



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

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 05/29/22 to 06/04/22, the Hermantown PD had 154 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 06/02/22 at 11:45 a.m., Walmart reported a disturbance involving a customer. Officer Enright was advised that an employee was pushing a heavy cart along the front sidewalk of the store and a man refused to move out of the way. The employee began going around the man, who began yelling and causing a scene. The 30-year-old man was trespassed from Walmart and Sam's Club properties for one year.

### Check Welfare

On 06/03/22, Officer Salo was requested to check the welfare of a 61-year-old Hermantown resident. HPD received information that the man's name was on a list located in the vehicle of a suspect involved in the shooting of a former judge in Wisconsin. Authorities later called the shooting a "targeted attack" and confirmed that others on the list included Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer, and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell. Officer Salo was able to make contact by phone with the Hermantown man, who stated he was out of the state at that time.

### Accident

On 06/02/22 at 1p.m., a 55-year-old woman driving a Buick sedan was northbound on Miller Trunk Highway when she got into the left turn lane to turn onto Loberg Avenue. While waiting at the red light, her vehicle was hit from behind by a Chevy Suburban. The 41-year-old driver and 57-year-old passenger of the Suburban both complained of neck pain. Both women were put into neck braces for ambulance transport to a local hospital. The driver of the Suburban was cited for driving after revocation and inattentive driving.

### Suspicious Activity

On 05/29/22 at 10:45 p.m., Officer Gottschald observed a suspicious vehicle on Lightning Drive. She made contact with the driver and identified her as the girlfriend of the owner of a Lightning Drive business. The woman stated she is aware of recent thefts and was checking the business lot.

On 06/03/22, a woman reported that her teenage daughter just told her that a suspicious older male has been watching her when she returns home after school. The girl told officers that the man sometimes drives around Lavaque Road business parking lots and in front of her house while staring at her. She stated that she believed he was holding his phone up as if he was taking pictures of her. The teenager said she's never seen the man utilize any of the businesses in the area and believes he's only there to look at her, as he stares at her and at times they've made eye contact. The reporting party took photos of the vehicle that day and forward them to officers. The vehicle registers to a 64-year-old Duluth man that has previous been trespassed from the Hermantown Schools property for suspicious behavior. Officers have been actively attempting to locate and make contact with the man.

### Theft

Just after 8 p.m. on 06/01/22, Officer Battaglia was advised of a theft at a Miller Trunk Highway business. The victim said that a trailer hitch had been taken off her Jeep Wrangler while it was parked at Skyline Social and Games, and the hitch is valued at \$250. Officer Battaglia was advised that there is video of the theft and this incident is under investigation.



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On 06/02/22, an 18-year-old woman reported that while helping at a rummage sale on Adrian Lane, her keys and wallet were stolen. She stated she last saw them at approximately 2 p.m. and noticed they were missing at 5 p.m. She stated her credit union advised her that someone used her card at a smoke shop in Duluth at 5 p.m. for \$51.15.

On 06/03/22 at approximately 3 p.m., Officer Salo was dispatched to a gas drive off. The attendant said the suspect pressed the "pay inside" button before pumping \$70.15 worth of gas and driving off. She provided a plate number for the suspect vehicle, a silver Mercury Mountaineer, but it did not match. Officer Salo was unable to locate the suspect vehicle at that time. Shortly before 5 p.m., Fleet Farm reported a male shoplifter that had taken several items, including clothing and tools. The man then left in a silver Mercury Mountaineer. Officers Salo and Enright located the vehicle nearby and made contact with the driver, who immediately stated that an employee at Fleet Farm accused him of stealing. He denied shoplifting at Fleet Farm and also denied the gas drive off from earlier in the day. Officer Salo observed the license plate used in the gas drive off in plain sight wedged between the driver's seat and center console. The stolen merchandise from Fleet Farm was also located in the Mountaineer. The 41-year-old man admitted to the shoplifting, stating that he knew stealing was wrong but he had no money and was laid off. When asked about the gas drive off, the man said it must have been the "other guy" driving his vehicle earlier. He then admitted he stole the gas because he had no money, waived, and again said he did not do it. Officer Salo pointed out that he had the stolen license plate used in the gas theft. The man then admitted to the theft and claimed to have found the license plate on the road. The man was cited for theft.

On the afternoon of 06/03/22, a 25-year-old man reported the theft of his wallet. He stated he stopped at his parents' house on Stebner Road around noon. He stated his wallet was in the center console of his vehicle and he left his windows down. He briefly spoke to a neighbor before going in the house. When he returned to the vehicle approximately ten minutes later, his wallet was gone.

On 06/03/22, an 81-year-old female reported that she was concerned that her 79-year-old brother was being scammed. She stated she has not been involved in his life as of late, but she stopped by to see him and he said he had no money. She was concerned about this, as he has a traumatic brain injury and has been scammed in the past. She reviewed statements for his bank account and discovered multiple withdrawals of large sums of money, which she believed was strange; however, she told officers she had no interest in managing or having anything to do with her brother's money. Detective Dwyer later met with the man's 57-year-old neighbor, who stated that he and his family took it upon themselves to care for and look after the man. He provided Power of Attorney paperwork and a bank statement with both the man's name and his own. He told Detective Dwyer that the man's accounts were emptied and closed and questioned why the bank did not contact him, as he is on the accounts. Detective Dwyer spoke to the branch manager of the bank, who stated that, even with a Power of Attorney, the older man has the ability to withdraw money and conduct business as it pertained to his own accounts. She further stated that the accounts in question had not been closed, but the money had been transferred to a new account. Detective Dwyer explained to the man's sister that the neighbors have been looking after the man for many years. He advised that our department would review the bank statements, but at this time it did not appear there had been any crime committed pertaining to her brother's money.