



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 10/30/22 to 11/05/22, the Hermantown PD had 192 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 11/03/22, School Resource Officer Johnson was advised by an incident that occurred the previous afternoon when students were leaving school. She reviewed video and observed that a male walking toward the main vestibule when he began talking to three other students that approached him. He reached out and touched one of the other male's faces, at which time he was slapped by another of the boys. As he walked away, one of the males kicked him from behind and a scuffle occurred involving all four boys punching or kicking in a three-against-one situation. The brawl broke up when an adult walked in the front door. School officials contacted parents of the students involved.

At approximately 6 p.m. on 11/03/22, Officers Solem and Enright were dispatched to Walmart after a woman reported that she witnessed a man hit a child that was around 2-3 years old. She said that the man was swearing at the child and there was a teenager in the store with them. A second woman told officers she had also witnessed the incident and stated she believed the child was in danger. Another witness said the child had kicked a shoe off and he thought that's why the male suspect was angry. He said that the man was yelling and swearing before hitting the child in the face. This witness stated that the suspect then started to threaten one of the other witnesses, who was nearby. As the witness followed the suspect to the front of the store, the suspect began to threaten him as well. The man provided a photo of the suspect that he took with his cell phone. Images of the suspect have been sent to local law enforcement agencies in an attempt to identify him.

Drugs

On 10/31/22, just after 10 p.m., a 40-year-old Arrowhead Road resident reported that his brother was at his house and under the influence of meth. He stated the younger man was not aggressive, but was very paranoid. Officers arrived on scene and the 32-year-old man was running in and out of the woods, pacing back and forth, and approaching and walking away from a vehicle that was not his. His head movements were odd, he was sweating profusely, and he quickly rambled on without making sense. The caller said that his brother bounces from house to house and is severely impaired for a couple of weeks at a time until he gets arrested. A condition of the man's probation was to remain sober and he was taken into custody for a parole violation.

On 11/05/22 at 11:50 p.m., Officers Solem and Enright performed a traffic stop on a vehicle on Stebner Road. As Officer Solem was speaking to the driver, he detected an odor of marijuana emitting from the vehicle. The driver identified herself by her full name and date of birth and Officer Solem noted that it took her a few seconds longer to try and remember how to spell her middle name. When confronted about the smell, the woman admitted to smoking marijuana recently when she got off work and she turned over a small baggie of it. The 23-year-old was cited for possessing a small amount of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Traffic

While observing southbound traffic on Miller Trunk Highway on the afternoon of 11/01/22, Officer Stracek noted a blue sedan pulling away from two other vehicles. Using his radar, he locked the speed of



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the sedan at 72 mph in a 55 mph zone. The 47-year-old driver was unable to provide proof of insurance; Officer Stracek noted that he has five pending cases for traffic related offenses and had twice been convicted of not having insurance. The report has been forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges of gross misdemeanor failing to provide insurance, speeding, and driving after revocation.

On the morning of 11/04/22, a driver reported that she was in a line of cars facing south on Stebner Road behind a bus that was stopped. She stated that a northbound vehicle went around a stopped northbound vehicle, drove on the sidewalk and narrowly missing two kids and their mother. Officer Salo spoke to the school bus driver who stated that she knew the suspect vehicle was not going to stop so she started blowing the horn so the kids would not cross the street. She said that the female driver appeared to be wearing headphones and was looking down and that the mother had to grab her two children and pull them back to avoid getting hit. The mother told Officer Salo that the incident was really scary. The bus driver notified other bus drivers to be on the lookout for the suspect vehicle and one of them pulled over and waited for the suspect vehicle so that he could get the license plate number. Officer Salo was able to make contact with the suspect vehicle's driver, who said that the person in front of her hit their brakes for the bus and she couldn't stop in time. She said in order to avoid the collision, she swerved onto the sidewalk but wasn't able to see the people there until she got around the car. She said she was not distracted and did not realize the bus was stopping and other cars were stopping for it. When asked why she didn't stop when she got onto the sidewalk, she said her car was not stopping so she just swerved through. Officer Salo issued a citation to the 22-year-old woman for gross misdemeanor school bus stop arm violation.

Theft

On 11/01/22, Officer Gottschald was advised of several gas drive offs over the past few weeks that all involved the same suspect and blue Subaru. Over four drive-offs at the Fleet Farm gas station, the suspect stole \$174.48 in fuel. In June, there was a gas drive off in Duluth and the suspect was identified as an 18-year-old Duluth man. In July, that man had been trespassing on Walmart property in Hermantown, driving the suspect vehicle. Officer Gottschald was able to identify the suspect in the four recent gas drive-offs as the same 18-year-old. She noted that he has two pending cases for gas drive offs in St. Louis County. A citation was issued for theft and mailed to the address on the man's driver's license.

On 11/01/22, the Korner Store reported a gas drive off in which the suspect vehicle left southbound on Haines Road. Officer Stracek noted that he had contact with the registered owner on 10/30/22, when she had been caught shoplifting at Walmart. When viewing video of the gas drive-off, he was able to identify the 21-year-old woman as the vehicle's passenger. The store employee stated that the male driver pumped gas and she had approached him to tell him that his card didn't go through. He went inside with her, but told her his passenger was going to pay and he exited the store. He then got into the vehicle with the passenger and sped off. Officer Stracek later identified the 19-year-old male suspect after being advised that the pair had been involved in an incident in Cloquet around 5 a.m. He noted that the suspect vehicle has been used in multiple gas drive offs in the area. Citations were issued to both the man and woman for theft.

On 11/04/22, Officer Salo took the report of a stolen vehicle. The 68-year-old victim stated that she had left her vehicle in the Groome Transportation lot between 8:15 a.m. on 10/31/22 to 4:30 p.m. on 11/04/22. She stated she had just had new keys made on the morning of 10/31/22, so she had both sets with her. She said she left one key in the car and she had the only other key and that she had locked the doors. No broken glass was located in the area she had parked. The vehicle is a black 2017 Volkswagen Golf with a manual transmission valued at \$24,000.