



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 02/26/23 to 03/04/23, the Hermantown PD had 206 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

Assault

On 02/27/23, just before 2:30 a.m., Officer Leibel responded to an Arrowhead Road residence after an 18-year-old female reported that her ex-boyfriend assaulted her. The woman said they got into an argument over the dishes around 10 p.m., and that both had left the apartment for a while after that. She went on to say that they got into another argument when the man got home just after 2 a.m. She told Officer Leibel that the man shoved her and threw a mini space heater at her and threw her into the shoes. She said that when he shoved her, a shelf holding a candle and decorations fell off the wall. Officer Leibel and Sgt. Pernu made contact with the man, who said he was cleaning the dishes when the woman walked up to him and told him to stop using her dish rag before punching him on the top of the head. He admitted to pushing the woman away. He explained that he had been sitting at the dining room table doing homework when the woman walked up and threw his school stuff on the floor before throwing his iPad, knocking a shelf and glass to the floor. He continued that she had thrown his laundry basket into the hallways before throwing a heater at him. He stated that the heater hit him in the chest and he was able to catch it and "toss it" back, after which she started crying and called 911. The man said they may have gotten into an argument around 7 p.m., but he wasn't sure because it happens every day. He also didn't think she had left after the initial argument. Officer Leibel inspected the injury to the man's head; there did not appear to be any discoloration but he could feel a bump that was consistent with being struck. The man told officers that the pair had dated for three and a half years before moving into the apartment in September. He said they made it only a month before breaking up. Officers spoke again with the woman, who said she threw the heater at him only after he threw it at her. She admitted to throwing the iPad and said that it may have hit him in the head but that wasn't her intention. She also admitted to throwing the laundry basket, but did not throw it at him. The two were separated for the night. Due to the conflicting sequences of events and officers being unable to determine a primary aggressor based the statements and evidences, reports are being forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for review of possible charges.

Order Violations

On 02/26/23 at 1:50 p.m., Officer Battaglia was on patrol when he observed a vehicle traveling 53 mph in a 40 mph zone on Lavaque Road. During routine clearance of the traffic stop, he discovered that the man has an active Order for Protection against him. The protected party matched the description of the female passenger in the vehicle. The 21-year-old male and his 22-year-old fiancé both claimed that the Order had been dismissed. It was later determined that an Order for Protection with the male as the protected party had been dismissed, but the Order in question was active. The man was transported to the St. Louis County Jail and cited for OFP violation. He was cooperative throughout the entire process. His personal belongings were given to the female at his request and she drove the vehicle from the stop.

On 03/04/23, Officer Prouse was advised of a report of an Order for Protection violation that occurred at the Hermantown YMCA Essentia Wellness Center. A 39-year-old woman reported that she had been at the YMCA with her daughter, her boyfriend, and their baby. The woman said that after she changed the baby's diaper, her daughter approached and said that her dad was there. The woman explained that her daughter was not really aware of what was going on with the Order and went up to her dad, asking him to



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come see the new baby. The woman said she and her boyfriend were sitting on a bench when her ex-husband approached with their daughter and congratulated them on the new baby. The woman said that her family then left the YMCA. Her 28-year-old boyfriend confirmed the events and added that he wasn't sure how to go about the situation and that he didn't want to cause a scene. Officer Prouse reviewed the Order and noted that it had been served on the 37-year-old man on 02/13/23. He called the man, who acknowledged that he had been at the YMCA. He agreed that he briefly saw the reporting party there, stating that they just happened to be in the same spot at the same time. He told Officer Prouse that his daughter asked him to come see the new baby and that his ex didn't have a problem with it. He admitted that he told her they needed to talk and said that she replied that did. He told Officer Prouse that the contact was just in passing and "she invited it." He said he did his best to shy away from the contact. Officer Prouse explained that being invited did not change the contact being a violation of the Order. A citation for violating an OFP was mailed to the man.

Accident

On 02/26/23 at 9:25 p.m., Sgt. Pernu was flagged down by a 29-year-old woman in the Walmart parking lot. She reported that her Chevy Equinox had been hit while she was in the store between 8:30 and 9:15 p.m. She said that she had to put the spare tire on the front due to the damage caused. Sgt. Pernu observed a moderate amount of damage to the front passenger side fender well, including blue paint transfer. In addition, the front tire had a large gash in the sidewall. Sgt. Pernu later received surveillance footage of the hit and run accident. A silver extended cab picking with a plow can be seen pulling alongside the woman's vehicle, which moved from the impact. After a short time, the male driver exits his truck and walks to the back as if he is looking in the direction of the Equinox before walking back around to the front of his truck and toward the store. The suspect vehicle appears to possibly be a 2000s model Ford F250. Some distinguishing features on the truck include a V-plow, black tool box behind the cab, and aftermarket brake lights mounted on a "headache rack" on the back window. In addition, the truck has running boards and the rear wheel wells appear rusted out. This case was suspended pending further information.

Theft

On 02/27/23, Volkswagen of Duluth reported that a 2013 GMC Sierra had been stolen from their lot. The reporting party advised that the vehicle had been traded in on 02/25/23. He advised that the truck was locked and the keys were secured inside the building. Officer Prouse was able to view surveillance footage of the theft, which occurred at approximately 9:30 p.m. on 02/25/23. After looking into several vehicles on the lot, a male suspect got out of a Honda Pilot and opened the driver's side door of the GMC Sierra. The man entered the vehicle and drove it off the lot, followed by a second suspect driving the Pilot. The suspects were on the lot for a total of 15 minutes. This case is under investigation.

Just after 11:30 a.m. on 02/28/23, Detective Dwyer was advised of a theft from a trailer in the Holiday Inn Express parking lot. Two men reported that they had had arrived at the hotel around 3 a.m. following a long day at a work site. One of the males remained outside and was working on a piece of equipment on the trailer until approximately 4:30 a.m. The men stated a Pelican case from the front of the trailer was now missing and showed Detective Dwyer the loosened strap as well as a ratchet strap that was now on the ground near the truck the trailer was hooked to. Total loss is approximately \$1020.00.