



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 04/02/23 to 04/08/23, the Hermantown PD had 202 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 12:50 a.m. on 04/07/23, officers responded to a Haines Road residence for the report of a domestic disturbance involving a 79-year-old man and 64-year-old woman. They told officers that they are going through a divorce and an agreement between the attorneys allows the woman and a guest to live at the residence every other week with the man. The man said that he left for the evening and when he returned, he found that the woman and her brother had broken into his bedroom and a locked office. He said that the woman was making copies of documents that belong to him, so he grabbed the papers from her and she quickly grabbed them back. He also stated that the woman's brother pushed him. The woman stated that when the man came home, he got in her face and was yelling, so her brother stepped between them. She said that this occurred approximately two hours before the man called 911. Officers advised the man that the woman still has standing in the home and can access all areas of the house. The woman did not want to leave for the night and the man assured officers he would be going to bed.

Driving Under the Influence

Shortly before 3 a.m. on 04/02/23, Officer Stracek observed a Subaru Forester with loud exhaust and tabs that expired in December 2022. He performed a traffic stop on the vehicle and noted that the vehicle was displaying an old license plate. The 28-year-old male driver explained that he remembered that his tabs were expired the weekend before. The man appeared to be sluggish and lethargic. When asked where he was coming from, he said home; when asked where he was going to, he again said home. He appeared confused and then stated he was at a friend's house but said he didn't know where it was. Officer Stracek detected an odor of alcoholic beverage coming from the man's breath. He noted that the man had slurred speech, glossy and bloodshot eyes, and was trailing off on different tangents. There were multiple opened cans of beer in the backseat that appeared to be empty. After the man stepped out of the vehicle to perform field sobriety testing, he offered to take his jacket off. Officer Stracek told him he could keep it on to stay warm, but the man insisted on taking it off and throwing it back into his vehicle. During testing, the man explained his footwear and how the "toe is not fully surrounded by the circumference of the tip" before bending over and feeling the toe of his shoe, stating that he didn't feel the tip of his toe. The man provided a preliminary breath sample, which resulted in a reading of .148% blood alcohol content. The man was placed into handcuffs and searched; Officer Stracek located a rolled up dollar bill that appeared to be used for snorting illegal substances. Officer Stracek then checked the man's jacket and located a small plastic baggie that contained a white powder-like substance that later tested positive for cocaine. The sample has been sent to the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and charges of DWI and possession of a controlled substance are pending the results of the testing.

On 04/04/23 at 1:30 a.m., Officer Stracek observed a Ford Fusion with a broken rear bumper and burnt out license plate lights on Haines Road. He activated his radar and noted that the vehicle was traveling 50 mph in a 40 mph zone. As the vehicle approached the intersection with Morris Thomas



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Road, Officer Stracek saw it slow for another vehicle, then continue through the stop sign without stopping. He performed a traffic stop and made contact with the 19-year-old male driver. While speaking with the man, Officer Stracek detected an overwhelming odor of alcoholic beverage emitting from the vehicle. The driver denied drinking and claimed his passengers, who were underage, had been drinking. The driver was uncoordinated as he looked for his license and struggled to find his insurance on his cell phone. He said they had gone to Taco Bell and were headed back home. The man also said he believed he had stopped for three seconds at the stop sign. The driver agreed to perform field sobriety testing and his preliminary breath test resulted in a reading of .111% blood alcohol content. The man was cited for 4th degree DWI, .08 or more, speeding, and failing to stop for a stop sign. The 18-year-old male passenger provided a preliminary breath test with a reading of .000%. The 16-year-old female in the car provided a preliminary breath test with a reading of .036%. She was cited for underage consumption and her parents were contacted.

Drugs

On 04/02/23, just before 10 p.m., Officer Prouse was monitoring Miller Trunk Highway traffic when he observed an Audi with an inoperable license plate light. As he drove up behind the vehicle, it quickly slowed down to approximately 44 mph in a 55 mph zone before eventually turning onto Highway 194. After being pulled over, the 41-year-old driver said he lived in the Twin Cities area and was up visiting his son. Officer Prouse noted that the front seat passenger would not make eye contact with him and was speaking with someone on his cell phone the entire time Officer Prouse was talking to the driver. Officer Prouse attempted to speak to the passenger, who initially would not acknowledge him. The passenger eventually turned and gave his name. Officer Prouse checked the name in police records and discovered that the man was not who he said he was. He was able to identify the passenger by a distinct tattoo on his neck. The man later admitted that he gave his brother's name because he had warrants. After the 36-year-old man was placed under arrest and handcuffed, he admitted to Officer Prouse that he had drugs in his underwear. A small baggie containing fentanyl was removed from the man's boxers. In the vehicle, officers located a glass jar containing methamphetamine behind the passenger seat. Both the driver and passenger denied that the jar was theirs. Officer Prouse advised the driver that he would be speaking to the county attorney about charges relating to the methamphetamine, as it was located in a vehicle registered to him. The passenger was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail on warrants, providing a false name, and 5th degree possession of a controlled substance.

Accident

On 04/06/23 at approximately 3:30 p.m., Officer Solem responded to an accident involving a school bus. A 35-year-old man reported that he was stopped behind the bus on Terrace Circle at the intersection with Stebner when it began backing up. He said he didn't have time to move before the bus hit the front of his car. The 76-year-old bus driver stated he was stopped at the intersection when a child on the bus woke up and told him that he had to be dropped off at a Terrace Circle address they had already passed. The bus driver said he didn't see the vehicle behind him and he proceeded to drive in reverse so the student could get off closer to his house.



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The bus driver had to leave to continue his route, but he was advised he would be cited for duty to drive with due care.

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Public Assist

On the afternoon of 04/07/23, a 34-year-old woman reported that she had accidentally locked herself out of her residence and her 2-year-old child was inside alone. Officer Solem responded and, with the woman's permission, kicked a door in so that the woman could reunite with her child.

Miscellaneous

On 04/04/23, Officer Prouse created a report to document a predatory offender registration he had been working on for the previous month. In early March, he contacted a 26-year-old resident to conduct a compliance check. The man requested that a vehicle he no longer owned be removed from his profile. A short time later, Officer Prouse advised the man that he needed to sign off on the change of information form, but the man stated he wouldn't be home until later. The following day, Officer Prouse again attempted to make contact with the man, but was unable to. In mid-March, Officer Prouse noted that two probation violation warrants were issued for the man's arrest. He called and texted the man multiple times with no response. When he went to the man's listed address, a female said the man was not there. Several days later, he again attempted to make contact with the man and was unsuccessful. After a final attempted phone call, Officer Prouse mailed the man a letter advising him that he had ten days to contact the Hermantown Police Department or he may be found to be not in compliance with his predatory offender status. On 04/04/23, this report was forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office.

Theft

On 04/02/23 at approximately 10:30 a.m., Officer Gottschald responded to the Country Inn and Suites. A 41-year-old man reported that he was staying at the hotel and that sometime after 10 p.m. the previous night, the tonneau cover was cut open. The man said that his daughter's pink camouflage compound bow had been taken. The bow was in a black case and had two sights, six arrows, bow pod, stabilizer, release, quiver, three weights, and drop away arrow set. The bow and accessories were valued at \$872. The man said that all the doors were locked and no access was made to the truck cab.

On the morning of 04/06/23, Officer Solem was advised of a vehicle prowling at the Frito Lay warehouse on Midway Road. The reporting party stated that one of the trucks was broken into on 04/04/23. Frito Lay provided surveillance video of the incident, which showed the suspect vehicle arriving in the lot just after 5 p.m. on 04/04/23. The suspect was on the property for approximately twenty minutes. The driver of the truck that had been entered told Officer Solem that she was positive she locked the truck after finishing her route on 04/04/23. She took an inventory of the truck and found that 59 food items with a total value of \$174.61 were stolen. She stated that the food items were boxes of chips, cookies, and dips.