. As Officer Leibel turned onto Ugstad Road, he noted that both vehicles had pulled over on the shoulder, partially in the driving lane, and a male in the second vehicle was exiting his vehicle. While speaking with the man, Officer Leibel observed an odor of alcoholic beverage. He also noted that the man's movements were slightly lethargic and he was unsteady on his feet. The 32-year-old man provided a passport for identification, stating that he lost his out-of-state driver's license card. The 28-year-old female driver of the other vehicle also provided identification. When Officer Leibel requested that the man perform field sobriety testing, the woman began asking if she could just drive the man home. The man then began pleading with Officer Leibel to let him go. When asked if there was a reason he didn't want to take the test, the man replied that he had 2-3 drinks and he didn't want to lose his job over this. The man eventually agreed to perform field sobriety testing and when he was done, he again pleaded just to park his vehicle. He then asked to talk to the woman again and admitted he knew he would fail the preliminary breath test that officers asked him to take. When he provided a breath sample, it registered a result of .15% blood alcohol content. The man was ultimately cited for 4th degree DWI, .08 or more, fail to signal for turn, and a brake light violation.



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Traffic

On 04/11/22 at 11:36 p.m., Officer Stracek ran a routine license plate query on a Honda Accord and discovered that the registration had expired in February 2021; however, the vehicle was displaying a 2022 sticker on the plate. He conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle and the 21-year-old male driver admitted that he couldn't get tabs so his friend gave him a set of 2022 stickers that belonged on another vehicle. The man said he was working and living out of his vehicle at a job site in the county. He also stated he did not have a valid driver's license or insurance on the vehicle. Reports have been sent to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges of escaping motor vehicle tax, no insurance, and driving without a valid license.

Theft

At approximately 4:30 p.m. on 04/10/22. Officer Salo was advised that a male had cut open packages at Fleet Farm and concealed items before leaving in a vehicle. Officer Salo located the vehicle nearby and performed a traffic stop. He identified the 31-year-old male and asked about the stolen items. The man indicated he was wearing a stolen sweatshirt and Officer Salo could also see stolen batteries on the passenger floor area of the vehicle. The knife used to cut open the packages was in the driver's door and Officer Salo secured it. Reports have been forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges of felony use of theft tools, and misdemeanor theft, along with driving after suspension. The value of the items taken was \$189.00.

On 04/12/22 at 7:30 p.m., Sgt. Pernu was walking through Fleet Farm when he observed a male acting suspicious. The man had a number of higher valued items in his shopping cart, including binoculars, and he was seen removing items from the cart and placing them on shelving where they didn't belong. When Sgt. Pernu approached loss prevention, they advised that they had already been observing the man. The man went into a dressing room for some time. After exiting, he was again seen placing items in areas of the store that they did not belong. At 8 p.m., he paid for a live animal trap. Sgt. Pernu spoke to the man as he was leaving the store. When asked, the man said he put the binoculars back on the shelf, as he had decided not to purchase them. The man verbally identified himself before leaving in a vehicle. A short time later, staff located the empty packaging for the \$99.95 binoculars. Other officers had also identified the man, who had given a false name, and discovered that he had a felony warrant out of Wright County. Officers conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle; the binoculars were located and the man was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for his warrant. He was cited for theft.

Miscellaneous

On 04/15/22, just before 10:30 p.m., Officer Stracek performed a traffic stop on a vehicle with a suspended object. He observed the passenger take down the object as the vehicle was pulling over. The male driver stated he didn't have his license on him and verbally gave his name. When asked his age, he hesitated before responding "31." Officer Stracek determined that the man was not who he stated he was. The 29-year-old driver was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for an active domestic assault warrant. Reports have been forwarded to the prosecuting attorney for charges of gross misdemeanor false name of another.