



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

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 04/17/22 to 04/23/22, the Hermantown PD had 143 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 04/17/22 at 2:44 a.m., Officer Stracek was on patrol when he observed two vehicles traveling at a high rate of speed on Miller Trunk Highway; using his radar, he determined that both were traveling 65 mph. He turned around and caught up to the second vehicle as it was turning south onto Ugstad Road. As he was preparing to conduct a traffic stop, the vehicle slowed and was traveling 35 mph in a 45 mph zone. When the vehicle pulled over, he made contact with the female driver, who stated she thought the speed limit on the highway was 45 mph. The 27-year-old stated she had been at work downtown and wanted to go for a drive in Hermantown before looping back home. She said she got off work at 11:30 p.m. and had three 16 ounces beers, estimating that her last drink was around 1 ½ hours prior to the traffic stop. The woman performed field sobriety testing, including a preliminary breath test that resulted in a reading of .174% blood alcohol content. Reports were forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges of 3<sup>rd</sup> degree DWI, .08 or more, and speeding.

On 04/19/22 at 2:30 p.m., officers were advised of an erratic driver on Miller Trunk Highway near Ugstad Road. A witness had observed the Hyundai Tucson drive into the median twice, each time driving back out onto the highway. The caller also stated the vehicle had performed a u-turn before pulling over to the side of the road. After making contact with the 26-year-old driver, Officer Mischke noted that his eyes were droopy and his pupils were pinpoint. The man's speech was slurred and slow. His body movements were also slow. When asked about going into the ditch, the man denied it. Throughout the conversation, the man was confused and disoriented. He performed field sobriety testing before submitting to a drug influence evaluation. He was then transported to a local hospital for a blood draw. Charges are pending the results of the blood test.

At approximately 7 p.m. on 04/19/22, a driver reported following a Ford Thunderbird on Maple Grove Road that was "all over the road." The caller described the vehicle as randomly breaking, driving in the oncoming lane, and cutting people off. Officer Stracek located the vehicle parked in a parking lot with the driver bent over in his seat. As Officer Stracek pulled up to the vehicle, the driver looked over and froze. He had a blue straw in one hand and in the other was a cell phone held flat with a crystal-like powder on the screen. The man handed the straw to Officer Stracek, but wiped the powder off of the cell phone. The 21-year-old man performed field sobriety testing and was transported to the Hermantown Police Department for a drug influence evaluation. Charges are pending the results of a blood test.



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### Check Welfare

On the morning of 04/20/22, Hermantown officers were asked to check the welfare of a 29-year-old male resident after he had not shown up to work. The man's mother then reported that he sent a suicidal text. The man was not located at his Hermantown residence. A short time later, law enforcement received information that the man had made threats to kill family members. Duluth Police responded to the residence of the family members and after a standoff, located five people and one animal deceased in the house.

### Suspicious Activity

On 04/18/22 at 9:30 p.m., Officer Stracek observed an older Dodge Ram turn into Volkswagen of Duluth and pull behind the building. When assisting officers were nearby, Officer Stracek pulled behind the building and observed the male crouched over near storage units and old tires, hidden behind a vehicle. He made contact with the 59-year-old man, who stated his wife was in the driver's seat of the vehicle. He said he was just looking at the tires. The 58-year-old woman also stated that the man wanted to look at the tires and that they were planning on returning in the morning to buy them. They were advised they can't "shop" at a closed dealership and left the property.

Just before 10 p.m. on 04/22/22, a Bush Drive resident reported four vehicles driving around suspiciously, backing up, stopping diagonally on the roadway, and driving on the grass. Officers determined that juveniles were playing Nerf Wars. They were advised to call it a night.

### Theft

On 04/23/22 at approximately 11:15 a.m., Officer Enright responded to Walmart after being advised that a female was using a 50 cent tag to ring up more expensive merchandise. She also failed to ring up a cooler and several other items. The total value of the items she under-rang or didn't ring up at all was \$63.06. The 45-year-old woman admitted to using the 50 cent tag to ring up more expensive items but stated she didn't intend to not ring the cooler up at all. She said she might have had enough money on her person to be able to pay for all the merchandise but it would have been close. She was cited for theft and trespassed from Walmart properties.

Just after 5 p.m. on 04/23/22, Walmart reported that a male and female were concealing items in a backpack before splitting up in the store. The male then attempted to leave with the backpack full of unpaid merchandise. Officer Enright responded and spoke to the 27-year-old man, who admitted to the theft and said that his 29-year-old sister offered to pay him \$300 to steal the items for her. The value of the items taken was \$431.30. The man was cited for theft.