



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 08/14/22 to 08/20/22, the Hermantown PD had 144 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
Tim Battaglia
Jon Enright
Erika Johnson - SRO
Olivia Gottschald
Jonathan Stracek
Andrew Leibel
Alex Prouse
Brandon Solem

K-9 Officers

Tuuko
Jack

Records

Jessica Sorensen
Dana Ross
Samantha Knapp

Driving Under the Influence

On 08/15/22 at 7:11 a.m., Officer Stracek was dispatched to the report of a possible overdose at the Korner Store after an employee reported a vehicle in the lot with a female slumped over. She stated that the vehicle had been in the lot for one to two hours; a customer had tried to wake the driver without success and she was not sure if the woman was breathing. When Officer Stracek arrived on scene, he located the vehicle and observed the driver leaning back in the seat with her head tilted back facing the roof of the car. He noted that her mouth was wide open and she appeared to be sweaty and pale. After Officer Stracek knocked on the window and asked if she was okay, the driver opened her eyes and jumped up. The woman stated she was trying to drive home, but was falling asleep so she pulled over. Officer Stracek recognized the woman and noted that she lived less than a mile away. The 28-year-old denied drug use, stating she was scheduled for a drug test for probation the next day. The woman was placed under arrest for suspected controlled substance DWI; she became upset and accused Officer Stracek of arresting her because of her recent Hermantown arrest. Officers searched the woman's rental car, locating a meth pipe and multiple jewelry baggies with suspected methamphetamine. While being processed at the Hermantown Police Department, the woman admitted to smoking meth earlier in the morning, stating that it could have been cut with fentanyl. Charges are pending results of a blood test.

Shortly before noon on 08/17/22, Officer Stracek was dispatched to the report of a reckless driver on northbound Stebner Road. The caller reported that a Honda CRV was passing in a no-passing zone and almost hit an oncoming car. She also stated the vehicle was traveling at a high rate of speed. Officer Stracek located the Honda at the intersection of Stebner Road and Miller Trunk Highway. After the vehicle turned onto Miller Trunk Highway, he noted that the vehicle was taking off at a high rate of speed and he clocked the vehicle at 68 mph in a 55 mph zone. As the Honda passed the driveway for Northern Tool and Equipment, it quickly crossed over the passing lane to the left turn lane for Sugar Maple Drive. Officer Stracek followed the vehicle into the driveway of Dominos, where he activated his emergency lights, initiating a traffic stop. The vehicle pulled into Dominos and around the building toward the Burger King drive-thru line before pulling back across the driveway to Bullyan RV and into the neighboring parking lot for the strip mall. The driver stopped, but then began driving again toward the rear of the strip mall. At this time, Officer Stracek activated his emergency siren and the driver put her left arm out of the window and pointed toward the back lot. Officer Stracek then commanded the driver to stop the car twice using his PA system. He made contact with the female driver, who stated she was late for work and stressed. She stated she believed she had been pulled over for either speeding, not using her blinker, or driving erratically. Officer Stracek noted that the woman had droopy eyelids and seemed anxious, talking with her hands, constantly adjusting her clothing,



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and moving around in her seat. Her eyelids kept closing slowly. Officer Stracek had the 27-year-old woman perform field sobriety testing, during which she admitted knowing that her driving scared other drivers on the road. The woman confessed to eating a “gummy” that morning, stating she didn’t think it was a big deal or that it was going to affect her that much. She was transported to a local hospital for a blood test. Charges are pending the results of that test.

Damage to Property

On 08/15/22, the owner of Bulldog Collision reported multiple vehicles had been damaged. Officer Johnson responded and observed that a Lexus SUV had slashed tires, a side mirror broken, and scratching or writing on the hood. A Volvo passenger car had a cracked windshield, shattered rear window, and words written on the side. A third vehicle, a Buick sedan, had slashed tires and words on the hood. The glove box was partially open with items spilled out into the car. Dirty footprints were left on two of the vehicles and Officer Johnson located a broken knife that had apparently been used to slash the tires. Officer Johnson identified a possible suspect and the incident is under investigation.

Order Violation

Just before 5 p.m. 08/19/22, a 27-year-old woman reported the violation of an active order. She said her 41-year-old ex had called her cell phone at 4:02 p.m.; the voicemail that was left was an automated voice indicating the call was from an inmate at a Minnesota corrections facility who identified himself by nickname. The woman informed Officer Johnson that the man is in prison for assaulting her in 2020 and there is an active Order for Protection that protects her and their common child. She stated that the order is expiring in September and the man is set to be released from prison later this year. Later that evening, the woman reported that she received a call shortly before 7 p.m. from a 612 number. She stated she answered the call and her ex began talking about child visitation and insisted he should be able to see their child. She reported that she received another call a short time later from a different 612 number and she did not answer that call. Reports have been forwarded to the prosecuting attorney for charges of felony OFP violation.

Traffic

On 08/20/22 at 4:30 p.m., Officer Stracek observed a Dodge pickup without a front license plate. He turned and activated his emergency lights as the truck quickly turned into the YMCA rear entrance. The 22-year-old driver stated he had the front license plate in the backseat. He also admitted to not having any insurance on the vehicle. Officer Stracek discovered that the man has had five convictions for no insurance since 2019 and currently has a case pending. In addition, since 2019, he has been convicted nine times for driving after revocation and currently has a case pending. Reports were forwarded to the prosecuting attorney for charges of no insurance, driving after revocation, no front license plate and expired tabs.



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Theft

On 08/15/22, a Hermantown resident reported that he discovered a forged check on their account in the amount of \$15,000. The man said he didn't know how someone had gotten the check and noted that it had an old bank name and that he hadn't lived at the address printed on the check for three years. The man said he learned that the check was cashed at a Huntington Bank location between 08/08/22, when it was written, and 08/12/22, when it posted to his account. This incident is under investigation.

On the afternoon of 08/18/22, Officers Solem and Salo responded to Walmart for a shoplifting in which the female suspect was detained by loss prevention. The woman stole 45 items with a total value of \$997.33. Staff told the officers that the female had also stolen five items valued at \$624.64 on 08/04/22. The suspect denied having an ID on her and verbally provided a name and date of birth. Officer Solem discovered that the name belonged to a real person but the description did not match that of the suspect. He confronted the female, who admitted to giving a false name. She was placed under arrest for theft, providing a false name of another person, and for a Department of Corrections warrant. Three pipes were located in the 30-year-old's purse and she admitted to using them to smoke heroin. Upon arriving at the St. Louis County Jail, the woman told staff she had used heroin that morning and was pregnant. Officers Solem and Salo then transported the woman to a local hospital for medical clearance. Hospital staff stated the woman needed further evaluation; she was advised by officers that she was still in custody and was not free to leave the hospital. While assisting with the shoplifting incident, Officer Stracek learned that the woman had come to Walmart with her 22-year-old boyfriend, who had two active felony warrants out of different counties. The man was located walking on Market Street. After being taken into custody, the man claimed to have swallowed some drugs. He was showing signs of being under the influence but did not appear to be having a medical emergency. He was transported to a local hospital by ambulance. The man was advised multiple times that if he attempted to leave the hospital, he would be charged with fleeing. 23 minutes later, nursing staff called 911 to report that the man was fleeing. Several hours later, Officer Stracek responded to the hospital to pick up the female. It was reported that a DPD officer was at the emergency for an unrelated when the woman attempted to flee; the officer caught her and brought her back to her room. She was then transported to the St. Louis County Jail. Reports have been forwarded to the prosecuting attorney for charges against both parties.