



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 03/12/23 to 03/18/23, the Hermantown PD had 161 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

At approximately 11:30 p.m. on 03/16/23 while working a Toward Zero Death special traffic enforcement shift, Officer Stracek observed a vehicle displaying an expired Minnesota temporary tag. A query of the vehicle showed that the tag had expired in November 2022. After he performed a traffic stop on the vehicle, the female driver stated she was taking her passenger to the hospital because he was having trouble breathing. Officer Stracek noted that both occupants of the vehicle were smoking cigarettes when he made contact with them. The 39-year-old woman said that the dealership had sent the information to the wrong address and that there was no one there the last time she went to try to get the updated information for her vehicle. Officer Stracek asked the woman if she still had a revoked driver's license. She said she paid her fines off in Wisconsin to get her license back but she needed to pay the reinstatement fee. While speaking with the woman, Officer Stracek observed a glass pipe sticking out of her jacket pocket with what appeared to be meth residue on it. The woman admitted to smoking meth just before she drove. After field sobriety testing, the woman was transported to a local hospital for a blood draw. Charges are pending the results of the blood test.

Officer Stracek was working a Toward Zero Death special traffic enforcement shift in the early morning hours of 03/17/23 when a male flagged him down to report that a drunk driver was passed out behind the wheel of a nearby Ford pickup. Officer Stracek approached the running vehicle and knocked on the window to wake the driver, who explained he had to work in the morning. He admitted he had been drinking and Officer Stracek asked if he felt okay to be driving. The 41-year-old replied that he wasn't going anywhere. Officer Stracek advised him that he was violating Minnesota DWI laws. The man performed field sobriety testing and a preliminary breath test that resulted in a reading of .158% blood alcohol content. He was cited for 4th degree DWI and .08 or more.

At 1:20 a.m. on 03/18/23, Officer Stracek observed a vehicle travelling 52 mph in a 40 mph zone. He conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle and the 36-year-old female driver estimated her speed to be approximately 45 mph. After detecting a mild odor of alcoholic beverage emitting from the woman, he asked her to perform field sobriety testing. She stated that she had one glass of wine at 10:30 p.m. and later added that it was a "giant glass." The woman said she felt like she was 4/10 on the scale of being impaired. Her preliminary breath test resulted in a reading of .142% blood alcohol content. The woman was ultimately cited for 4th degree DWI, .08 or more, and speeding.



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On 03/18/23, shortly after 3 a.m., Officer Stracek was on patrol when he noticed a vehicle travelling northbound on Midway Road with poor driving conduct. He observed the vehicle veer over the centerline and travel partially in the oncoming lane before it jerked back into its lane. Officer Stracek performed a traffic stop and made contact with the 35-year-old driver. He detected a strong odor of alcoholic beverage emitting from the man, who said he was on his way to work. The driver was uncoordinated and broke his center console while looking for his driver's license. The man performed field sobriety tests and admitted to having three or four beverages. He said he felt "buzzed" and believed he was at a 3-4 out of 10 on the scale of being impaired. He didn't think he would be over the legal limit; however, his preliminary breath test resulted in a reading of .184% blood alcohol content. Reports have been forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges of 3rd degree DWI, .08 or more, and failure to drive in a single lane. Officer Stracek noted that the man was the most cooperative and respectful DWI arrest he's ever processed.

Theft

On 03/15/23 just after 3:30 p.m., Officers Solem and Prouse were advised of a male concealing items in his jacket at Walmart. When he attempted to leave, loss prevention confronted the man and asked that he turn over all of the stolen items. The man began pulling out a variety of items such as a hat, hand tools, a book safe, vitamins, and other merchandise. The total value of the items was \$122.94. The 44-year-old man admitted that he had no money and did not intend on paying for any of the items. He was issued a citation for theft and was trespassed from Walmart properties.

On the morning of 03/16/23, Walmart loss prevention reported a shoplifting incident that had occurred on 03/14/23. On that date, a male took a pair of boots off the shelf and put them on, leaving his old shoes in the box on the shelf. The man then selected a keyboard, party mix machine, and a desktop tower. The value of these items was \$796.98. Later on 03/16/23, at approximately 1:30 p.m., Officers Solem and Enright were dispatched to a shoplifting call at Walmart involving the same male suspect, along with a second man. When officers arrived on scene, the first man was walking toward a truck in the parking lot before returning to the store with loss prevention staff. The 25-year-old had attempted to steal a \$599 gaming monitor. He was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for a domestic assault warrant. Reports were forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges of theft. The second man, age 33, had attempted to switch out his old shoes for new ones. He was cited for shoplifting.