



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

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 01/29/23 to 02/04/23, the Hermantown PD had 175 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

### Driving Under the Influence

On 01/30/23 at approximately 2:30 a.m., officers were advised of a vehicle in the median of Miller Trunk Highway near Ugstad Road. Officer Solem located a running Jeep Cherokee in the median with a female in the driver's seat, resting her head on the steering wheel. When she rolled down her window, Officer Solem immediately detected a strong odor of alcoholic beverage coming from the vehicle. The 21-year-old woman had watery eyes and slurred speech and told Officer Solem she was tired. When asked where she was coming from, the woman said, "Um..." before taking a long pause and finishing, "like work." Officer Solem asked why she was tired and the woman admitted to having three drinks and two tequila shots at a bar. Due to temperatures of -32 degree windchill and the woman not being dressed for the weather, field sobriety testing was cut short. The woman provided a preliminary breath sample resulting a blood alcohol content reading of .231%. She was ultimately lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for 2<sup>nd</sup> degree DWI and .08 or more.

### Assault

On 02/01/23, School Resource Officer Johnson was approached by a student who wanted to talk to her about two sexual assaults that occurred in December 2022. Officer Johnson determined that they did not happen in Hermantown and has forwarded her report to the appropriate police department. She also referred the student to the school social worker to see if there are other resources available to help her.

### Medical Issue

On 02/02/23 at 5:45 p.m., Officer Gottschald was dispatched to a medical incident at Walmart in which an unconscious male was turning blue. She arrived on scene and located the male patient on the ground with Hermantown Fire providing aid. A St. Louis County Deputy had arrived prior to Officer Gottschald and administered one dose of Narcan for a suspected overdose. Six pills had been located inside a backpack, along with burnt tinfoil and a small straw. The pills appeared to be counterfeit oxycodone tablet containing fentanyl. The man regained consciousness when Mayo Ambulance arrived on scene, but was unable to form words when asked if he had ingested the pills.

### Fraud

On the afternoon of 02/02/23, a 39-year-old Hermantown resident reported that she is the victim of a phone scam. She stated that she received a blocked call on her cell phone that morning. The caller identified himself as a Sergeant, stating she had been subpoenaed for court testimony and had missed it. She stated that it sounded legitimate because she has had to testify in the past for her work. The caller told her she had a warrant for her arrest and advised her to not to hang up and not to talk to anyone else about it because it was a juvenile case. She was instructed to get \$3,000 from her bank and buy gift cards to pay the fine. The woman purchased gift cards at Walgreens and sent



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additional money through Moneygram at Walmart. The woman also stated she had given the suspect her credit card number and an online Target purchase had been attempted.

### Theft

On 02/02/23, Officer Salo responded to Walmart for a shoplifting involving a female that loss prevention believed to be 17 years old. Loss prevention advised that the suspect had taken a backpack off the shelf and filled it with items before walking out of the store without paying. The suspect identified herself to Officer Salo and provided a Tennessee ID that showed her to be 19. She stated she came down from International Falls, where she is attending college, and that she stole the items because she didn't have the money to buy them. The woman had taken six items, including clothes, stuffed animals, and the backpack, with a total value of \$62.89. She was cited for theft.

At 10:47 a.m. on 02/04/23, Officer Stracek was advised of a vehicle prowling that occurred at Walmart after the victim entered the store at about 10:30 a.m. He said he was in the store 10-15 minutes and he called 911 when he noticed his vehicle had been entered. The man stated several items had been taken, included two backpacks, basketball shoes, volleyball shoes and kneepads, and a Hydroflask water bottle. Officer Stracek later received video of the vehicle prowling from Walmart, who stated that the suspect also shoplifted while at Walmart that day. Officer Stracek has not been able to identify the suspect.

On 02/04/23 at approximately 9:30 p.m., Officer Gottschald observed two females pushing a full shopping cart on Loberg Avenue. After they walked past the bus stop, Officer Gottschald approached them and advised them that they couldn't take a Walmart cart past the bus stops. As the women advised that they were walking to meet a friend, Officer Gottschald noticed that the items in the cart were not all in shopping bags. She asked if the women had a receipt to verify that the items had been paid for. Neither female could produce a receipt for the items and one of the women admitted to stealing the merchandise. The females walked back to Walmart, where staff were able to verify that the 39-year-old woman had paid for some of the items. The 36-year-old woman said that she was the one that shoplifted and the other woman had nothing to do with it. She said she went to the store to get money on her Walmart card, and she became upset when she was unable to so she decided to shoplift. She said she had been at the store since approximately 5:30 p.m. Staff determined that the unpaid merchandise from the cart totaled \$870.99 and consisted of 114 items. Reports have been forwarded to the prosecuting attorney for charges of gross misdemeanor theft.