



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 02/12/23 to 02/18/23, the Hermantown PD had 209 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

Found Property

On 02/14/23, officers were advised of two spools of copper wire being located in the ditch on Hermantown Road. The caller was unaware of any contractors doing work in the area. The wire was transported to the Hermantown Police Department to be held for safekeeping.

On 02/16/23, School Resource Officer Johnson was given five 20-gauge shotgun shells that were located in the middle school lost and found. A student was going through belongings and located the shells in a black Eddie Bauer backpack. The student immediately told a teacher. There was nothing in the backpack to suggest who may own it and it is unknown how long the backpack was in the lost and found.

Trespass

On the evening of 02/13/23, Officer Prouse was at Walmart for unrelated matter when loss prevention advised him that a female was in the store despite being previously trespassed. Officer Prouse located a female matching the description standing by a vehicle near his squad car. He approached the woman, who denied being the woman he was looking for. After loss prevention advised him that that he had been talking to the correct woman, Officer Prouse again approached her and asked her to identify herself. She stated she didn't have an ID with her, but gave a first and last name, along with a date of birth. Initially she stated her birthdate was in 1992 before changing it to 1997. Ultimately, the woman admitted to lying about her identity, but stated she wasn't aware she was trespassed when she first went to Walmart. The woman was issued a citation for trespassing and providing a false name. She was advised that she is again trespassed from all Walmart properties for a year starting from 02/13/23.

Miscellaneous

On 02/12/23 at 7:45 a.m., Officer Leibel located a black Dodge Ram that matched the description of a vehicle driven by a suspect of a check fraud incident. On 02/10/23, Menards had reported that a business check had been written for over \$1,000 and they had been advised that the account had been frozen or closed. At that time, Officer Leibel had discovered that the Dodge had been reported stolen in Pine County and the OnStar system placed the vehicle at a West Duluth motel, where he ultimately located it on 02/12. Officers made contact with the 41-year-old man at his hotel room, where he was taken into custody for multiple warrants. The man told officers that he couldn't afford to pay for the truck anymore and stopped making payments. When asked about the check that had been written to Menards, the man agreed that he had been the one to write it. He said he has



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had financial troubles before asking for an attorney, saying he didn't want to incriminate himself. The check fraud is still under investigation.

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Theft

On 02/12/23 at approximately 6:45 p.m., Walmart reported that a female was concealing items into store totes. Officers Solem and Battaglia responded and made contact with the 45-year-old woman, who had been taken to the loss prevention officer after attempting to leave the store with the unpaid merchandise. The woman didn't have ID on her, but was positively identified using a previous jail booking photo. The woman told officers that a family member drove her to Walmart that day to shop for supplies for her house. She admitted that she had no intention of paying for the items because she didn't have enough money. She told officer that she had London or British "spiritual roommates" that were not living people and she felt it was their fault she didn't have enough money. The woman was trespassed from Walmart and reports were forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges of gross misdemeanor theft. The woman had stolen 86 items with a total value of \$884.95.

Just before 8 a.m. on 02/18/23, Officer Gottschald was dispatched to a shoplifting at Walmart. Loss prevention staff advised that the man wore a jacket out of the store without paying for it. The jacket was valued at \$11.00. The 55-year-old man made comments about "spacing out" paying for the jacket and was argumentative about where the last point of sale was. It was explained that he had been stopped in the vestibule, which is past the last point of sale. The man declined to speak with Officer Gottschald about the incident. He was cited for theft.