



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

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 10/16/22 to 10/22/22, the Hermantown PD had 202 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 10/19/22, School Resource Officer Johnson was advised of a high student driving, honking, passing in a double yellow, and videotaping the reporting party as he drove past. Officer Johnson was able to identify the driver based on license plate and student parking pass information. She contacted the student's mother and advised her of the driving behavior.

### Check Welfare

Just before 9 p.m. on 10/17/22, officers were requested to check the welfare of a 52-year-old Miller Trunk Highway resident. Officers Gottschald and Prouse observed a window in the man's apartment open and a TV on inside. Officers were told that the man often left his television on when he was not home. The reporting party told officers that apartment staff advised her that the window had been open for at least a month and they had not seen him in that time. Officers gained entry to the residence with an extra key, but did not locate the man. The caller said that the man had been at Walmart a while back with a friend, and thought maybe he had been staying with the friend.

### Public Assist

On the afternoon of 10/22/22, a Kwik Trip employee requested police assistance, stating that a government-owned vehicle had gotten stuck in the carwash the afternoon before. The driver completed a car wash vehicle incident report with staff, who had told the driver's supervisor that they would allow the vehicle to stay for 24 hours. The caller said that the supervisor was not getting the vehicle towed out of the carwash. Officer Gottschald facilitated a private tow of the vehicle for Kwik Trip.

### Traffic

On 10/18/22 at approximately 11:15 p.m., Officer Gottschald observed a 1976 Ford Ranchero fail to signal when turning. She conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle and made contact with the 66-year-old driver, who stated the turn signals on the vehicle did not work. The man admitted that he did not have a valid driver's license. Officer Gottschald verified the man's identity through a previous jail booking photo and discovered his driving status was cancelled – inimical to public safety. The man was provided a ride home and advised that the report would be forwarded to the prosecuting attorney for possible charges of gross misdemeanor driving after cancellation.



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### Suspicious Activity

At 11:40 p.m. on 10/19/22, Sgt. Pfeiffer located a 42-year-old man and two sisters, ages 45 and 39, dumpster diving in the 4800 block of Miller Trunk Highway. The man and older woman were very cooperative with Sgt. Pfeiffer but the younger female initially did not want to identify herself. All three were sent on their way.

On 10/20/22 at 9:30 p.m., a Sundance Loop resident reported approximately seven vehicles in the area that she did not recognize as belonging in the neighborhood. The caller said that when she arrived home, an older female got out of one of the vehicles and walked up to her before stating she thought the caller was someone else. The woman got into her vehicle and the group of vehicles drive away. Officers were unable to locate the vehicles at that time.

On the afternoon of 10/21/22, an Arrowhead Road resident reported that a Chevy Silverado had been caught on camera driving way down into her driveway. The driver is believed to be the 83-year-old owner of the vehicle and the woman requested that he be trespassed from her property.

### Theft

On the morning of 10/17/22, Uhaul reported the theft of a trailer. The employee described the trailer as a 5x7 utility trailer and stated he believed the theft occurred on 10/07/22. On the evening of 10/22/22, Hermantown officers were advised that the Chicago Police Department located the stolen trailer and had returned it to a Chicago Uhaul location.

On 10/17/22, the Chief Operating Officer of the Girls Scouts Lakes and Pines District met with Officer Stracek. She asked if he was familiar with the Hermantown PTO embezzlement that had recently been reported to HPD. She stated that she believes the 42-year-old suspect in that case has also been embezzling money from the Girl Scouts. She said that the woman was leader for two troops, which each have their own bank accounts. She explained that each troop has a leader and is supposed to have a secondary leader that confirms everything, but said that the suspect had never allowed her secondary leader to have access to the financial records. The woman estimated their loss at around \$4,000-\$5,000, but stated that their financial department is creating a report for the two account. This incident is under investigation.