



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 09/25/22 to 10/01/22, the Hermantown PD had 218 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

Plane Crash

On 10/01/22 at 11:16 p.m., Hermantown officers were advised that air traffic control believed a small plane had crashed after it disappeared off their radar. Staff later advised officers that they advised the pilot of poor visibility and weather conditions, explaining that after 200 feet, there was no visibility and the pilot would have to completely rely on their instruments in the aircraft. Around the same time, an Arrowhead Road resident reported that the power was out and he thought there had been a crash in the area. Upon arriving in the area, officers located a house with a large hole in the roof. Debris from the house and plane were scattered through the driveway and yard, along with a live power line. Once the power company assured first responders that all power to the house was off, Hermantown Fire Department members assisted the residents from the upper story of the house. The three occupants of the plane were extricated and removed from the wreckage; all had died as a result of the crash. Hermantown officers then held the scene until the Federal Aviation Administration could respond.





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Disturbance

At approximately 9:30 p.m. on 09/28/22, a 42-year-old woman reported an incident that occurred on Getchell Road. She stated she was running earlier in the evening and was startled when she noticed an unknown male jogging behind her. She described the man was being approximately 5'7", slender, with curly or fluffy dark hair and a light scruff on his face. She said he was wearing dark colored joggers and a white t-shirt under a black coat and estimated his age to be mid-20s to mid-30s. She said that he male continued jogging behind her, appearing to intentionally keep pace. The woman said she moved over to let the man pass, but he did not. She stated that the male then came up behind her and grabbed her butt; she said she yelled at him and he turned around and ran the other direction. She was advised to call 911 immediately if she sees the male again so he can be identified.

Driving Under the Influence

Shortly after 1 a.m. on 09/28/22, Officer Stracek observed a Chevy Silverado traveling 49 mph on Haines Road, where the speed limit is 40 mph. After Officer Stracek conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle, he noted a moderate odor of alcoholic beverage coming from the driver's breath. The man admitted he had just left a local bar, where he had a couple beers, and was heading home to Kenwood. He agreed to perform field sobriety testing and his preliminary breath test resulted in a reading of .12% blood alcohol content. The 26-year-old man was cooperative and respectful throughout the process. He was issued a citation for 4th degree DWI, .08 or more, and speed.

On 10/01/22, just before 8 p.m., Officer Stracek was advised of a vehicle stuck on the train tracks near the intersection of Midway and St Louis River Roads. Dispatch contacted the CN railroad, who stated there was expected to be a train coming through the area shortly. CN was advised to stop train traffic in the area. Officer Stracek arrived on scene and located a Toyota Camry pointed down the tracks as if it was attempting to drive down them. He observed a man standing near the driver's door of the vehicle on his cell phone while motorists who had stopped to help were getting a tow strap to remove the vehicle from the tracks. When Officer Stracek approached, the man near the vehicle, his first comment was that a buddy was driving him home from Proctor and left him there. He said that his friend missed the turn and then ran down St. Louis River Road once the vehicle got stuck. There were no calls of a party running down the road and responders came across anyone running on their way to the scene. The 40-year-old man admitted that he was the owner of the vehicle and said he had been at the Powerhouse. He later said that he had met the driver of the vehicle that night at the bar. During the conversation, the man told Officer Stracek seemingly contradictory information about what happened, including indicating which door he left bar and later denying being the bar before admitting the last place he was drinking was the bar. Officer Stracek asked the man why they didn't take Hwy 2 from Proctor, since it was a more direct route to his home. The man then stated they were headed home from Duluth, but told Officer Stracek it was none of his business where they were headed from. The man then admitted he attempted to free the car from the train tracks, explaining that the wheels dug down. Officer Stracek had the man perform field sobriety testing, including a preliminary breath test that resulted in a reading of .247% blood alcohol content. He was processed for DWI at the



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Hermantown Police Department. Reports have been forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges of 3rd degree DWI and .08 or more.

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Accidents:

On 09/28/22 at 8:40 p.m., a 69-year-old woman reported a hit and run accident that had occurred at 7:15 that evening. She stated she didn't call when the accident happened because she did not have her cell phone with her. The woman told Officer Battaglia that was eastbound on Anderson Road waiting to make a left turn onto Haines Road. She said that when the light turned yellow, she began to make her turn and an oncoming vehicle "gunned it" at the last second and struck her passenger door. She said that she pulled over, but the other vehicle never stopped or came back.

Theft

On the afternoon of 09/25/22, Officer Salo responded to Walmart after loss prevention reported a woman under-ringing items in the self-check lane. 19 items valued at \$202.98 had been identified as not being rung up correctly. The 50-year-old woman admitted to not paying for all the items, stating she didn't know why she did it and that she had not planned to. She guessed that the value of the items was around \$50. The woman apologized and was issued a citation for theft. She refused to take the items she had paid for when she left, even upon Officer Salo's insistence.

On 09/26/22, Walmart reported a female shoplifter that concealed items into a duffle bag before fleeing out of the general merchandise doors. Officer Gottschald arrived on scene as the suspect was running out of the parking lot. She activated her emergency lights and sirens and followed the suspect in her squad. The suspect eventually stopped running and dropped the stolen merchandise. During a patdown of the 19-year-old suspect, Officer Gottschald found tin foil in a pants pocket. The woman stated it was her boyfriend's heroin and that he gave it to her when he thought he was going to be pulled over. The tin foil was burnt and there was no substance left behind to test. Before going back into Walmart, a vehicle left the parking lot and yelled at the suspect. She stated it was her boyfriend, who had brought her to the store. She admitted to shoplifting, stating that she was going to sell the items she stole in order to get money for a bus ticket to go see a sick family member. The woman had concealed and stole 35 items valued at \$476.94. The items taken included clothes, knives, a camera, a speaker, and other miscellaneous items. The woman was cited for theft and trespassed.

On 09/29/22, Menards reported a shoplifting incident that occurred the previous day. Loss prevention staff informed Detective Dwyer that he learned of the incident after the suspect left the store and he began to watch video footage. Surveillance showed the female suspect exiting the store with a Bosch drill valued at \$599 before getting into a waiting vehicle. Detective Dwyer was able to identify the 46-year-old suspect; he contacted the 30-year-old registered owner of the vehicle that she left in. The man stated he did not drive to Menards but told Detective Dwyer that the female is his mother; he said he does not know her to have a home address, nor does he have a phone number for her. Detective Dwyer discovered that the drill had been pawned for \$122.25 less than two hours after the theft. He made contact with the 63-year-old woman that pawned it; she told him she pawned it because the younger woman doesn't have an ID. She stated she got \$20 for pawning it and the rest went to the other woman. At the time of the report, the suspect had two active felony warrants out of St. Louis County. Reports were sent to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges of gross misdemeanor shoplifting.