



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 08/28/22 to 09/03/22, the Hermantown PD had 155 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

Just after 8 a.m. on 09/02/22, Officer Gottschald was advised by a 70-year-old woman that another person in her apartment complex has been harassing her. She said the 73-year-old has been mean to her recently, gaslighting her to hurt her feelings, making rude comments about her hair, and telling her she needs to sit other places. The woman said that her neighbor yelled at her to shut up and it almost gave her a heart attack. She told Officer Gottschald she just wanted these incidents documented, but added that the older woman has also been swearing, which is offending the other residents.

On 09/02/22, just before noon, a woman reported that teenagers were playing rap music with inappropriate language at the playground at Fitchner Field. She told Officer Johnson that she asked them politely to turn it down and they talked back to her. Officer Johnson advised the boys that if there were additional calls of creating a disturbance, she would come back and contact their parents.

Driving Under the Influence

On 09/02/22, shortly before 9:30 p.m., Officer Stracek observed a white Jeep drift into a turning lane and then correct itself. The vehicle then approached an intersection, where it slowed for a red light, but did not stop before making a right-hand turn. The vehicle entered another right turn lane, then quickly crossed all lanes into the left turn lane, but before stopping at the red light, the SUV travelled across all lanes of traffic and back into the right turn lane. The vehicle turned directly into the left passing lane and then pulled into a parking lot. Officer Stracek made contact with the driver and noted that he appeared nervous and was avoiding eye contact. As Officer Stracek was explaining why he pulled the vehicle over, the 45-year-old man interrupted to admit he had a revoked driver's license. Officer Stracek observed signs of intoxication and a strong odor of alcoholic beverage. The man stated he hadn't been drinking but his female passenger said they had both been drinking. The man then said he had two drinks a couple hours prior and that he was only driving because the passenger was drunk. A check of the man's record showed two prior DWIs in 2018 and 2019, as well as one in Pennsylvania in 2015. In addition, an ignition interlock restriction was put into place in November 2021. After performing field sobriety testing, the man said he didn't feel the impairment from the alcoholic beverage, but admitted to knowing he shouldn't be mixing alcohol with the medications he takes. A preliminary breath test showed the man's blood alcohol content to be .228%. During his contact with Officer Stracek, the man asked several times to be let go and brought home. Officer Stracek identified the 38-year-old female passenger, as well as the two children that were in the vehicle. One of the children said he noticed that the man was intoxicated while driving. The passenger was transported home and the man was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for 1st degree DWI, .08 or more, child endangerment, ignition interlock violation, driving after revocation, and failure to drive in a single lane.

At 12:21 a.m. on 09/03/22, Officer Stracek was on patrol eastbound on St. Louis River Road when he observed a Suburban cross the centerline multiple times. The vehicle turned onto Highway 2 and again failed to maintain its lane. At this time, Officer Stracek observed through the back window that the driver had a cellphone in his hand. He conducted a traffic stop and the 35-year-old driver admitted to being on his phone and said that was why he was swerving. The man admitted to drinking a few Mike's Hard at a



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friend's house and stated he was on his way home. The man's provided a preliminary breath test of .094 blood alcohol content. He was cited for 4th degree DWI, .08 or more, and hands free violation.

On 09/03/22 at 11:12 p.m., Officer Stracek observed a black SUV swerving and crossing the fog line on northbound Miller Trunk Highway. At the intersection with Lavaque Bypass, the SUV approached the red light in the right hand turn lane. The vehicle in front of it made a turn and the SUV attempted to turn, as well, failing to yield to northbound traffic with the green light. As the SUV was partially in the intersection, the driver noticed the traffic and had to slam on the brakes to avoid a collision. Officer Stracek also noted that the vehicle was displaying tabs that expired in June 2022. Officer Stracek performed a traffic stop on the vehicle. When the driver rolled his window down, Officer Stracek detected a strong odor of alcoholic beverage. The 38-year-old man said he was on his way home from the Pride Festival and admitted to having "a few beers," which he clarified to be three pint-sized beers over a couple of hours. After performing field sobriety testing, the man submitted to a preliminary breath test that resulted in a reading of .108% blood alcohol content. The man was cited for 4th degree DWI, .08 or more, and expired tabs.

Accidents:

Just after 5 p.m. on 08/31/22, officers responded to an accident at the intersection of Haines Road and Arrowhead Road. A 40-year-old man in a Hyundai Elantra made a left turn in front of a Toyota Rav4 driven by an 81-year-old man. The younger man stated he knew the light was red when he made the left turn. He was cited for failing to obey a traffic control device.

On 09/02/22, Officer Gottschald was advised of an accident that occurred near the intersection of Morris Thomas and Ugstad Roads between 10:45-11 a.m. An 18-year-old man was riding his bike when he was struck by a blue sedan with a female driver. He told Officer Gottschald that the woman was on her phone. The man said there was a Minnesota Power crew working at the intersection who checked on him, but the female sped off. The man was not injured, but his bicycle had damage from the collision.

Miscellaneous

On 08/30/22, officers were advised that a preteen had made disclosures regarding being afraid of going home with their father. Younger siblings were interviewed by Detectives Dwyer and Williams while Officer Johnson coordinated the investigation. Officers discovered that the children recently came back from an extended visit with their mother and it appeared that the children were told stories to make them afraid of their father. One of the younger children stated that the oldest told them there was a plan to get them back to their mother. The oldest sibling later made admissions to saying things in order to get out of living with their father. Reports were forwarded to social services.

Theft

On 08/28/22, Officer Prouse took the report of police uniforms and other items being stolen while in storage. The reporting party advised he is a retired police officer and that he recently moved. His items had been in storage from March until 08/15/22. He stated he contacted the manager at the moving company and was told there are no security cameras in the storage area. He advised that just wanted the stolen items documented in case somebody attempted to use his old police uniforms for criminal acts.



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At 8:10 p.m. on 08/28/22, a 26-year-old man reported the theft of his wallet. He told Officer Prouse that he took a smoke break outside of his place of employment on Richard Avenue at 5 p.m. and he accidentally left his wallet on the window sill. When he went back outside at 5:30 to get the wallet, it was gone. He stated he had already contacted his banks regarding his credit and debit cards. On 08/31/22, Officer Gottschald advised Officer Prouse that the man reported that his wallet was returned and a female had found it in the parking lot.

On 08/29/22 at 2 p.m., a 76-year-old man reported that his vehicle was hit in the McDonald's parking lot and his wallet was stolen. Officer Gottschald met with the man, who stated the suspect vehicle was a van of unknown color with a male driver and female passenger. He said when the van backed out of the parking spot next to him, it hit his driver's side door panel. Officer Gottschald did not observe any damage on the man's vehicle. The male also stated that one of his wallets was missing from his vehicle and he believed the van's occupants took it. He said he got to McDonald's at approximately 1 p.m. and he did not lock his vehicle when he went inside. He stated that he believed he left the wallet on the driver's seat and once he returned to his vehicle, the wallet was missing. McDonald's was unable to see an accident occur or someone entering the reporting party's vehicle. Officer Gottschald discovered that the man had a gross misdemeanor warrant out of Crow Wing County for Driving After Cancellation – Inimical to Public Safety. He was taken into custody for the warrant.

At 8:30 p.m. on 08/31/22, a 21-year-old Hermantown Road resident reported that she believed her mother's boyfriend stole her dead dog's ashes. The woman told Officer Prouse that her 44-year-old mother came into the house approximately ten minutes prior and told her that the man stole the dog's ashes. The woman said she then went outside and observed the 32-year-old man driving away and said she heard him say "That's what you get." She stated that her mother had not been hanging out with the man recently and she believed he was doing this to get back at her. Officer Prouse was able to speak to the man by phone and he admitted to being at the residence, but denied knowing anything about the dog's ashes. He said he had been hanging out with his girlfriend when they got into an argument about gas money and he left when she told him to. A short time later, he advised Officer Prouse that his girlfriend had sent him messages along the lines of "You'll get what's coming to you." Officer Prouse responded to the residence that the man was staying at and placed him under arrest for two body-only warrants out of Carlton County. The man was cooperative. The reporting party was advised that the man would not be charged with the theft without further evidence.

On 09/02/22 at 7:45 p.m., Sgt. Pernu responded to Fleet Farm for the report of a male concealing knives in his pants. Sgt. Pernu arrived on scene as the male was walking out of the store. When asked if he knew why Sgt. Pernu was making contact with him, the male removed three folding knives from his pocket. Loss Prevention also advised Sgt. Pernu that the male was also on video on 08/31/22 stealing knives. The 16-year-old admitted to taking the knives, stating he collects them. The teen's parents responded to the store with several more pocket knives. A total of six knives from both shoplifting incidents were returned to Fleet Farm. The value of the six knives is \$314.23. The male was issued a citation for theft.