



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

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 11/06/22 to 11/12/22, the Hermantown PD had 165 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

### Assault

On 11/10/22 at 11:07 p.m., officers were dispatched to the report of an assault. They met with the 30-year-old victim at the Econo Lodge and he told them that he had been shopping at Walmart when an unknown male approached him and asked why he was looking at him. The reporting party said that he told the man he wasn't looking at him and was only looking at what he was buying. He stated he continued shopping, but the suspect approached him again and punched him on the side of the head. Officers noted a "goose egg" on the victim's head and first responders assessed his injuries at the scene. The man said that after being hit, he left the store and went to his vehicle, noting that the suspect followed him, so he drove away fast and went to the Econo Lodge, where he was staying. A 26-year-old witness told officers that he went to the lobby of the motel after the victim came back and said that the suspect was following him. He said that a man approached him in the lobby and knew his name and which vehicle in the parking lot was his, but he said he didn't know how the man knew this information. He stated that the suspect pointed a gun at him, but he had taken it away and later gave it back. He said that the man told him that the victim had hit his pregnant wife. The witness told the reporting party that the suspect wanted to speak with him and they both went outside, where the suspect was waiting. The suspect pointed his gun at the reporting party, who ran inside the building. Officers noted that all four tires on the victim's vehicle were flat and appeared to have cut marks on them. They were unable to locate the suspect entering the lobby on surveillance footage from the motel. As Walmart was closed by this time, they were not able to view security footage. This incident is under investigation.

### Animal Complaint

On 11/12/22, just before 1 p.m., Officer Gottschald was dispatched to the report of an animal that needed to be brought to the shelter. Officer Gottschald met with the reporting party, who provided her name and date of birth. She said she cleans for a company that reclaims abandoned houses in Wisconsin. She stated that the owner of the dog was deceased and the dog had been left for weeks in the home. The woman told Officer Gottschald that every other shelter denied taking the dog so her last resort was to bring it to Hermantown in the hopes that Animal Allies would take it. Officer Gottschald transported the dog to Animal Allies, where staff said they would provide necessary medical care. Medical staff said that they believed the dog hadn't been fed in approximately one month due to how much the ribs were showing. They said that an open wound on the dog's hind leg could have been a pressure sore from being left in a crate. The dog couldn't fully extend its legs, which could have also been caused from being left in a crate for an extended time. Animal Allies contacted Officer Gottschald later in the afternoon with an update on the dog. They stated that through microchip information, they determined the dog had been adopted from the Chequamegon Humane Association in October 2020. They also stated that they had been able to confirm through phone numbers that the individual who adopted the dog, Dollie, in 2020 was the same individual who reported the dog as being abandoned. Officer Gottschald contacted the reporting party and advised her that she was aware the woman had provided a false name. The woman provided her real name and stated that she rehomed Dollie in June 2022. She said that she realized the dog wasn't being cared for, so she stole the dog back and brought to her Hermantown. A citation was issued to the woman for providing a false name to a police officer. The Chequamegon Humane Association advised that they would be picking Dollie up and taking over her care. They stated that the dog should weigh at least 45 pounds but currently weighs 30 pounds. Officer Gottschald advised the



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Ashland Police Department of the possible animal neglect; they stated once Dollie was back in Ashland and seen by a veterinarian, they would determine whether or not they would investigate further.

## Miscellaneous

On the morning of 11/11/22, School Resource Officer Johnson was advised that a high school student was believed to be intoxicated. When called in to speak with Officer Johnson, the teen admitted that he knew there was a rumor going around that he was drunk, but denied that this was true. He agreed to submit to a preliminary breath test and provided a sample that resulted in a reading of .024. He then admitted to drinking vodka mixed in a pop bottle, but said he drank it and had thrown the bottle away. The student spoke to a school counselor while waiting for almost an hour for a parent to respond to the school. Once she arrived, she advised school administration that she would be un-enrolling her student from the district. When Officer Johnson attempted to explain the incident and what comes next, the woman cut her off and refused to let her explain the process. A citation was mailed to the teenager.

## Suspicious Activity

On 11/06/22 at approximately 7:19 a.m., Officer Leibel was conducting a business check on Miller Trunk Highway when he observed an idling vehicle parked away from the rest of the vehicles in the lot. He exited his squad and approached the vehicle on foot, noting that a male was walking around the front of a front end loader with knee pads on, looking at the ground and appearing to be searching for rocks. A female in the passenger seat was inspecting rocks on the floor of the car. A fraudulent dealer plate was displayed on the vehicle and the male stated that another female had been to his residence a few days prior and that she must have taken the license plates from his vehicle and left the fraudulent one. The 31-year-old woman on the scene had a warrant for violation of supervised released from a burglary incident. She was lodged at the St Louis County Jail for the warrant. The 34-year-old man was listed as being on federal probation and his parole officer was advised of the contact.

## Theft / Burglary

On 11/06/22, Officer Salo responded to the report of a garage burglary at a local church that had occurred overnight. He was told that nothing was stolen but that the door had been damaged. Officer Salo checked the door and discovered that the handle had been broken off, a hasp had been damaged, and the lock was missing. The door itself was damaged with pry marks. The damage is estimated to be around \$1000.

Just before 5 a.m. on 11/11/22, officers responded to a Lightning Drive business after the owner reported that a man broke in and stole tools. The reporting party said that he chased the suspect out and recovered the five tools that the man dropped in the ditch. The 25-year-old said that tools had a total value of \$19,250. The man stated that he isn't sure how the suspect got into the business, as he believed that all the man doors were locked and there was no evidence of tampering. A 37-year-old woman was located in her vehicle in the parking lot. She told officers that she met a man over Facebook that night and she had picked him up in Duluth and drove around for a while. She said that her ex-boyfriend contacted her and she wanted to wait in the area so she could pick up some items from his house when he messaged her again. She said she chose to park near the back of the shop to "hang out." The woman said that the man she met that evening told her he had to go for a walk and she lost track of where he had gone. The suspect called the woman while officers were with her, telling her to get out of the area if she could. The woman's phone was seized so officers could execute a search warrant. This incident is under investigation.