



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

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 01/15/23 to 01/21/23, 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

### Disturbance

Just after 5 p.m. on 01/15/23, a 48-year-old female reported that her husband was drunk and "coming at her." The parties separated before officers arrived at their residence. The 48-year-old man told Officer Salo that they had been drinking and got into an argument. He admitted that there was pushing and shoving on both of their parts. The man said that they moved here within the past two years and they have a history with law enforcement concerning their arguments. The woman also told Officer Solem that she and her husband have been together since high school and they have had arguments that turned physical in the past. The woman said that the man uses his size to intimidate her. She stated that they had both been drinking that day and during an argument, the man threw her glasses across the room. She said that she did not try to deescalate the situation but stated she never put her hands on her husband. She said that he grabbed her around her neck with one hand to "assert dominance." When asked if it was to the point that she couldn't breathe, she replied it was to the point that she felt like she needed help. The woman told officers that she threatened the man with the firearms in the house and when he let her go, she ran to the room that the firearms are located, sitting on the ground with him because she was afraid he would continue to attack her. Officer Solem observed a scratch on the woman's neck. The man was taken into custody and lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for domestic assault.

### Driving Under the Influence

On 01/20/23 at approximately 9:45 p.m., Officer Stracek performed a traffic stop on a vehicle in the 5400 block of Arrowhead Road that was displaying tabs that expired in June 2022. The 28-year-old female driver explained that she had been working a lot and didn't have a chance to get to the DMV yet. She also admitted that she was trying to work on getting insurance. Officer Stracek noted that the woman appeared dazed and slower moving and there was an odor of burnt marijuana coming from the vehicle. The woman handed over a small glass pipe and admitted to smoking around 30 minutes prior, just before leaving work. After she performed field sobriety testing, Officer Stracek asked the woman how she felt she did. She said she didn't know, but admitted to being "stoned." Charges of driving under the influence, driving after revocation, no insurance, expired tabs, and possession of drug paraphernalia are pending the results of a blood test.

Just after 7 p.m. on 01/21/23, Officers Prouse and Stracek was dispatched to the report of a vehicle in the ditch on Ugstad Road near St. Louis River Road. The caller also reported that there was a male around the truck who seemed intoxicated. Officer Prouse located the Ford F150 in the ditch, running with its headlights on. He observed a male standing near the truck. The man admitted he had been driving the truck, stating he "went over to the left and couldn't get out."



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While speaking with the man, Officer Prouse noted that the fly of his pants was down and he stumbled backwards. He also had watery eyes and a moderate odor of alcoholic beverage coming from him. The man admitted to having four drinks, "60, 72 minutes ago," but said he did not feel that he was too intoxicated to be driving. The man performed field sobriety testing, losing his balance several times during the walk and turn and one-leg stand tests. He provided a preliminary breath test sample of .203% blood alcohol content. Reports were forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges of 3<sup>rd</sup> degree DWI.

### Accidents

On 01/15/23 at 12:41 p.m., officers were advised of a hit and run that occurred on Arrowhead Road near Miller Trunk Highway. Officers arrived on scene and found the reporting party's vehicle sideways on a snowbank, leaning at an angle. The 35-year-old female told officers that she turned from southbound Miller Trunk Highway onto Arrowhead Road and that as she was passing the gas station, a Ford Focus pulled out and crashed into her. She said that she didn't know how she ended up in the snowbank. While at the scene, a man approached Officer Solem and stated that he had been in the suspect vehicle and his 26-year-old daughter had been driving him to work nearby. He said that his daughter pulled their vehicle out a "foot" past the snowbanks to check traffic and that they were stopped. He said that he saw the other driver looking down right before she crashed into them. He told Officer Solem that after the accident, his daughter left because she had to pick up his 25-year-old daughter, the vehicle's owner. He also said that the vehicle had no active insurance. Officer Solem spoke to the owner of the Ford by phone; she also said the vehicle had no insurance and admitted that she knew her sister was driving the vehicle. Officer Solem was later able to make contact with the female driver of the Ford Focus. The woman said she pulled out into the lane to look for traffic and remained at a stop in the traffic lane. She said that she saw the other vehicle turn onto Arrowhead Road, but thought the driver would swerve around her. The woman told Officer Solem that her dad went to go check on the other driver while she parked in the gas station lot, but admitted that she then left the scene without speaking with the other driver. She said she was not aware that the vehicle had no insurance, but admitted that she was aware of her suspended driving status. The woman was cited for hit and run, no proof of insurance, no insurance, and driving after suspension.

### Traffic

Shortly after 8:30 p.m. on 01/16/23, Officer Stracek was observing traffic on Miller Trunk Highway when he observed a vehicle traveling northbound at a high rate of speed. He activated his radar and locked the vehicle's speed at 76 mph in a 55 mph zone. He accelerated after the vehicle and performed a traffic stop after the driver pulled into a gas station. He made contact with the driver and asked if the man knew why he was pulled over. The man replied, "64 mph in a 55." Officer Stracek explained that he had been going 76 mph and the man was adamant he was going 66 mph. A check of the man's driving history showed nine moving violations since 2017, seven of which were for speeding. Two of the speeding



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violations were in December 2022. Due to the 39-year-old man having a younger child in the front passenger seat, his prior speeding history, and the poor road conditions, Officer Stracek wrote him a citation for the full locked speed of 76 mph. The man again stated he was going 66 and said the child in the passenger seat saw him driving 66. The man asked Officer Stracek to write the citation for 66 mph and said it looked better for insurance. Officer Stracek declined to change the ticket and was explaining how to take care of it when the man cut him off and said he already knew how. Officer Stracek noted that his radar passed all self-checks and the calibration was verified at the beginning of his shift. In addition, he again verified the calibration after the traffic stop.

On 01/18/23, Officer Battaglia was advised of a school bus stop arm violation that occurred around 4:25 that afternoon. The bus driver stated the bus was southbound on Stebner Road with red lights flashing and the stop arm extended when a northbound Chevy Cobalt failed to stop. He said that he noticed the suspect vehicle approaching and did not open the bus door completely, so no kids were off the bus yet with the violation occurred. The following evening, Officer Battaglia made contact with the registered owner of the vehicle, who stated she remembered the incident. The 40-year-old woman told him that she tried to slow down but slid so she just kept going. She further said that she has "crappy tires and a crappy car." A citation for the violation was mailed to the woman.

## Theft

On 01/16/23, an 18-year-old reported the theft of her wallet. She stated she lost the wallet at a Hermantown business on Saturday night and that when she spoke to staff today, they told her that an employee found the wallet and brought it to the lost and found. She explained that the wallet was no longer there. Management told Officer Gottschald that they advised employees that law enforcement was involved and gave an opportunity to bring the wallet back but it was not returned. Approximately ten employees were in the lost and found room and management advised that none of them admitted to having any knowledge of the theft.

Just after 1 p.m. on 01/16/23, Officer Gottschald was advised of a vehicle prowling at the Holiday Inn Express. A 39-year-old man stated that he and his son arrived at the hotel at approximately 2 a.m. When he went back out to his vehicle around 10:30 a.m., he noticed that it had been rummaged through. The man said he left the vehicle unlocked and there was no damage, but a wallet was missing, along with a Game Boy Advance. The total loss was \$260. No other guests reports that their vehicles had been prowled.