



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

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 03/19/23 to 03/25/23, the Hermantown PD had 156 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

On the afternoon of 03/19/23, officers responded to a Hermantown residence after a parent reported an out of control teenager. Officer Prouse located the teen walking nearby. He admitted that he had struck his father's nose with his forearm as they struggled over his cell phone, but stated it was an accident. He said that his mother then threw his phone and he was having a hard time explaining how he felt, so he began breaking things. Officer Enright spoke to the parents, who were able to add more details about the situation. Officers determined that there was probable cause to arrest the teenager, who was lodged at the Arrowhead Juvenile Center and cited for domestic assault.

At approximately 11:30 a.m. on 03/23/23, officers were advised of a disturbance in the parking lot of Walmart. Employees witnessed a female following, yelling at, and pushing a male who was trying to get away from her. Officer Solem spoke to the 37-year-old man, who stated that he and the woman had been dating for three months and they had been arguing about who does more in their relationship. He said that they were planning on parking and sleeping in the Walmart lot. Officer Solem discovered that the man had warrants for his arrest and lodged him at the St. Louis County Jail. Officer Salo spoke to the 43-year-old woman and noted that she was very intoxicated. The woman was sitting in the driver's seat of a vehicle, but did not have the keys. She told Officer Salo that it was all her fault and she had been the one yelling. As the witnesses had all agreed that she had exhibited shocking and disorderly behavior, Officer Salo wrote her a citation for disorderly conduct and informed her that Walmart wanted her to leave the property. Officer Salo then located the vehicle's key on the ground nearby and advised her he would place it into safekeeping at the police department because of her level of intoxication and refusal to find a sober friend to come get her. As Officer Salo opened his squad door, the woman slammed it shut, almost catching his fingers. She would not back away from the squad door and demanded the key. Officer Salo then made the determination that the woman would be transported from the scene. She resisted when officers attempted to put her in the rear of the squad car. Eventually, she was transported by ambulance to a local hospital for her intoxication and to be evaluated for her aggressive behavior.

### Suspicious Activity:

On the afternoon of 03/19/23, a 34-year-old man reported an incident that occurred on his property on St. Louis River Road. He advised Officer Prouse that he and his wife are building a home on the property. He stated that on this date, an SUV arrived at the address and his wife's 63-year-old uncle, who they previously thought was deceased, exited the vehicle. The man reported that there were several other occupants in the vehicle while the uncle looked around the property and asked questions. The reporting party told Officer Prouse that the older man had previously lived on the property but the original house had burned down. He was concerned that the man showed up there, as he has a long history of meth use and criminal activity. The man requested that Officer



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Prouse document the incident and advised that he planned on seeking a harassment order against the older man.

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### Driving Under the Influence

Shortly after 12 a.m. on 03/19/23, Officer Stracek observed a GMC Sierra Denali traveling 52 mph in a 40 mph zone on Stebner Road. The vehicle slammed on its breaks and slowed as it passed the squad car. Officer Stracek turned around and got behind the vehicle, which was stopped at a red light at Maple Grove Road. The vehicle was waiting to turn westbound and hesitated when the light turned green before cutting across and turning eastbound. Officer Stracek followed behind the truck and observed the speed of approximately 30 mph in a 50 mph zone. He conducted a traffic stop and made contact with the 42-year-old driver, who explained he just got off night shift. He said he was in town for work and was staying in the Pike Lake area. He then stated he worked overnight shifts from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., which contradicted his earlier statement about working that night. The man eventually admitted to having "two" at a local bar. The man performed poorly on field sobriety testing and his preliminary breath test resulted in a reading of .227% blood alcohol content. Reports were forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges of 3<sup>rd</sup> degree DWI, .08 or more, and speeding.

On 03/20/23 at approximately 12:30 a.m., Officer Gottschald located a vehicle in the median of Miller Trunk Highway near Hwy 194. Officer Stracek arrived on scene and noted that it appeared that the vehicle had left the ground after leaving the roadway surface and hitting the snowbank. Officer Gottschald made contact with the driver, who was initially laying back in the driver's seat and was possibly sleeping. The 56-year-old woman was unable to explain how she ended up in the median and said she had been flashing her lights trying to get someone to stop for her. She stated she had been in the ditch since 9:30 p.m., but thought the current time was 10:43 p.m. When asked where she was coming from, the woman never answered and instead commented on other things, such as how she had to get her car running, or shook her head and rolled her eyes. Officer Stracek noted that the female's pupils were almost non-existent and very constricted and believed that she was under the influence of a Narcotic Analgesic drug. The woman showed Officer Stracek two medication bottles and stated she has more medications but refused to tell him about them. Officer Gottschald attempted to explain several times that if she has a medical condition, it may explain the situation. Officers asked if she was receiving chemotherapy, as she had no hair or eyebrows. The woman told them firmly that it was none of their business, even though they advised her they were just trying to make sure she was okay to be driving. The woman eventually admitted that she takes a Narcotic Analgesic medication, but claimed she hadn't taken it in 3-4 days. After going through some field sobriety testing, officers asked the woman if she was using any other pain medications and she yelled no. When Officer Gottschald asked her to be honest and added that it could impact her if she would be arrested for DWI, the woman stated, "oh, okay, fine, take me to jail, take me to jail." The woman sternly added that she did not have a medical condition. Charges of driving under the influence are pending the results of a blood test.





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### Trespass

On the afternoon of 03/22/23, Walmart reported an 18-year-old man in the store in violation of a trespass order. The man had originally been trespassed in June 2022 due to a shoplifting incident. Officer Solem approached the man and advised him he was trespassing. The man stated that he thought it was cleared up when he went to court for the shoplifting and said he wouldn't have gone to Walmart if he knew he was still trespassed. He was issued a citation for trespassing and said he understood.

### Check Welfare

On 03/19/23 at 9:30 a.m., a woman reported that a man walked into the carwash on Miller Trunk Highway and laid down on the floor. Officer Enright made contact with the 35-year-old man, who said he is attempting to walk to North Dakota and stopped at the carwash to warm up. Officer Enright transported the man to Pike Lake, where he got out and started walking.

At 9:30 p.m. on 03/20/23, a passerby reported finding an 83-year-old woman on the ground crawling by the road. The woman had no explanation about why she was on the ground or how long she had been there, but she was showing signs of hypothermia, so first responders were called. The woman then asked officers to check on her husband, who was located on the floor inside the door not moving. The male was blocking the door, but officers were eventually able to make entry. The man said he crawled up the driveway into the house and could no longer move. Both parties were transported to a local hospital.

### Miscellaneous

On 03/20/23, a male reported that a 56-year-old Hermantown resident had given his teenage daughter six ounces of rum over the weekend. He said that the girl's mother left her at the man's house for a couple hours. An interview was scheduled for the next day with the man and his daughter, but they didn't show up or answer the phone.

### Theft

On 03/23/23, a 29-year-old business owner reported that someone had hacked his email in early February and used it to contact his bank. The suspect used the email to request that the bank add an additional user to his account, using a West Virginia ID for a 57-year-old woman. The suspect then created two transfers from the man's business account for a total loss of \$227,930.40. The transfers went to different banks with different recipients. This case is under investigation.

On 03/25/23, Officer Solem spoke to a woman, who reported that she and her husband purchased a vehicle and had not received it. She stated that her husband found the vehicle on Facebook Marketplace and was being sold by an auto sales business in Illinois. She stated they paid \$22,999 via wire transfer and the vehicle was supposed to be delivered by 03/24/23. She stated they have been unable to get in touch with the business and the phone number they were given is now "unavailable." The woman said that she contacted the police in the jurisdiction of the auto sales company and were told that the business does not exist. This incident is under investigation.