



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 10/09/22 to 10/15/22, the Hermantown PD had 183 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 10/14/22 at 5:34 a.m., officers were dispatched to a Hermantown Road address after a female call 911 to report that her boyfriend broke into her camper and was claiming residency. Officers knocked on the door to the house, which was dark, and heard the 44-year-old woman state, "It's the police, lock the door." The woman eventually opened the door and spoke to officers. She explained that the 32-year-old man had been staying there lately and left sometime that morning to pick up a lawn mower that she owned. After he brought it back to the residence, the two began to argue and the man decided to leave. Before he left, he went to grab items out of the camper that the woman believed belonged to her. This created a tug of war over the camper door and the man's hand was cut. The woman stated she never intended to hurt him. After officers left the address, the woman called back and stated that the man had taken her stuffed animals. Officer Stracek retrieved the stuffed animals from the man, who said he didn't know he grabbed them and apologized.

Drugs

On 10/10/22 at approximately 4:30 p.m., officers were dispatched to Walmart for a male on the property that had previously been trespassed on 10/04/22 for asking customers for money. When officers arrived, the male had exited the store and was sitting in a vehicle in the parking lot. Officers made contact with the 25-year-old man and discovered he had an active warrant. When he was searched prior to be transported to the St. Louis County Jail for his warrant, Sgt. Pernu located a powdery substance in a folded up dollar bill. The substance later tested positive for cocaine. Reports were forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges of 5th degree possession of cocaine and trespassing.

At 12:25 a.m. on 10/14/22, Officers Solem and Battaglia responded to Kwik Trip after an employee reported that a male had been locked in the family bathroom for approximately two hours. Officer Solem knocked on the door and announced himself as police. He then heard mumbling and movement inside the bathroom; after he knocked a second time, the toilet flushed and a male opened the door. Officer Solem immediately noted that the male was pale, sweaty, and unsteady on his feet; he bumped into a wall as he stumbled out of the bathroom. The man verbally identified himself and claimed he had been in the bathroom earlier in the night, left, and then returned later. The man asked if he could leave, stating he was supposed to go meet his girlfriend near Best Buy but when asked her name, the man said he couldn't remember. The man said he had been in Minnesota for approximately two years but that his ID was out of Texas. Officers determined that the man's first name was different than the name he originally gave them and they found that he had a local felony warrant. At this time, the 34-year-old became more unsteady on his feet and he began to mumble his words while his rate of breathing slowed down. The man then admitted that he snorted the rest of his heroin when officers knocked on the bathroom door, but he was unable to say how much he had snorted. While waiting for an ambulance to respond, officers administered Narcan to the male. Officers located a small bundle with a trace amount of a grey substance believed to be



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heroin. Charges are pending results from lab testing on the substance. The man was ultimately transported to a local hospital for medical attention due to his suspected heroin overdose.

Accident

On 10/11/22, just after 10:30 a.m., Officer Leibel was dispatched to the intersection of Miller Trunk Highway and Lavaque Road after a called reported that a pregnant female with a one-year-old child in her vehicle hit a trailer. On scene, the 33-year-old woman told Officer Leibel that she was traveling southbound on the highway with a green light when she saw a truck and trailer southbound on Lavaque Road in the intersection in front of her. She was able to maneuver around the truck, but was unable to avoid the trailer. The other driver, a 66-year-old man admitted that he entered the intersection without observing what color the light was and stated he was surprised by the collision. He was issued a citation for failing to obey a traffic control device.

Theft

On the morning of 10/10/22, Officer Gottschald was advised of a vehicle prowler that occurred over the weekend at a Thunderchief Lane business. Employees provided a list of stolen items with a value of more than \$6700.

On 10/11/22, just before 7 p.m., Fleet Farm reported that a female shoplifter had selected a black hooded sweatshirt, removed the tags, and then attempted to walk out while wearing the sweatshirt. The 33-year-old female said that what she did was stupid but did not want to answer any questions. She was issued a citation for theft and was trespassed from Fleet Farm property.

On 10/13/22, a 31-year-old woman reported that she found two attempts to steal from her checking account using a PayPal account. Both charges occurred on 10/10/22 at 1:52 p.m. The woman stated that the attempted charges were \$31.17 and \$20.88 and the note on her statement said it was a direct Visa withdrawal to a specific PayPal account. The woman told Officer Salo that she knows someone with the same name as that of the PayPal account, the sister of her former roommate's girlfriend. This incident is under investigation.

At 1:30 a.m. on 10/15/22, a Pure Pleasure employee reported that a male had concealed two items in his pants before attempting to leave the store. The 23-year-old admitted to Officer Gottschald that he didn't have money to purchase the items so he concealed them in his underwear. The value of the items taken was \$71.98. The man stated that the 19-year-old woman with him had nothing to do with the theft. The man was issued a citation.