



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 05/01/22 to 05/07/22, the Hermantown PD had 155 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

At 8:45 p.m. on 05/04/22, officers were advised of a disturbance outside the Aery Apartments. Several witnesses had observed the incident from their apartments. The 16-year-old victim told officers that earlier in the day, he made fun of another student's haircut and that male said he wanted to fight him. He then said that a friend brought him home that evening and they were followed by a car. Surveillance video shows a car following the truck that the victim was in around the parking lot, then cutting it off by the entrance doors to the building. It appears that the 15-year-old boy that the victim had made fun of earlier approached the truck and punched the victim through the door. At that point, the two teenagers made their way to a patch of grass and began to fight. The victim knocked the younger boy to the ground and was immediately attacked by the younger boy's three male friends. Video shows the four males punching and kicking the victim repeatedly as he is curled up on the ground. A female recording the incident on a cell phone then kicked the victim before all of the suspects jumped into the car and left. When the call was originally dispatched, there was information that the suspects possibly had a gun. When assisting agencies located the suspect vehicle a short time later, a felony traffic stop was conducted and the occupants were detained for officer safety. No firearms were located. The 15-year-old classmate of the victim told officers that earlier in the day, the victim had lightly smacked him on the back of his head while commenting on his hair. The younger male told him to stop touching him or they would fight; he said the older boy then did it again. He also mentioned that the pair got into a physical fight at the YMCA. Ultimately, two 15-year-old males, two 16-year-old males, and a 16-year-old female were cited for assault in this incident.

Driving Under the Influence

On 05/02/22 at 1:25 a.m., Officer Stracek observed a Ford passenger car registered to an address in Eagan, Minnesota. The 52-year-old registered owner had an active warrant for gross misdemeanor theft out of Dakota County. The driver of the vehicle appeared to match the registered owner's description. Officer Stracek made contact with the man as he was exiting his vehicle after parking it at his apartment complex. He advised the man he was under arrest for the warrant and the man said he wasn't aware of it and didn't know he got in any trouble when he lived in Eagan. As Officer Stracek was speaking to the man, he observed signs of intoxication and requested that the driver perform field sobriety testing. The man's preliminary breath test resulted in a reading of .161% blood alcohol content. The man said he just ran to get pizza before his wife went to work. He was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for the warrant and he was cited for 4th degree DWI and .08 or more.

At 12:54 on 05/03/22, Officer Stracek was on patrol when he observed a driver that he knew to have a cancelled driver's license. After conducting a traffic stop and making contact with the driver, Officer Stracek noted that the man was displaying signs of impairment. The man initially stated that he was "stoned" after using marijuana. He later admitted to using meth earlier in the night. The



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man would not perform field sobriety testing and later refused to submit to a blood or urine test. He was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for 1st degree DUI refusal, 1st degree controlled substance DUI, 5th degree possession of methamphetamine, driving after cancellation – inimical to public safety, restricted driver's license violation, failure to transfer title, and no insurance. The 63-year-old man has a lengthy criminal history, beginning in 1978 with a drug charge. He's been previously charged 11 times with DUI, the first being in 1985. In addition, he's been charged nearly 50 times with driving after cancellation and other driver's license violations.

On 05/03/22, just after 11 p.m., Officer Stracek conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle that had been speeding. In addition, the vehicle's third brake light was burned out. The 29-year-old female driver stated she was heading home after working at a bar in Proctor. The woman initially denied having anything to drink, but after Officer Stracek said he could smell an alcoholic beverage, she admitted to drinking a beer around two hours prior. The woman's preliminary breath test registered .105% blood alcohol content. The woman was ultimately cited for 4th degree DWI, .08 or more, and speed.

Theft

On 05/01/22, just before 11 a.m., Officers Leibel and Battaglia were dispatched to a shoplifting call at Walmart. Upon arrival, they met with the suspect and loss prevention staff. The suspect said he didn't have ID on him and verbally identified himself, giving a date of birth in 2006. Officer Battaglia then asked for a parent's contact information, as the suspect identified himself as being 15 years old. The boy's mother gave her permission for officers to speak to her son, but asked to talk him herself. After speaking with the suspect, the woman advised Officer Battaglia that she believed they were dealing with her 19-year-old son, but confirmed that she does have a son with the name and date of birth that the suspect gave officers. She said that she believed her older son had an active warrant and she did not want her younger son getting in trouble for something he didn't do. Officers located a previous booking photo of the suspect and positively identified him before taking him into custody for his Itasca County warrant for drug possession. He was cited for theft and trespassed from Walmart properties.

On 05/04/22 at 3:30 a.m., Officer Stracek was in Kwik Trip when he observed a female with a facemask and a large tote bag walking around with a basket full of items. The female then went to the counter and told staff she wasn't going to purchase the items because she forgot her wallet. After she left, the employee told Officer Stracek that she comes in regularly and always forgets her wallet. The woman got into a vehicle and as it pulled away, Officer Stracek observed a male driver that he knew to have a revoked driver's license. The vehicle left on Miller Trunk Highway and Officer Stracek performed a traffic stop after catching up to the vehicle. Through the window of the vehicle, he observed a pipe on the floor at the woman's feet. There was burnt residue in the pipe and the woman admitted that it was hers. Officer Stracek performed a vehicle of the vehicle and when he looked in the purse that the woman had in the store, he located two Kwik Trip cheeseburgers that were still warm and two sodas that were cold. The woman at first claimed that the backseat vent was keeping the cheeseburgers warm, but she couldn't explain why the sodas were cold. She then admitted to shoplifting the items because they were hungry. The 32-year-old woman was issued a citation for theft and the 37-year-old male driver was cited for driving after revocation.