



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 08/21/22 to 08/27/22, the Hermantown PD had 174 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

Disturbance

On 08/22/22, Superior Choice Credit Union reported that a 54-year-old customer make accusations that an employee had stolen money from her, making mention of getting a gun in order to get her money back. Around the same time, the customer also called 911, reporting fraudulent activity on her bank account. Sgt. Pernu spoke to staff, who provided him with documents of the woman's accounts, all of which were inactive and had a balance of zero. The documentation also showed that the woman had emptied out her safety deposit box on 12/21/21, the same day she reported a large amount of cash stolen from it. The investigation at that time showed no evidence the theft took place. Sgt. Pernu spoke to the woman by phone. During the conversation, the woman was highly agitated and continued to yell over Sgt. Pernu. He noted that she seemed fixated on her money being stolen from her deposit box. He advised her that the incident had already been investigated and she began screaming at him for "taking the bank's side" in the matter. When asked why she was calling about this after such a long amount of time, the woman stated she had been in the hospital in a coma. During the phone call, the woman demanded that Sgt. Pernu deliver a copy of the police report from the case. He advised her on the proper channels to get a copy of the report and then attempted to talk to her about the threats she made toward SCCU staff. She claimed she only said it because she was upset and said she doesn't own a gun. When Sgt. Pernu advised her that she was trespassed from SCCU property, the woman again began screaming at him, saying he could not do that as she still had money at the bank. He attempted to explain the stipulations of the trespass, but eventually had to hang up on the woman, as she kept screaming at him. Reports have been forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for possible charges of threats of violence.

Assaults

On the afternoon of 08/21/22, a 41-year-old woman reported that her 14-year-old daughter had been assaulted in Sam's Club by an unknown female. Officers Stracek and Johnson responded. Officer Stracek watched surveillance video of the incident, which showed the victim and her mother walking toward the front of the store. Two other females, later identified as the 17-year-old suspect and her 35-year-old mother, were walking to the rear of the store. The older teen can be seen running her shoulder into the younger girl. After speaking to the victim and her mother in the store, Officer Johnson contacted the suspect's mother by phone. She stated that she believed the younger girl was involved with one of her daughter's ex-boyfriends. The officers noted that the suspect and her mother were involved in a fight at Walmart earlier in the month. Officer Stracek also observed that the teenager has been involved in multiple incidents in Duluth and has been listed as the suspect for other assaults and disorderly conduct incidents. For this case, she was cited for 5th degree assault.

On 08/24/22, just before 11 a.m., a teenager reported to 911 that there had been an assault at his residence and the male suspect fled in a vehicle. Officers Solem and Salo arrived on scene and spoke to the 36-year-old victim, who stated she had been awakened by her 46-year-old ex-boyfriend sitting



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at the edge of her bed. She said he was not making sense in what he was saying and demanded to see her phone. When she refused to let him see her phone, he began throwing items around her room and grabbed her when she tried to leave. The woman stated she was able to get down the stairs, but he pinned her at the bottom so she started to fight back by scratching him. The teenager said he woke up after hearing the fight and he stated he told the man to get off the victim before calling 911. Another female resident later told officers that she was leaving for work when she noticed a car driving fast down their road before pulling into the driveway. She said that she recognized the driver and attempted to talk to him but he didn't acknowledge her. Reports have been forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges of 1st degree burglary to commit assault.

At 9:46 p.m. on 08/24/22, Officers Prouse and Enright, along with Sgt. Pfeiffer, responded to Skyline Social and Games after receiving the report of a stabbing. The reporting party advised dispatch that a drunk guest pulled a knife on an employee, cutting his hand. The 18-year-old victim told officers that he was the referee for the bean bag games, including the game that the suspect was playing in. He stated the 26-year-old man and his 24-year-old friend were extremely intoxicated. Officers later received information that the younger man's bar tab consisted of 14 Tito's vodka drinks and 10 shots. The young man said the friends had been joking with each other and him throughout the night, but he believed he said something to offend or upset the older man. He said that at some point, the younger suspect handed the older man a knife, which he later held to the victim's abdomen area. As the victim pushed the knife away, he was cut on his hand. The suspects were later located at their residences. The younger man told officers that he didn't remember what happened that evening and denied being involved in any altercations. The older man offered zero information related to the altercation, denying it happened despite video footage of the incident. The 26-year-old was lodged at the St Louis County Jail for 2nd degree assault with a dangerous weapon. Requests to charge the 24-year-old with aiding and abetting the assault were sent to the prosecuting attorney's office.

Driving Under the Influence

On 08/21/22 at approximately 8:20 p.m., Officer Gottschald was dispatched to the report of a hit and run on Miller Trunk Highway. She arrived on scene and located the reporting party, who stated her vehicle was hit and the other party fled. The woman was hysterical and it was difficult for Officer Gottschald to get her side of the story. A witness told Officer Gottschald that there was not a second vehicle involved and that the woman hit a sign in the median, which caused her to drive into the southbound lane. The woman's vehicle had significant front end damage and the road sign was snapped in half and spun around. The 23-year-old female was confrontational with Officer Gottschald while she was trying to gather information regarding the accident. She stated she wanted a lawyer multiple times while being asked basic questions about the accident. The woman said she was coming from her boyfriend's house in Piedmont and was heading to her second boyfriend's house on Miller Trunk Highway. During the conversation, the woman became upset with Officer Gottschald, stating she should be looking for the second vehicle. She then began stating that Officer Gottschald was assuming she was under the influence because she had a "record." Officer Gottschald explained that she had not yet run the woman's name to check her



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history. The woman admitted to using methadone earlier in the day, as well as Gabapentin an hour prior to the accident. She also admitted that she knew methadone was a controlled substance. During her contact with the woman, Officer Gottschald noted that she was having a hard time keeping her eyes open. Her speech was lethargic and she had a difficult time answering questions. She also asked the same questions, despite Officer Gottschald already answering them. The woman lifted her dress up and exposing the lower half of her body and she was itching her face and arms repeatedly. After performing field sobriety testing, the woman was transported to the Hermantown Police Department on suspicion of drug DUI. During an inventory search of the woman's vehicle, 14 Clonazepam and 11 Alprazolam were located in an unmarked orange medicine bottle in her purse. Both are listed as Schedule IV depressants. The woman told Officer Gottschald that the pills belonged to her second boyfriend and she was holding onto them for him. She admitted that she thought the methadone and gabapentin affected her driving conduct. Charges are pending results of a blood test.

During the late morning of 08/26/22, a credit union employee requested a welfare check on a customer that she stated was disoriented and sweating while in line. She said he seemed out of it and was concerned he was having a medical emergency. She said he made a comment about being robbed. She further advised that she called 911 when he left because she was concerned his driving behavior would be a safety hazard. Officers Solem and Salo located the man's vehicle at a gas pump in the Kwik Trip lot and they made contact with the driver, who matched the description provided by the reporting party. The man was sweating profusely, stating he was having a stressful day and that he was not under the influence of alcohol. Officer Solem noted that the man was speaking in quick slurred speech. When questioned, the man confessed that he uses methamphetamine and stated he last used four days prior. The man was ultimately transported to a local hospital for a blood test. Charges are pending.

Theft

On 08/21/22, a 37-year-old resident reported the theft of a .40-caliber Glock handgun from his vehicle. He stated he normally doesn't lock his truck so he doesn't know when or where it was stolen. The man did state that last saw the gun approximately 11 days prior.

On 08/24/22, Officers Solem and Salo were advised of the theft of cash at Edgewood Vista. The reporting party stated he is the guardian for his 94-year-old mother and that he manages her money. The 63-year-old man said that the first occurrence he noticed was after he left \$80 with his mother on June 30. The following day, the money was missing but they were unsure at that time if it was stolen or lost. On July 14, he noticed \$20 was missing after he had given her money on July 9th. Finally, he gave his mother cash on 08/16/22 and on August 22nd, he found out \$60 had been taken.

On the morning of 08/27/22, a 51-year-old woman reported that her vehicle has been entered overnight while it was parked in the Holiday Inn Express parking lot. The woman said she went out to her vehicle the previous night to grab something, but is unsure if she locked it. She stated that it was unlocked and the glove box was open when went out to the vehicle that morning. She stated she didn't believe anything was stolen from the vehicle, but she doesn't know where her keys are.