



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

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 10/23/22 to 10/29/22, the Hermantown PD had 180 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

### Driving Under the Influence

On 10/24/22, Officer Stracek was conducting extra patrol at the Hermantown High School as students were being let out for the day. He observed a black sedan on school property revving its engine with a loud exhaust. The vehicle did not have a rear bumper and was displaying two license plates to the rear. Officer Stracek navigated through school traffic and caught up to the vehicle on Ugstad Road, south of Maple Grove, where he conducted a traffic stop. He made contact with the 42-year-old male driver, observing a female passenger and two middle- and high-school aged kids in the vehicle. During his interaction with the driver, Officer Stracek noted multiple signs of impairment that are indicative of drug use. After requested that the man exit the vehicle, he admitted past meth use, stating that he had last used approximately a year prior. He stated that strongest medication he uses is 800mg of Ibuprofen for pain. After field sobriety testing, the man was transported to the Hermantown Police Department for a Drug Influence Evaluation. Officer Prouse transported the three passenger and their dog to their residence in Duluth. The man was later transported to a local hospital for a blood draw. Charges of Controlled Substance DUI are pending results of the blood test.

### Accidents

At approximately 6:42 p.m. on 10/23/22, Officers Solem and Battaglia were advised of a hit and run at Walmart. The 44-year-old victim stated that he was shopping when he was alerted over the intercom that his vehicle had been struck. An employee then provided him with a note from an unknown witness that provided the license plate and description of the suspect vehicle, a black Mustang. Officer Solem made contact with the 28-year-old owner of the Mustang. The man admitted to hitting a van while pulling out of his parking spot. He said he got out of his vehicle to look at the damage and didn't believe the damage to the other vehicle was significant, so he left the scene. Officer Solem was able to get video of the incident from Walmart loss prevention. The owner of the Mustang was issued a citation for failing to report a collision with an unattended vehicle.

On 10/29/22, Officer Stracek took the report of a hit and run at Walmart. The 37-year-old reporting party stated that she believed her Jeep Patriot had been his in the parking lot between 11 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. The woman provided photos of the damage. Officer Stracek requested video from Walmart loss prevention.

### Traffic

On the morning of 10/25/22, Officer Stracek was conducting routine patrol when he observed a Dodge Dakota and discovered the owner had a suspended driver's license. He performed a traffic stop on the vehicle and the 60-year-old driver stated he was the owner's brother. Officer Stracek ran a query on the driver and observed that he had a cancelled inimical to public safety driver's license status. The man admitted he knew about his driving status. Reports were forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges of gross misdemeanor driving after cancellation inimical to public safety.



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### Theft

At 1:22 p.m. on 10/23/22, Walmart reported a shoplifting in progress. Loss prevention advised that two females were concealing items into their bags throughout the store. Both women were stopped as they attempted to leave separately. In the loss prevention office, the women declined to speak with Officer Stracek. All stolen merchandise was recovered. The 36-year-old female had attempted to steal \$160.22 worth of merchandise and the items taken by the 33-year-old totaled \$196.88. Both women were issued citations for theft and were trespassed from Walmart properties.

On 10/24/22 at 3:08 p.m., a woman reported that her employer has a storage unit at All Around Storage that had been broken into. She advised Officer Prouse that this occurred between the afternoon of 10/21/22 and the morning of 10/24/22. She stated that numerous items were missing, including a snowblower, generator, and ladders. She said that additional tools may have also been taken.

On 10/24/22, just before 8 p.m., Officer Leibel was dispatched to Pure Pleasure for a shoplifting incident. When he arrived on scene, the 18-year-old female suspect admitted to stealing four items and pulled them from her backpack. She stated she came to the Duluth area to go shopping and stopped by Pure Pleasure on her way home. She found four items she wanted but did not have the money to pay for them, so she removed them from their packaging and placed them in her backpack. The value of the items was \$147.96. The woman was issued a citation for theft.

On the morning of 10/26/22, Officer Williams took the report of a burglary at All Around Storage. The 68-year-old renter said that he had been notified by the business manager that his storage unit was open and unlocked. He said he believed the unit had been entered sometime in the last week. The lock had been cut off and was missing. The man said a few cardboard boxes of items were missing, but he didn't know what was in them. The only item he was able to specifically identify as being stolen was a framed Beatles poster signed by drummer Pete Best.

On 10/27/22, School Resource Officer Johnson was approached by a student, who reported that her AirPods were stolen sometime toward the end of the last school year. The student said she had them listed as lost on her Find My iPhone app and would check periodically to see if they had come back online. She told Officer Johnson that the AirPods had recently come back online at Northwestern High School in Maple, Wisconsin. She said that was not interested in getting the person who has the AirPods in trouble because that probably wasn't who stole them last year and she just wanted her property back. Officer Johnson was able to work with a Douglas County Deputy, who assisted in retrieving the AirPods.

On 10/29/22, a 98-year-old woman reported the theft of cash from her apartment at Edgewood Vista. She stated she always brings her purse to meals, but on this day she didn't. She told Officer Stracek that when she last checked the day before, she had \$215, but only had \$115 after lunch. She stated she lives alone and always has her door locked. It is unknown why the suspect didn't take all of the cash.