



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

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 06/26/22 to 07/02/22, the Hermantown PD had 177 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

At 2:30 a.m. on 06/26/22, Officer Stracek observed a vehicle leaving the Frito Lay warehouse parking lot and noted that the vehicle was a suspect in a previous theft from that property. He made contact with the vehicle and explained to the driver that his vehicle color didn't match the registered color of the vehicle. He admitted that he spray painted the vehicle. He further stated he had been dumpster diving at Frito Lay and had two large cardboard boxes of chips in the backseat. Officer Stracek explained to the 50-year-old man and his 59-year-old female passenger that they couldn't be on private property without permission. During his contact with the pair, Officer Stracek noted that the man was displaying signs of being under the influence of drugs. The man performed field sobriety testing. He admitted to smoking marijuana in the morning but denied meth use. The man was searched incident to arrest and a glass pipe with white residue was located. The man was transported to a local hospital for a blood test, where he admitted that meth would be found in his system. Charges are pending results of the blood test.

Just before 2 p.m. on 06/26/22, Officer Gottschald was dispatched to a hit and run in the Walmart parking lot. Loss prevention advised that the male suspect had also attempted to steal two TVs with a total value of \$776.00. The man attempted to push out a cart with the televisions; when stopped for his receipt, he said his wife had it. He then walked back into the store to find her, then walked out of the store. He quickly backed out of his parking spot at the same time as a 57-year-old woman was backing out of her spot. The vehicles collided, but the man fled the parking lot. Duluth officers located the vehicle and Officer Gottschald responded to the scene and placed the 22-year-old man under arrest for shoplifting, noting that the man's 5-year-old child was in the backseat. She noted that his eyes were bloodshot and watering and she observed an odor of alcoholic beverage emitting from his person. He declined to perform field sobriety testing or a preliminary breath test, stating that even on a good day he wouldn't be able to walk in a straight line. He was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for 2<sup>nd</sup> degree DWI, .08 or more, shoplifting, hit and run, and child endangerment.

On 06/28/22 at 2 a.m., Officer Stracek observed a vehicle weaving from the centerline to the fog line on Miller Trunk Highway before it turned north onto Vaux Road. He performed a traffic stop and made contact with the female driver, who admitted to turning onto Vaux Road to get away from him. She stated she was on her way home from work, where she had been bartending. She admitted to having a couple drinks after work and also admitted to weaving within the lane and driving slow, but did not think she was over the legal limit to drive. She said her last drink was around three hours prior. After losing her balance while Officer Stracek was demonstrating a test, the woman stated she was not able to do the walk and turn test or the one-leg stand test. She submitted to a preliminary breath test, which resulted in a reading of .201% 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 driving after revocation.



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At approximately 2:30 a.m. on 07/01/22, Officer Stracek conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle traveling 12 mph over the posted speed limit. When Officer Stracek made contact with the 21-year-old driver, he noted that the man was slurring his words and had a strong odor of alcoholic beverage emitting from his breath. The man said he was going home from his girlfriend's house. While performing field sobriety testing, the man kept looking at the weapons on Officer Stracek's belt and was sizing him up and down. During the walk and turn test, the man did not stop after nine steps and slowly continued to the side of his vehicle. The man then put his hand on the door handle of the vehicle and failed to follow Officer Stracek's orders to come back toward the squad car. The man told Officer Stracek that he is not as strong as he thinks and repeatedly called him "little boy" during their interaction. When told he was being placed under arrest, the male grabbed onto his truck bed and struggled with officers. Officers later located an open box cutting knife in the bed where the man was grabbing. Officer Stracek attempted to process the man for DWI, but he locked eye contact and remained silent. The man was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for 2<sup>nd</sup> degree test refusal, 3<sup>rd</sup> degree DWI, obstruction, ignition interlock violation, driving after revocation, and speed.

### Animal Complaint

On 07/01/22, a 69-year-old woman reported that she had been walking the shoulder of Miller Trunk Highway when several dogs ran out from a yard and one bit her on the leg, breaking the skin. Officer Salo spoke to the 41-year-old resident, who admitted her three dogs had been outside and involved. She also had two other dogs at the residence that she was watching. She was advised to quarantine her dogs for 10 days and license her dogs with the city. An animal bite citation was mailed to her.

### Miscellaneous

On 06/27/22, Officer Stracek attempted to perform a predatory offender registration check on a 47-year-old level one non-compliant offender. The man's sister stated he was no longer living at the address and that he was homeless and living out of his truck. Officer Stracek attempted to call the phone number listed on the man's registry, but it was disconnected. He also noted the man had no registered vehicles in the State of Minnesota. Reports have been forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges of knowingly and intentionally failing to register.

### Adult Abuse

At 4:45 a.m. on 06/29/22, officers were dispatched to check the welfare of a man walking on Midway Road. The 53-year-old man was located wearing all black clothing and walking in the driving lane. He had a heavy limp and appeared to be struggling to walk. There were 10 mosquitos on the man's face that appeared to have been there for an extended period of time. The man was hard to understand but was able to provide his address, which is a group home on Midway Road. Officers transported the man home and located another resident sitting on a chair outside the front door. This man stated they are locked out of the house. Officers checked all the doors of the residence before ringing the doorbell and pounding on the door. A staff member then emerged from a room, zipping his pants and putting his belt on as he hurried to the door, and it appeared he had been sleeping. When officers mentioned wanting to search the house, the





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man stood protectively in front of the hallway. He had to be told nine times to sit down in the dining room. In the office of the residence, Officer Stracek noted a blow up mattress on the floor with a woman attempting to hide by laying under two jackets. In addition, Officer Stracek noted that the medicine cabinet in the room was unlocked and open. The 48-year-old staff member admitted that the woman was his girlfriend and claimed she just got there ten minutes prior. When asked later if the 30-year-old woman was hiding in his vehicle when he came to work, he said "yeah, something like that." He also told Officer Stracek that he made a complaint to the Commander about harassment because he had been pulled over twice for speeding by Officer Stracek. It was later determined that one of the traffic stops had occurred when the man was supposed to be at work at the group home and his girlfriend was also in the vehicle at that time. Video later showed that the man found walking down Midway Road had left the residence at 3:36 a.m. The staff member had intentionally neglected multiple vulnerable adults by depriving them of supervision and shelter, showing a pattern of deprivation, including the traffic stop during his work hours, his girlfriend spending time and sleeping at the home two nights in a row, and the unlocked medication cabinet. Reports have been forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges of criminal neglect.

### Traffic

On 0/01/22 at 12:51 a.m., Officer Stracek was working a Toward Zero Death special traffic enforcement shift when he conducted a routine license query on a passing vehicle. He was advised that the owner of the vehicle did not have a valid license and had felony warrants. He turned around and noted that the vehicle was traveling at a high rate of speed away from him, observing speeds far above the posted 30 mph limit. The vehicle eventually came to a stop. The 22-year-old female driver admitted to attempting to elude Officer Stracek because she didn't want her 27-year-old male passenger to get caught and she didn't want to have to deal with the police tonight. The man passenger, who was not the vehicle's owner, was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for an active warrant. A citation was mailed to the driver for driving after revocation and reckless driving.

### Suspicious Activity

On 06/28/22, Officer Gottschald met with the vice president of Stepping Stones for Living. He reported that on 05/23/22 at 4 a.m., a female called a group home and said she was going to be arriving to do a shadow shift. When she arrived, she asked to get into the office, where she stayed for approximately 10 minutes before leaving the home. It was later discovered that eight Lorazepam were missing. At 6 a.m. on that same date, the female went to another group home and told the night shift employee that she was there to relieve them. When other staff arrived at 8 a.m., there was no one there. At 4 a.m. on 06/28/22, the woman went to a group home and advised the employee that they could go home. This employee recognized the 28-year-old former employee, as she wasn't wearing a mask. The employee confronted the woman, stating that they have been having someone impersonate staff and they needed proof of employment. The woman quickly left the house. Officer Gottschald spoke to the suspect, who stated she had not been to any group homes since she was fired approximately six months prior for going home during her shift and sleeping. The woman also matches the description of a female that went to Edgewood Vista on 06/24/22 and claimed to be from a corporate office. When asked by Officer Gottschald, the suspect said she had been to Edgewood to visit a friend, but was unable to provide a date or timeframe. She also stated she did not want to speak to Officer Gottschald any further without a lawyer.