



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

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 07/03/22 to 07/09/22, the Hermantown PD had 160 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

Shortly before 3 p.m. on 07/03/22, a female reported that she and her husband were on their way to a party when a man ran out from a driveway on Jamebard Road and jumped on their car as it was moving. She said the man was yelling to call 911 and tried to get into the car but was unsuccessful. Officers Salo and Mischke arrived on the scene and located the man next to the caller's car. The 31-year-old said he had gone to a nearby residence to buy weed and was beat up, had his phone taken, and was chased with a bat. The man appeared to be under the influence, as his pupils were tiny, he was sweaty and appeared disoriented. Officer Salo spoke to a 54-year-old woman, who stated the man had been at her residence with a 25-year-old male. She said the man had been smoking meth, was warned several times not to do it, but continued. The two males then got into an argument over it, which led to a mutual physical fight. The fight ended when she told them to go outside. Outside video showed the younger male drive away. The older male walked down the driveway; he was not chased, as he said he was. The resident picked up a bat that had been lying outside, but it was kept by her side and was not used in a threatening manner. The man was issued a citation for disorderly conduct for brawling and jumping on the reporting party's car roof.

### Assault

On 07/05/22 at 2:18 a.m., a 22-year-old female reported a male with a gun at a residence in the 4100 block of Lavaque Road. Officers responded to the residence and positioned themselves around the house. Officer Stracek met with the victims in a nearby church parking lot. A 23-year-old woman reported that she and her boyfriend were at a bar in Superior when they ran into a female friend. She stated she pulled the friend aside and told her she needed to get away from her boyfriend, who she stated is abusive. She told Officer Stracek she's tried to leave before, but that this was her first real chance to escape the relationship. The younger woman said that the man found out she was going to help her friend get her stuff from the house and told her that his girlfriend was not leaving and then threatened to kill his girlfriend's dogs. She explained that bystanders distracted the man and the women quickly drove to the house. She said that they were there less than five minutes when the man was dropped off by a friend. The older woman had some of her stuff and was sitting in a rear passenger seat of the vehicle with her window ajar when the man ordered her to get out of the car. He then grabbed the window and broke it. When the reporting party threatened to call the police, the man pointed a handgun at her and her passengers; she got into her vehicle and quickly drove away with the other women and the older woman's dogs. Officer Leibel later located the man at approximately 5:30 a.m. in the 5000 block of Maple Grove Road. Although the man claimed to just be out for a walk, it was clear he walked through woods/swamp area, as his feet were very wet. The 21-year-old man claimed that his girlfriend had cheated on him and was mad at him because he threatened to take her dogs to the shelter. He said he had arrived back at the house and was only for there for "twenty seconds" to let his dogs out before walking away. He further stated that his girlfriend had assaulted him the previous night; Officer Leibel did not see any injuries consistent with a physical domestic assault. While being transported to jail, the man was upset with Officer Leibel



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for “not getting the other side of the story,” despite declining to go the Hermantown Police Department for an interview. During his ranting, he offered to pay Officer Leibel ten thousand to let him out “right now.” Before entering the jail, the man requested to call his father. With his father on the phone, he then asked that Officer Leibel explain what he had been accused of so not to incriminate himself. He told his father that his girlfriend was “probably trying to rob the spot” and requested that a family member go to the house. Despite a lengthy search through the woods/swamp area, the firearm was not located. A search warrant was executed on the residence. No firearms were located, but 238.2 grams of marijuana was collected, along with 625.4 grams of THC wax and \$1783.00. Scales, baggies, and glass jars were also collected. In jail phone calls, the man admitted to two family members in separate calls that he did break the vehicle’s window. He also asked about one of the safes in the residence and was told that officers collected the contents, which was the marijuana. During the search warrant process, an officer met with the man at the jail, where he stated he lived in Proctor and his house was his girlfriend’s. He had previously stated to officers that he would rent his house to someone else, causing a loophole in which he could evict his girlfriend without 30 days’ notice. The man was charged with threats of violence, 1<sup>st</sup> degree damage to property, bribery, 5<sup>th</sup> degree sale of marijuana, and domestic assault.

### Driving Under the Influence

Just after 3 a.m. on 07/03/22, Officer Stracek was clearing a medical call when he observed a blue motorcycle traveling westbound on Arrowhead Road. He ran the Wisconsin plate and discovered that it registered to a yellow “dual sport” Suzuki motorcycle, not the “crotch rocket” it was being displayed on. As he traveled behind the motorcycle, he observed the driver almost fall off as he approached a four-way stop. He paced the motorcycle at 15 mph below the speed limit and noted that the driver kept drifting toward the centerline. Officer Stracek conducted a traffic stop on the motorcycle and made contact with the 43-year-old male driver, who stated the motorcycle belonged to a friend. He “didn’t know” his friend’s last name and said he was looking for his girlfriend’s vehicle because another friend took off with it. Officer Stracek observed signs of impairment and requested that the man perform field sobriety testing. At the beginning of the walk-and-turn test, the man stated he would not be able to perform the test, as he had a fresh injury on his ankle from when Officer Stracek saw him nearly fall off the motorcycle. Officer Stracek observed track marks on the man, as well as heat bumps on his tongue. The man admitted to shooting heroin “a long time ago” and later said the last time he used was the previous day. He was transported to a local hospital for a blood test and charges of driving under the influence are pending the results of that test.

On 07/08/22 at 7:40 p.m., Officer Stracek was dispatched to attempt to locate a possibly impaired driver. A caller reported a newer black Chevy Colorado traveling eastbound on West Arrowhead Road in the wrong lane. Officer Stracek noted that just over two hours before, officers attempted to locate a dark-colored Chevy Colorado near Maple Grove and Five Corners that had been all over the road and driving in the oncoming lane. Officers were unable to locate the vehicle at that time. Officer Stracek noted that the vehicle was headed toward the registered address on Miller Trunk Highway and he responded to the area. As he pulled up to the address, he observed a male



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walking into the building carrying groceries. He made contact with the man, who admitted to driving from the Pike Lake Super One, but was adamant that he had nothing to drink since 4 p.m. The 56-year-old man agreed to perform field sobriety testing, including a preliminary breath test that resulted in a reading of .184% blood alcohol content. Reports were forwarded to the prosecuting attorney for charges of 3<sup>rd</sup> degree DWI, .08 or more, and driving after revocation.

At 3:18 a.m. on 07/09/22, Officer Stracek observed a motorcycle traveling northbound on Miller Trunk Highway at a high rate of speed. He activated his radar and initially locked the speed at 85 mph, then noted that it climbed to speeds of 95-97 as he turned around to catch up to it. The driver apologized for driving fast and said he hadn't seen Officer Stracek pass him and turn around. He stated he was heading home from Duluth, where he had been watching the fireworks and hanging out at a couple bars. When asked how much he drank, he said he hadn't been drinking and would blow all zeros on a breath test. The 26-year-old man performed field sobriety testing. The results of his preliminary breath test were .131% blood alcohol content. He was cited for 4<sup>th</sup> degree DWI, .08 or more, and speeding.

### Fraud

On 07/06/22, a 45-year-old Hermantown man reported that his business LinkedIn account had been hacked over the past few months, along with his email account. He told Officer Gottschald that someone posted employment opportunities on his LinkedIn account and approximately 140 people applied before he could get the account taken down. He said he was made aware of the fake job posting by an applicant that had paid approximately \$250 for an employment background check. The applicant told him that there had been a Zoom interview. The man also said that invoices he would send to companies were altered and sent to clients through his email, stating that his business would like to receive electronic payments going forward. The emails provided information for a bank in New York City. The reporting party told Officer Gottschald that, to his knowledge, none of his clients sent money, but the potential loss for them would have been hundreds of thousands of dollars. Officer Gottschald sent a subpoena to the bank listed on the fake invoices.

### Theft

On 07/06/22, a 58-year-old Hermantown resident reported that he purchased a Menards rebate check but when he attempted to use it a few days later, there was no money on it. He said that he met a 39-year-old woman on the Facebook Marketplace and arranged to meet her at the West Duluth Menards on 06/30/22. He told Officer Salo that they both went into the store and verified the amount on the rebate check, which was \$584.53. He said he paid the woman \$425.00 for the rebate check. He explained that when he tried to use it, he discovered that the money had been transferred to another rebate card. This incident was forwarded to the Duluth Police Department financial crimes unit, as the transaction occurred in Duluth.