



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

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 03/05/23 to 03/11/23, the Hermantown PD had 142 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

At approximately 10:40 p.m. on 03/10/23, officers were dispatched to the report of a domestic incident involving weapons on the 5500 block of Miller Trunk Highway. The caller told dispatch that the victim said that her husband had pulled a knife. Officers arrived at the residence and spoke with the 30-year-old woman. She said that her husband quit his job earlier in the week and that they had both been drinking. She told officers that after the kids went to bed, they got into an argument in which he told her to get out because he does everything and pays for everything. She stated that she went into the bathroom and locked the door because he was yelling at her and said that he sat outside the bathroom with a knife poking the door while reminding her of things she had done in the past and calling her names. She said her husband did not threaten to stab her or hurt her, but that he was using the knife on the door to scare her. She told officers that when her family member arrived, she came out of the bathroom. When the 30-year-old man spoke to officers, he said that he kicked her out because she's crazy and that they got into a tiff over resentments. He commented on the fact that there were four officers at the residence and told them to just lock him up before standing and holding his hands out as if to allow for handcuffing. After being placed under arrest, the man began agitated, stating he didn't touch anyone and there's no proof. The man later told officers that his wife had belittled him and came at him like a wild woman. He also said that he had a spoon in his hand, not a knife. The man was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for domestic assault.

At 10:50 p.m. on 03/11/23, officers were dispatched to the report of a domestic at a Stebner Road residence. The caller only said that she got into a fight with her sister and then hung up. When officers arrived, the 38-year-old twins were talking calmly, not yelling or fighting. The two admitted to getting into a verbal argument with mutual shoving. Neither was injured and both agreed to separate. The woman that called 911 said that she hung up quickly because she decided that involving law enforcement wasn't necessary. Both sisters said that alcohol was a factor in the situation.

### Animal Complaint

On 03/08/23, Officer Salo responded to a dog bite call on Lavaque Road. A mail carrier was delivering a package on 03/04/23 when the owner came to the door. Two dogs pushed the door open and one bit the mail carrier on the leg, breaking the skin and tearing his pants. Officer Salo spoke to the 51-year-old homeowner, who said she remembered the dogs jumping on the mail carrier but did not know one bit him. Neither of the dogs were licensed in Hermantown and neither dog was current on their rabies vaccines. The owner was advised to license her dogs and quarantine them to observe for rabies. The mail carrier was advised to tell his doctor that the dogs were not vaccinated for rabies. He did not want to pursue charges against the dogs' owner.

### Fraud

On the morning of 03/09/23, Officer Battaglia spoke to a 19-year-old man, who stated that he lost his wallet sometime during the past week and now there were unauthorized charges on his debit and credit cards. He stated the last time he remembered having his wallet was on 03/06/23 at a gas station. It is unknown where the wallet was lost. The man reported one authorized charge at the Hermantown



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Walmart for \$110.69, as well as a \$244.76 charge that was declined. All other charges were made online or in the city of Duluth. While investigating, Officer Battaglia discovered that the suspect was also involved in a shoplifting at Walmart. This incident is under investigation.

### Theft

On 03/07/23, just after 4:30 p.m., Fleet Farm reported that a male had stolen a knife and a BB gun before fleeing in a vehicle. Loss Prevention advised that the man had selected the knife and BB gun, then hid them behind some other merchandise on a shelf in the building materials department. The man then purchased a beverage and left the property in his vehicle at 4:05 p.m. At 4:27 p.m., the man returned in the same vehicle, entered the store, and walked to the building department. Loss Prevention watched as he concealed the BB gun and knife under his jacket and fled the property. The value of the items was \$132.98. The 36-year-old suspect was identified and Officer Enright attempted unsuccessfully to contact him before mailing a citation for theft.

At approximately 7:45 p.m. on 03/08/23, Sgt. Pernu was dispatched to Fleet Farm for a shoplifting incident. The reporting party advised that the man concealed a \$309.99 red dot gun sight before getting into the passenger seat of a vehicle. Sgt. Pernu located the vehicle and conducted a traffic stop on Maple Grove Road near Haines Road. The occupants were identified and the suspect was escorted to the back of the car. It was discovered that the man had a loaded handgun holstered in his waistband. The gun was secured for the duration of the traffic stop. When Sgt. Pernu advised the 39-year-old suspect that he was on video stealing the gun sight, he admitted to the theft. The sight was recovered and the man was cited for theft and trespassed from Fleet Farm.

On the afternoon of 03/09/23, Officer Battaglia was advised of a shoplifting incident that had occurred at approximately 12:30 p.m. The reporting party stated that the man selected numerous grocery items before proceeding to the self-check area, where he scanned the items and swiped a card numerous times. The man left the store without completing the transaction or waiting for a receipt. The total value of the 19 stolen grocery items is \$183.46. Officer Battaglia was advised that the male has been involved in similar incidents at the Superior Walmart. The employee provided a license plate number for the suspect's vehicle. The following morning, a gas drive-off was reported in Proctor with the same suspect vehicle. A Proctor officer located the vehicle and performed a traffic stop. Officer Battaglia responded to the stop and spoke with the 27-year-old driver, who he positively identified as the shoplifter. The man denied being at Walmart the day before, even after he was told there was video of him. A citation was mailed to the man for shoplifting.

### Miscellaneous

Shortly after 1:30 a.m. on 03/05/23, a passerby reported seeing a dark colored passenger car off the road on Stebner Road near Morris Thomas Road. The caller was unsure if there was anyone in the vehicle. When officers arrived, the vehicle was still warm. It appeared that the driver was picked up by another vehicle. The doors of the vehicle were unlocked with the keys in the ignition and a Michael Kors purse in plain view. There were multiple shooter style alcoholic beverages scatter in the vehicle. Officers locked the vehicle before putting the purse and keys into property at the Hermantown Police Department for safe keeping.