



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

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 04/24/22 to 04/30/22, the Hermantown PD had 147 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 04/29/22 at 10:55 p.m., Officer Stracek observed a vehicle on Miller Trunk Highway traveling at a high rate of speed. The vehicle also drifted over the centerline. After waiting for a safe place to conduct a traffic stop, Officer Stracek activated his emergency lights. The driver turned on the right blinker and moved to the driving lane; as the vehicle passed Pure Pleasure, it accelerated before entering the shoulder and continued at around 30 mph. Officer Stracek activated his siren and the vehicle eventually came to a stop. The 34-year-old female driver said she waited so long to pull over because she wanted a safe space. The woman admitted to drinking 1 ½ ciders at Skyline that evening. Due to medical issues, she was unable to perform field sobriety testing but she did submit to a preliminary breath test that resulted in a reading of .133% blood alcohol content. While officers were on scene with the woman, a man stopped and identified himself as her, stating he was just there to pick up the child that was in the woman's vehicle. The woman admitted to Officer Stracek that she had texted her husband. She later told Officer Stracek that the reason she was all over the road was because she was texting, not because of impairment. Reports have been forwarded to the prosecuting attorney office for charges of 3<sup>rd</sup> degree DWI, .08 or more, child endangerment, hands free violation, and speed.

At 2 a.m. on 04/30/22, Officer Stracek observed that the Honda Pilot traveling in front of him had rigid jerky movements and drifted toward the centerline. He conducted a traffic stop and made contact with the 22-year-old driver. He advised her that her license plate had been replaced by a newer one. She stated that the vehicle was hers but was registered to her father in White Bear Township. She stated she was not aware that new plates had been issued to the vehicle. When asked, the woman said that she had been out for her birthday with friends and she had about three drinks, with the last being around 8:30 p.m. The woman's preliminary breath test showed her blood alcohol content to be .114%. After field sobriety testing was completed, the woman was processed for DWI. The woman had a previous DWI in 2019. Reports have been sent to the prosecuting attorney for charges of 3<sup>rd</sup> degree DWI and .08 or more.

On 04/30/22 at approximately 3:30 a.m., officers were advised to attempt to locate an intoxicated driver in a blue BMW with out of state plates. Officer Gottschald located the vehicle on Westberg Road near Market Street. Assisting officers responded to the scene and Officer Stracek spoke with the 27-year-old driver. While speaking with the man, Officer Stracek noted a mild odor of alcoholic beverage emitting from his breath. He had glossy eyes and slurred speech. He admitted to having three White Claws but stated he didn't feel the effects of the alcohol. Officer Stracek had the man perform field sobriety testing, including a preliminary breath test that resulted in a reading of .107% blood alcohol content. He was cited for 4<sup>th</sup> degree DWI and .08 or more.

Just before 5 p.m. on 04/30/22, a 56-year-old man reported that the vehicle he had been riding in was rear-ended at the intersection of Miller Trunk Highway and Lavaque Road. He told dispatch that



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the other vehicle, a Cadillac, was leaving the scene and he believed the male driver may be intoxicated. He later stated that the vehicle returned and was parked in the Hermantown Square parking lot. He described the driver and passenger to officers and stated that the man seemed confrontational. When officers arrived on scene, they located the unoccupied Cadillac and noted the damage to the grill. The driver and passenger were located at the bar in McKenzie's. The bartender later confirmed that they were given menus but neither had anything to drink while inside. The pair admitted to being in the Cadillac and being involved in the accident. The female passenger said that they didn't stay with the vehicle because they didn't know how long it would be before officers arrived. When speaking with the driver, Sgt. Pernu noted that he detected a mild odor of alcoholic beverage coming from him; his eyes were also glossy. He admitted to drinking one "tall" beer an hour and a half prior. The man performed field sobriety testing and provided a preliminary breath sample with a result of .175% 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 inattentive driving.

### Theft

On 04/25/22 at 9:42 p.m., officers were advised of suspicious activity at Sunrise Cemetery. The reporting party stated that a car was driving through the cemetery without its lights on, the occupants had built a fire, and people were walking around with flashlights. Upon arrival, officers were unable to locate the vehicle, but there were fresh prints in the snow. Officer Mischke spoke to the reporting party by phone and she stated the vehicle left just prior to officers arriving on scene. At 1:45 a.m. on 04/26/22, the reporting party called back, stating the same car that was in the cemetery earlier was now parked in front of a white pickup truck and it appeared a person was doing something to the truck, as she could hear loud banging. Officers arrived on scene and located the vehicle near a pickup truck belonging to the cemetery. Officer Mischke noted that he had performed a traffic stop on this vehicle at 11:30 p.m. on 04/25/22 after observing it leave the Krenzen lot. Officers located a 33-year-old man under the pickup truck. When asked what he was doing, the man stated "you know what I am doing." Several tools were located underneath the pickup. The man was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for possession of burglary tools and theft. An employee of the cemetery later advised Detective Dwyer that another truck was found to have the catalytic converter cut off.

On the evening of 04/27/22, Officer Mischke was advised of a gas drive off at a local gas station. The reporting party said a black Nissan SUV stole \$66.13 worth of gas and it appeared to be intentional. The license plate provided registered to a GMC Terrain at a residence in Hermantown. Officer Mischke responded to the address and spoke with the registered owner. At that time, it was discovered that the vehicle was missing the rear license plate.

On 04/30/22, a 57-year-old resident reported a scam. She said she accepted a friend request on Facebook from a person named "Dawn" who she did not know. Dawn began messaging her and put in phone contact with "Agent David John," who told her she won \$150,000 but had to pay \$300 to secure the winnings. The woman bought a \$300 iTunes gift card and read the number to the scammer over the phone. The scammer then asked for an additional \$600 and the woman realized it was a scam. She attempted to cancel the gift card but was told it was too late.