



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 11/20/22 to 11/26/22, the Hermantown PD had 246 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

Just before 9 p.m. on 11/26/22, officers responded to a domestic incident at the Deerfield Townhomes. A 23-year-old woman reported that her boyfriend threw her on the ground and tried to lock her in the garage. When officers arrived on scene, the woman told them that she and her 23-year-old boyfriend had lived at the residence together since April 2022, but they had been broken up on and off over the last six months. She said that the man had come home with an "attitude" that day and had been going in and out of the garage; at one point, the woman's cat went into the garage and when she went to retrieve it, the man turned the lights off, shut the door and locked it. When she got back in the house, the pair pushed each other and the man smashed her Ring camera after she pointed out that the incident had been recorded. She said that when she told the man she was calling 911, he grabbed her, pushed her down the stairs, and attempted to keep her away from her phone. Officers spoke with the male outside the residence. He explained that a fight started because the woman was mad he had the Tinder app on his phone. He said that she thought they were getting back together, but that she was moving out in a few days and they didn't have a relationship that was going to work. The man said they argued when he got home that day and the woman had pulled him down the stairs and pointed a knife at him before calling 911. He denied that he had assaulted her, stating he only defended himself, but admitted that he shut off the garage lights and shut the door while she was in there. The man was ultimately lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for interfering with an emergency call and for domestic assault.

Driving Under the Influence

On 11/23/22 at 12:45 a.m., Officer Stracek was on routine patrol when he observed a Chevy Silverado in front of him veer out of its lane onto the shoulder before the driver jerked his wheel to correct the vehicle back into the driving lane. The vehicle then stopped at a four-way stop before activating the turn signal. Officer Stracek performed a traffic stop on the truck and cleared the snow from the license plate. He made contact with the 51-year-old driver, who stated he went onto the shoulder while he was checking the radio. After detecting an odor of alcoholic beverage coming from the man, Officer Stracek asked how much he had to drink. He admitted to 4-5 beers. The man attempted to perform field sobriety testing, but during the second test, he stopped and said, "You got me man" before admitting he thought he was over the legal limit. He then provided a preliminary breath test sample with a reading of .18% blood alcohol content. The man's passenger was also over the legal limit and called for a sober driver to pick her up. Reports have been forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges of 3rd degree DWI, .08 or more, and failure to drive in a single lane.

10:37 p.m. on 11/23/22, officers were dispatched to a personal injury hit and run in the 4100 block of Stebner Road. The reporting party said that a red car turned around and she believe it had hit her on purpose. She described the male driver and stated she was having back pain and was shaking from the incident. Officers located the woman's Ford Fusion and spoke to the 29-year-old passenger



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as Hermantown Volunteer Fire Department members assessed the driver's injuries. The passenger said that the suspect vehicle spun around and then slammed into the back of their car. She said that the oncoming car that just passed them had started skidding, then turned around fast and rear-ended them. She further stated that the vehicle pulled up next to the passenger side of their car and said he was not giving his insurance before driving off. The 25-year-old driver said that she noticed the oncoming vehicle was in the middle of the road and not his lane as it approached her. She said the driver honked his horn as he passed her. Officer Solem noted that the woman's bumper was broken into pieces and was hanging off the car. He also located two pieces of plastic on the ground that appeared to belong to the suspect vehicle. Officers began patrolling the area in an attempt to locate the suspect. While patrolling northbound on Haines Road, Officer Solem found a red Toyota Corolla that had crashed into a snowbank. There was significant damage to the front of the vehicle; the hood was severely dented in and was exposing the engine compartment, the bumper was smashed in the middle and the headlights were broken off. The amount of debris at the scene did not match the amount of damage, indicating that the damage was from a separate crash. A male matching the females' description was passed out in the driver's side with vomit on his lap and passenger seat. When he woke the man up, Officer Solem detected a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage. The man attempted to start his car. When asked for ID, the man dropped his wallet, then pulled two credit cards out to hand to Officer Solem before again attempting to start his vehicle. He then handed his wallet to Officer Solem, who was able to identify him by the driver's license inside it. When he requested that the male perform field sobriety testing, the man asked if he needed a lawyer since he was a minor. Officer Solem explained that his date of birth made him 21 years old and he would have the opportunity to contact an attorney later. After providing a preliminary breath test that resulted in a reading of .24% blood alcohol content, the man said he was coming from a bar in Superior and heading home to his Superior residence. The man asked if someone had reported a crash, then said he didn't think he hit anyone. The plastic from the accident scene was later matched to his vehicle. The man was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for 3rd degree DWI, .08 or more, and hit and run.





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Officer Stracek was working a Toward Zero Death special traffic enforcement shift at 12:47 a.m. on 11/25/22 when he observed a vehicle in front of him without a working license plate light. The vehicle pulled to the shoulder of the road before Officer Stracek initiated a traffic stop. The driver was displaying slurred speech and appeared lethargic with glossy red eyes. He admitted to consuming "a couple" drinks. While listening to instructions for the walk and turn test, the man lost his balance; he took three steps, then placed his hands behind his back without Officer Stracek saying anything. The man's preliminary breath test showed a blood alcohol content of .134%. After being processed for driving under the influence, the man was cited for 4th degree DWI, .08 or more, and the non-working license plate light. He was released to a sober family member.

On 11/26/22 at 12:47 a.m., Officer Stracek observed a vehicle pull into the parking lot of the Hermantown General Store and park on the side of the business. He watched the male driver exit the vehicle and walk to the passenger side, where he spent 5-10 minutes. Officer Stracek made contact with the male, who stated he was giving his passenger a hug because she was upset. The man attempted to block officers' view of the vehicle and appeared nervous. Officer Stracek noted glossy eyes and an odor of alcoholic beverage coming from the man. The 20-year-old female passenger appeared intoxicated and had tears down her face. She explained that she was going through some issues and admitted to drinking, but claimed the man had not been. The woman was later transported to her residence. The driver initially claimed he hadn't been drinking and Officer Stracek explained that he observed two open beers in the center console. The man then wanted to argue about operating the motor vehicle and said he wasn't. Officer Stracek told him that there was probable cause and requested that he perform field sobriety testing. Then man then admitted to consuming two beers and agreed to perform the tests, including a preliminary breath test that resulted in a reading of .086% blood alcohol content. The man was ultimately cited for open bottle and underage drink and drive, as his later breath test reported a reading of less than .08.

Miscellaneous

On 11/25/22, just after 7 a.m., Officer Leibel was dispatched to a residence in the 4200 block of Lavaque Road for the report of a possible drug overdose. When Officer Leibel arrived on scene and knocked on the door, a 28-year-old male answered and stated that everything was fine and his fiancé called because he was making noises in his sleep. The reporting party then told Officer Leibel that the man was shaking in bed and she thought he might be having some type of medical episode or seizure and she thought she had seen him take doses of his medication instead of one. The female didn't have identification but verbally identified herself. After confirming that the man did not need medical assistance, Officer Leibel and first responders cleared the scene. After being advised that the name the woman provided gave no results, Officer Leibel determined through police databases that the man was associated with a 20-year-old woman who had an active \$100 warrant. He went back to the residence and spoke with the woman, who admitted that she knew she had a warrant. When she was advised that she would be receiving a citation for providing a false name, she replied, "I know."