



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

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 02/05/23 to 02/11/23, the Hermantown PD had 225 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

### Miscellaneous

Just before 11 p.m. on 02/10/23, officers responded to a Lavaque Road address after a 59-year-old male reported that his 29-year-old daughter was acting paranoid. The man told officers that the woman had left the residence earlier in the day to go shopping at Savers. He said that he was concerned she had been longer than expected and he called her at 7 p.m. When he called her, she was parked at a car wash in Proctor and said she didn't want to come home because she thought her parents were going to kill her. The man said that he did not make any threats toward her and was just concerned for her safety, as she has had issues with alcohol and drug use. The woman initially refused to go home with her parents, but once they got to their home, she began making statements that she thought her father was going to kill her and her cat. The man said he tried to assure her that her cat was okay and no one was going to hurt her, but she started walking down the road. Officers spoke with the woman, who refused to sleep at her residence that night. During their conversation, she asked Officer Solem multiple times about her cat. The woman consented to a preliminary breath test and provided a sample that resulted in a reading of .169% blood alcohol content. Officers agreed to transport the woman, but she began walking past Officer Solem's squad car toward the road. The woman had to be held back from walking into the road and she began to state that she thought she was going to be injected with needles. Officers were able to transport the woman to a safe location. A small bag of marijuana was confiscated and brought to Hermantown PD to be destroyed.

### Found Property

On the morning of 02/10/23, a Hermantown auto body shop reported that they had located numerous guns in the trunk of a vehicle. They stated that the vehicle was a rental and it appeared the guns had been left inside when the renter returned the car. Officer Salo collected five guns and talked to the owner's son, who confirmed they were accidentally left behind. The owner was advised on the process to recover the firearms.

### Fraud

On 02/07/23, a 70-year-old Hermantown resident reported that she had been the victim of a scam. She stated she received a call on 02/06/23 stating that her accounts were hacked and she needed to purchase gift cards to reverse the charges that were made. She said that the caller explained that the "fraudulent" charge was made at 4:48 a.m. on 02/06/23 and that her cellphone authorized the charge from her IP address. She said that the male told her there were five different hackers in her account and three were from China. The male provided her IP address. The woman then went through the steps the male requested, which included her dialing her bank with him still on the phone. The male then transferred the call to his partner to make it seem like she was actually talking with a bank staff member. The woman purchased gifts at both Target and Best Buy for a total of \$6,500. She stated that she went to the bank on 02/07/23 and discovered there was no fraudulent activity on her account.





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### Theft

On 02/05/23 at 10:50 a.m., Officer Stracek observed a vehicle in the Fleet Farm parking lot that had previous involvement with known shoplifters. He contacted loss prevention, who advised that they were already watching the female passenger as she randomly selected items to put in her cart without taking time to look at them. Officer Stracek and loss prevention staff watched live surveillance video of the female concealing a BB gun into her purse. The woman then met up with the owner of the vehicle and they entered the hat section, where the male concealed a \$19.99 hat into his pocket. The pair abandoned their carts and entered the vestibule as they walked toward the exit. Officer Stracek identified himself and told them to stop. The male stopped, but the female continued out the doors. She slowed and looked over her shoulder at Officer Stracek before turning away and starting to run. Officer Stracek stopped the female and attempted to take her purse out of her hands, but the woman refused to let go and was struggling over the purse. While officers were attempting to speak to the suspects, the woman was disruptive and begged officers not to bring her to jail for an active warrant. The 32-year-old man was cooperative and respectful during officers' contact. He was issued a citation for theft and sent on his way. The 24-year-old woman told officers that a man had threatened to kick in her door if she didn't get him a BB gun by that night. She was taken to a local hospital for medical attention, as she claimed to have given herself 10 tattoos the previous night and was now suffering from a rash. After being released, she was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for gross misdemeanor charges of providing a false name of a real person, fleeing on foot, shoplifting, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

On the morning of 02/06/23, Officer Stracek was advised of a burglary on Thunderchief Lane. The reporting party stated a trailer had been broken into over the weekend and tools had been stolen. Officer Stracek arrived on scene and met with workers, who showed him a 14-foot enclosed trailer. He observed a lock that was cut laying on the ground nearby. Employees provided a list of approximately thirty items that had been taken, including drills, saws, and batteries. Officer Stracek then reviewed surveillance video from a nearby business. The video showed that the theft occurred just after 11 p.m. on Sunday, 02/05/23. A vehicle pulled behind the building and two suspects got out and used a saw to cut the lock off the trailer. The suspects then quickly grabbed items from the trailer and fled the scene. This incident is under investigation.

On 02/07/23, Turning Leaf reported that two males stole over \$400 worth of items. Officer Stracek responded to the store and the manager met with him and explained that there are two males that frequent the store but never buy anything. He said a new employee was working alone when the two males came in. The suspects then took turns distracting the employee while the other stole items.