



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

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 04/16/23 to 04/22/23, the Hermantown PD had 196 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 04/17/23 at 11:16 a.m., dispatched received a 911 call from an upset female wanting her boyfriend to be removed from her camper, stating that he threw pop on her. A call had also come in from the woman's number at 11:10 a.m., at which time she advised that she did not intend to dial 911. The dispatcher was attempting to get information from the woman, who was not interested in answering questions and hung up the phone. Squads responded to the residence and made contact with the 45-year-old woman, who said she no longer needed law enforcement assistance because she and the 33-year-old male came to a "resolution." She said law enforcement response was too speedy and she did not get the chance to call back and advised dispatch to cancel.

Just after noon on 04/19/23, officers responded to a residence on Haines Road after a man reported that his female friend was unwanted and would not leave. Officers arrived and the 44-year-old man told them that the woman had arrived at the residence on the evening of 04/18/ and became belligerent. He said he has a rule that if guests become unruly, they need to leave. He said that he told the woman to leave and she declined, lit a cigarette and began walking around like she owned the place. Officers entered the residence and made contact with the 44-year-old woman, who they discovered had an active felony warrant for damage to property. She was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for her warrant.

### Animal Disturbance

On the evening of 04/21/23, a man reported that he had been walking his new dog on a leash on Hagberg Road when dogs from a residence came out onto the street and became aggressive toward his dog. Officer Leibel spoke to the 36-year-old homeowner, who admitted the dogs were off leash and understood why the man was upset. She was advised to keep her dogs on a leash to eliminate problems in the future.

### Driving Under the Influence

On 04/17/23 at 11:58 p.m., Officer Stracek was dispatched to attempt to locate a possible impaired driver that had been at a local gas station. As he was traveling northbound on Miller Trunk Highway, Officer Stracek located the suspect vehicle traveling southbound. After turning around to follow the vehicle, he observed it drift onto the shoulder before jerking back into the lane. The passenger then threw a lit cigarette out the window. The vehicle then stopped at a red turning arrow, passing the stop line and stopping in the intersection. The vehicle stayed stopped at the light for an extended period of time after the arrow turned green. After performing a traffic stop on the vehicle, Officer Stracek made contact with the 30-year-old driver and passenger, who were both smoking heavily. In addition to repeatedly reaching under his seat, the driver was displaying intoxicated behavior. After performed field sobriety testing, the man provided a preliminary breath sample with a reading of .185% blood alcohol content. A criminal history search showed a prior DWI in Wisconsin in 2021. During a search of the vehicle prior to it being towed, Officer Stracek located a bag of marijuana



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under the driver's seat. It was later weighed at 6.3 grams. Reports were sent to the prosecuting attorney for charges of 2<sup>nd</sup> degree DWI, .08 or more, marijuana in a motor vehicle, and driving after revocation.

### Miscellaneous

On the evening of 04/22/23, a 26-year-old man reported that his ex-girlfriend had installed an Apple AirTag on a car seat that she insisted he take that morning when he picked up their child. He told Officer Battaglia that he was later notified by his cell phone that there was an AirTag in close proximity to him even after he dropped his child off, when his ex told him to keep the car seat because she had just purchased a new one. He said that the woman was served the previous day with custody paperwork. He was advised on the Order for Protection and Harassment Order process that the incident would be documented.

### Drugs

At 2:40 a.m. on 04/16/23, Officer Enright observed a sedan without a front license plate. He then observed the vehicle turned down a dead-end street after a truck. The sedan made it partially down the road before turning around. The driver drove up to Officer Enright's marked squad. The 23-year-old man held up his cellphone and stated he was lost and was trying to get to Hibbing after dropping friends off in West Duluth. Officer Enright observed a large marijuana bong in the backseat of the vehicle and noted that the man appeared to be nervous. During a search of the vehicle, Officer Enright located a vest with an "Aryan Cowboys Brotherhood MC" patch. The man said it belonged to a friend. In the backseat, a backpack containing a large amount of prepackaged marijuana was also located. The man denied selling the drugs, stating he smokes it himself. The marijuana was packaged into 16 packages of with a total weight of 54.9 grams. Officer Enright later researched the Aryan Cowboys Brotherhood Motorcycle Cycle and found it is a Minnesota-based "small white supremacist prison/street gang." He located a social media photo of the driver wearing the vest he claimed didn't belong to him. Reports were forwarded to the prosecuting attorney for charges of 5<sup>th</sup> degree possession, possession of drug paraphernalia, and no front license plate.

On 04/16/23, Officer Enright responded to Walmart, where he met with a loss prevention employee. The man turned over a clear plastic baggie containing a white crystalline substance consistent with methamphetamine. He said that an employee located the bag on the floor of the grocery department.

### Theft

On the morning of 04/21/23, Officer Leibel was advised of a theft at the Country Inn & Suites. Three company vehicles had been entered and 22 tools valued at \$15,602 had been taken.