



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

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 07/10/22 to 07/16/22, the Hermantown PD had 196 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 07/10/22 at 2:14 a.m., Officer Leibel was standing outside his squad, about to clear from assisting on a traffic stop on Highway 2 near Morris Thomas Road, when a Chevy Impala passed his location without slowing down or moving over for the emergency vehicles. He got into his squad and caught up to the vehicle, performing a traffic stop on it. The 25-year-old female driver claimed she moved over at the location of the traffic stop. Officer Leibel also informed her that she is required to slow down and explained that his squad shook as she passed. The woman stated she was driving her passengers home and said it was less than a mile away. Officer Leibel noted that the odor alcoholic beverage was emitting from the vehicle. During her field sobriety testing, Officers Leibel had to repeat the instruction phase and demonstration of the walk-and-turn test multiple times; at one point the woman began her test before stepping back and waiting. Her preliminary breath test revealed an alcohol content of .19%. The woman was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for 3<sup>rd</sup> degree DWI, .08 or more, expired tabs, and passing an emergency vehicle without slowing.

At 12:38 a.m. on 07/12/22, Officer Leibel observed a vehicle slow to approximately 10 mph for the stop sign at the intersection of Morris Thomas Road and Stebner. The vehicle did not come to a complete stop and drifted over the centerline as it continued southbound. After performing a traffic stop, the 21-year-old driver apologized, stating his sister texted him that his puppy was barking and he was in a hurry to get home. Officer Leibel noted that the man's speech was slurred, his movements were lethargic, and his eyes were bloodshot and watery. He said he had been at a friend's house, and admitted to drinking four Loon Juices since 9:30 p.m. The man performed field sobriety testing and his preliminary breath test showed .10% blood alcohol content. The man told Officer Leibel he is an "avid drinker." He was cited for 4<sup>th</sup> degree DWI, .08 or more, and failing to stop for a stop sign.

Officer Stracek performed a traffic stop just after 5 p.m. on 07/14/22. The driver had been traveling 47 mph in a 30 mph zone on Ugstad Road, passing a speed limit sign and the fully marked squad car without slowing down. The 42-year-old male driver admitted to consuming two beers and agreed to perform field sobriety testing. His blood alcohol content registered .126% on the preliminary breath test. He was cited for 4<sup>th</sup> degree DWI, .08 or more, and speeding.

On 07/14/22 at 11:51 p.m., officers were advised that a silver Volvo crashed in the northbound ditch on Miller Trunk Highway near Hwy 194. A St. Louis County Sheriff's Department Deputy arrived on scene very quickly and advised that the driver entered the construction area heading southbound in the northbound passing lane before losing control into a deep median with a five-foot drop. The deputy stated the vehicle was not visible from the road and that the female driver was spinning her tires trying to get out. There were multiple "shooter" alcohol containers on the ground outside the vehicle. When Officer Stracek asked the driver to step out of the vehicle, she stated she left her shoes at home, but got out barefoot. As he helped the 47-year-old woman out of the construction area, Officer Stracek detected the overwhelming odor of alcoholic beverage emitting from her. The woman said she was visiting family on Trinity Road in Duluth, but was unsure how she ended up toward Pike Lake, saying she was just driving around. She said she was drinking around three hours prior and did not believe the alcohol affected her ability



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to operate her vehicle safely. She performed field sobriety testing poorly and told Officer Stracek she believed her accident was caused by an issue with her tire, not her drinking. While performing a preliminary breath test, the woman provided a breath sample which resulted in a reading of .303% blood alcohol content. He then asked the woman if she thought she was over the legal limit to drive and she responded that she was a "little goofy." The woman was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for 2<sup>nd</sup> degree DWI and .08 or more.

### Traffic

At approximately 12:15 a.m. on 07/14/22, Officer Enright was on traffic patrol when he ran a routine license plate query on a Hyundai Santa Fe, discovering that the registration expired in March 2022. He turned and caught up to the vehicle, which was being closely followed by a motorcycle. He activated his emergency lights, passed the motorcycle, and got behind the Santa Fe. The driver turned her right blinker on and moved the shoulder but did not stop; after a short distance, she put her left blinker on and moved back out into the driving lane, continuing southbound on Midway Road. Officer Enright activated his emergency sired, but the vehicle turned onto Hermantown Road and pulled into a driveway. Officer Enright pulled behind the Santa Fe and shut off his siren as the woman stepped out of her vehicle. She was directed to stay in the car and she sat back down. When Officer Enright approached, the woman was immediately confrontational, yelling at Officer Enright, asking why she was pulled over and stating she didn't feel safe. She accused him of lying about why he was stopping her and said it was impossible for him to see her tabs, as the motorcycle was between us. She was yelling obscenities at Officer Enright and demanding to speak to his commanding officer. The motorcycle pulled into the driveway and parked ahead of the Santa Fe. She refused to provide her driver's license and would only give her first name. She attempted to close the open car door and began rummaging in the passenger seat where Officer Enright could not see what she was doing. The woman lit a cigarette despite being advised not to and it was removed from her hand and put out on the ground. The woman was advised that if she did not identify herself, she would be taken to jail in an attempt to identify her. The woman continued to yell obscenities and be uncooperative. As the woman still had control of her vehicle and the motorcyclist was standing in the driveway, Officer Enright noted that it was clear the woman would not change her mind about cooperating and he believed the longer she sat in control of her vehicle, the less safe the situation would become. When Officer Mischke arrived on scene, the woman was advised she was under arrest. As officers attempted to remove her from the vehicle, she clenched her arm and pulled away. Once out, the woman was placed against the vehicle as officers attempted to handcuff her. She continued to actively resist by pulling away and kicking backward at officers and she was ultimately escorted to the ground, where she was handcuffed after a short struggle. Sgt. Pfeiffer arrived on scene and identified the 44-year-old woman from previous experience. The woman initially refused to get into the back of the squad car, kicking at Officer Enright. After being placed inside, she continued to yell and scream at the top of her lungs. During transport to the jail, she screamed at Officer Enright and said extremely vulgar things about his family. She was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for obstruction, failure to yield to an emergency vehicle, driving after revocation, and expired tabs.

### Order Violation

On 07/10/22 at 9:47 p.m., a 28-year-old Hermantown resident reported that her mother had been coming near her camper for the last 30 minutes in violation of an Order for Protection. The woman and her boyfriend live in a camper on the property, while her mother lives in the house. The woman told Sgt. Pernu when he arrived at the address that her mother came out and began banging on the camper door, screaming and demanding money for rent and yelling at them to clean up around the trailer. She said she eventually went back to the house. The woman admitted that her mother was in the process of evicting them from the property and said that she and her boyfriend planned to move in the next few weeks. She





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had taken video of the incident, which Officer Stracek viewed. Officers then attempted to make contact with the woman's 64-year-old mother. They noted that several upstairs windows were open and had lights on. There was no response to knocking on the door, but when officers called out for the woman, she went to the window. She would not come downstairs and yelled for several minutes about her daughter and daughter's boyfriend. Officers noted that it was obvious the woman was intoxicated. The woman refused to come out to speak to officers and eventually it became clear she had gone to bed. Reports were forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges of violating an Order for Protection.

### Theft

At approximately 7:30 a.m. on 07/10/22, Officer Gottschald was advised that Wisconsin troopers had located an abandoned Hyundai Elantra near Eau Claire. The vehicle had a Subaru dealership plate that was associated with the Subaru dealership in Hermantown. When located, the Hyundai had a busted out rear window and the ignition had been tampered with, allowing the vehicle to be driven without keys. Officer Gottschald responded to the Subaru dealership and located the broken window in the parking lot. The manager of the dealership later valued the vehicle at \$17,800. Officer Gottschald was advised by Wisconsin Troopers that an additional vehicle was stolen near where the Hyundai was recovered; that vehicle was later located and a 13-year-old male was arrested for that vehicle theft. It was discovered that the teenager had left his mother's hotel room in Duluth on 07/09/22. He is originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and was trying to get back there when he was arrested. During a search of police records, Officer Gottschald found two Duluth cases where the male was listed as a suspect in motor vehicle thefts in which the windows were broken and the steering columns were punched, just like in this case. This incident is under investigation.

When Officer Stracek began his shift on the evening of 07/12/22, Officers Johnson and Gottschald advised him they took multiple burglary reports throughout the day that had occurred the past couple nights in the Timber Ridge Townhomes complex. The suspect had entered each residence through their unlocked sliding glass door and had taken numerous wallets and purses. At 2:15 a.m. on 07/13/22, Sgt. Pernu and Officers Stracek and Leibel conducted extra patrol in the complex. Officer Stracek noticed a person in the shadows behind one of the buildings; he ran around another building to close the gap without being detected. He ran around the side of the building where the figure had been seen and observed a flashlight go from one townhome to the next. He then located a female looking in a sliding glass door. In one hand was a cell phone with the flashlight illuminated and in the other, she held three quarter rolls. The woman said she was trying to find a friend's apartment, but provided an address that was not near the building they were at. The woman attempted to lead officers away from her vehicle, which was parked in the complex. It was determined that the quarter rolls had just been taken from a nearby townhome, along with an accordion file of paperwork that was located alongside one of the buildings. In addition to the burglaries reported on 07/12/22, several others were determined to have occurred since approximately 07/03/22. There were reports of lost wallets in July that were later found to have been stolen from the victim's townhome. In addition, several found wallets were reported by Good Samaritans, including one in which the victim's driver's license address was in Barnum; it was later found that the wallet owner lived in the townhome complex and was a victim of a burglary. The 28-year-old suspect was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail and charged with first degree burglary. Charges for additional burglaries are pending further investigation.