



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 12/18/22 to 12/24/22, the Hermantown PD had 185 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

Damage to Property

On 12/23/22 at approximately 12:30 p.m., Officer Johnson responded to Walmart for a damage to property call. Two witnesses advised that a male walked up to a Chevrolet Avalanche, smashed out a window, and left. One of the witnesses described a blank stare on the man's face and said it seemed targeted. At this time, the owner or driver of the truck has not contacted police to report the incident.

Trespassing

Just before 6 p.m. on 12/18/22, Walmart reported a trespassing incident. The reporting party advised Officer Enright that the 24-year-old woman had since left the store, got in a vehicle and left the property. Walmart provided video of the woman entering the store and a photo of her exiting the store. The woman had been trespassed on 11/20/22 while she was detained for shoplifting. Officer Enright mailed a citation to the woman for trespassing.

On 12/23/22 at approximately 10:23 p.m., Officers were advised that a female inside Walmart had been trespassed the day before. Officer Leibel arrived at the store and observed the woman exit the building and enter the backseat of a Jeep Grand Cherokee. He approached the Jeep and could see someone laying across the backseat as if to be hiding from him. He opened the rear door and confirmed that the person hiding was the suspect. The 21-year-old woman said she only entered the store because she had to go the bathroom. Officer Stracek explained that the trespass order includes in the parking lot; the woman said she knew that but again stated she entered the building to use the bathroom. While speaking with officers, the woman was wearing a blue surgical mask. Loss Prevention told Officer Leibel that the woman had not been wearing the mask the previous day. They also stated that the woman had been in the clothing section, which was well beyond the bathrooms. The woman was issued a citation for trespassing and concealing identity.

Driving Under the Influence

On 12/22/22, just after 8:30 p.m., Officer Stracek was on patrol on Arrowhead Road near the elementary school when he observed a Volkswagen traveling toward him at a high rate of speed. After the vehicle passed him, Officer Stracek locked the speed at 58 mph in a 40 mph zone. He noted that the road conditions were ice covered and poor and the police department had responded to multiple driving incidents throughout the day due to the quality of the roads. Officer Stracek turned around to catch up with the vehicle and perform a traffic stop. The man stated he thought the speed limit was 45 and guessed that he had been traveling 30 near the school. Officer Stracek observed that the man had a permit to carry card on his lap. The man stated his handgun was in a pouch in the driver's side door. As he spoke with the driver, Officer Stracek noted a strong odor of alcoholic beverage emitting from the vehicle, along with the man's thick speech and glossy red eyes. The 45-year-old admitted to drinking 4-5 beers at a local bar and said he was headed to a friend's house. The man also had a plastic cup with a dark liquid and ice in the center console, which he stated was



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Vodka Red Bull. The man performed field sobriety testing and his preliminary breath test resulted in a reading of .149% blood alcohol content. Reports have been forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges of 3rd degree DWI, .08 or more, carrying while intoxicated, and speeding. The man's handgun was placed into the Hermantown Police Department evidence room. The firearm was loaded with a round in the chamber.

Theft

At 4:15 a.m. on 12/19/22, Officer Battaglia was advised of a burglary at a storage facility. The 32-year-old victim said that she had been at her unit last month and nothing was missing at that time. The snow in front of her unit had not been disturbed and there were no fresh tracks in the snow when she arrived. The steel sliding latch on her unit had been cut and ripped out of the door. Her padlock was still attached to the latch. The woman said she was missing a black plastic toolbox containing tools and a 100-piece drill bit set. The value of the items taken was approximately \$430.

On 12/19/22, Menards reported a shoplifting that had occurred on 12/03/22. Loss Prevention stated that a store report had been made on the date of the theft, but the incident was never reported to 911. Officer Prouse was advised that on 12/03/22, two unknown males entered the store just after 2 p.m. One of the males selected a laser level valued at \$845.99 and proceeded to walk through an unoccupied register and through the exit doors. The reporting party further stated that another Loss Prevention agent had been working at the West Duluth store on 12/16/22 when he came across the suspect of this theft. He took a photo of the suspect and the license plate of the vehicle he left in. Officer Prouse was able to determine that the suspect is the 59-year-old registered owner of the vehicle. He was also able to determine that the suspect had pawned the laser level on 12/04/22. This incident is under investigation while Officer Prouse awaits further surveillance footage.

On the morning of 12/24/22, Officer Gottschald was advised that the garage at the Salem Lutheran Church had been broken into overnight. The padlock had been cut off the door and the door frame was damaged. A gas can with approximately \$10 worth of fuel had been taken. The estimated cost to replace the door and frame was \$1,000.

Miscellaneous

On 12/22/22, information was passed along to school personnel, including School Resource Officer Johnson, about threats made by a Hermantown student to a Duluth student. Initial information provided was that the Hermantown student threatened by text or social media to not be afraid to use a firearm if they needed to. The threat was accompanied by a photo of a firearm. Both district's SROs worked in tandem to determine the nature of the reported threat and it was determined there was no direct threat made to use a firearm against any specific individual or event and there were on-going issues between the parties. The family of the student who posted the image of the firearm was notified and reminded of proper gun safety.