



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 09/18/22 to 09/24/22, the Hermantown PD had 181 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

Assault

At approximately 2 a.m. on 09/22/22, Officer Enright was advised that a 26-year-old woman wanted to report a domestic assault that occurred in Hermantown on the evening of 09/20/22. The woman told him that she and her 44-year-old boyfriend had been arguing about her phone and that he accused her of talking to other people. She stated that they were in his car and he pulled into the fire hall lot at Stebner and Morris Thomas Roads; he then took out a propane torch and held it over the top of her left hand. Officer Enright noted that the woman's hand had severe burns. The man was not located at that time. On the evening of 09/23/22, the woman contacted Officer Enright and told him that the suspect had been threatening her on social media and sending her messages from a secondary account. The man was eventually located and taken into custody in the early morning of 09/24/22. He claimed to have no idea why he was being arrested. After being advised of the report that Officer Enright had taken, the man denied that anything happened, said the woman was filing a false police report, and said he was going to sue her, Officer Enright, and Hermantown PD. During his statement, the man said that they stopped at the fire hall parking lot to do drugs before heading back to his residence. He stated that the woman was rubbing her hand and complaining her hand had a burn on it, but that there was no burn and she was "tweaking." He later agreed that the burn was an accident, but then said he never saw her get burned with the torch. The man was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for 2nd degree assault and domestic assault.

Driving Under the Influence

On 09/18/22 at 12:30 a.m., Officer Stracek observed a vehicle traveling northbound on Lavaque Road at 62 mph in a 40 mph zone. After performing a traffic stop on the vehicle, Officer Stracek made contact with the 36-year-old driver and noted that he was displaying signs of impairment. The man admitted to speeding, stating that the squad's headlights were bothering him and he wanted to put some distance between the vehicles. He also stated he was using his GPS to navigate because the fog was so bad. After performing field sobriety testing, the man was asked to show Officer Stracek his tongue. When he stuck his tongue out, he was unable to control it; his tongue started to shake and roll back into his mouth before he attempted to hold his mouth open with his hands. The third time he tried to stick his tongue out was the most successful time, but he had to move his head in a circular motion while he stuck his tongue out. The man denied smoking meth, stating he was on probation. Officer Stracek searched the man after placing him into custody. A ziplock baggie with crystal meth was located in his jacket pocket. Another pocket contained a small scale with a crystal white residue on it. While being transported to a local hospital for a blood draw, the man stated he was overdosing and claimed to have swallowed two grams of meth while he was being pulled over. After a short hospital stay, the man was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail. During an interview on the evening of 09/19/22, the man stated he purchased a ¼ pound of meth the previous night for \$1250. He admitted that he keeps an ounce for himself and his girlfriend and then he divides the rest into ounces and sells them to friends. The man was charged with 1st degree sale of methamphetamine, 4th degree controlled substance DUI, and speed.

On 09/20/22 at approximately 10 p.m., Officer Stracek observed a motorcycle traveling southbound on Midway Road at a high rate of speed. He activated his radar and observed the speed to be 80 mph in a 55



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mph zone. After conducting a traffic stop, the driver admitted he was going “pretty fast” and explained that he was headed home. He stated that he was at the Cast Iron picking up his wife before correcting himself and stating that he met her there. The 47-year-old man agreed to perform field sobriety testing. The result of his preliminary breath test was .118% blood alcohol content. The man was cited for 4th degree DWI, .08 or more, and speeding.

Damage to Property

On 09/19/22, a 33-year-old woman reported that she arrived for work at Walmart around 9 p.m. on 09/12/22 and her vehicle was running properly. She said that when she left work the following morning around 6:20 a.m., her vehicle began making a popping noise and would not drive over 20 mph. She stated that she had a mechanic inspect the vehicle and was told that there was a cupcake wrapper and candy corn on top of the engine block and that someone put sugar inside the engine. She told Officer Prouse that she believed someone tampered with her vehicle while it was parked in the Walmart lot overnight on 09/12/22. Officer Prouse contacted Loss Prevention, who checked surveillance cameras and advised that no one approached the woman’s vehicle while it was parked in the lot that night.

Miscellaneous

On 09/19/22, School Resource Officer Johnson was notified by students that another student might be intoxicated. She was advised that the student had a water bottle filled with vodka that he had been drinking from. The 14-year-old student initially denied drinking and agreed to submit to a preliminary breath test. After his test resulted in a reading of .084% BAC, the teenager stated he hadn’t done it before and wanted to try it, so he filled his water bottle with straight vodka and had drinking it all morning. The student was picked up and his parent was advised a citation for underage consumption would be mailed.

Theft

On the morning of 09/19/22, Officer Gottschald was dispatched to the report of a vehicle prowler at Groome Transportation. The 72-year-old reporting party stated that he left his vehicle in the lot on the morning of 09/16/22 and when he returned, he noticed that his vehicle had been rummaged through. The man told Officer Gottschald that he doesn’t know how someone entered his vehicle, as it had been locked and there was no damage, such as broken windows. He said that multiple items of value, including a checkbook and credit cards, were still in the vehicle. He stated that his prescription bottle was located on top of a vehicle parked next to his, but all the medications were accounted for. He also said that the suspect had taken the cover off the fuse box and left it lying on the floor, but the fuses did not appear to be tampered with.

On 09/22/22, Officer Salo met with the PTO president, who was reporting the theft of funds from the PTO bank account. She provided bank statements and stated that three officers from the PTO went through the account statements together and separated the valid purchases from the theft and overdrafts caused by the thefts. The reporting party stated that there were 369 individual thefts and overdrafts over the past three years. The 42-year-old suspect had written 31 checks to herself with a total value of \$43,638.50. An additional \$59,378.91 was stolen in the form of debit card purchases and cash withdrawals. Officer Salo went to the suspect’s residence several days later and requested that she provide a statement. The woman stated that she wanted to speak with her lawyer. This incident is under investigation.