



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

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 04/30/23 to 05/06/23, the Hermantown PD had 176 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

### Assault

On 05/05/23 at 10:41 p.m., a woman reported a domestic disturbance at a neighbor's residence between a husband and wife. The woman also stated that another man tried to intervene and was assaulted by the husband. Officers arrived on the scene and spoke to the 40-year-old man that was assaulted. He initially cut them off and told them not to worry about him but to go worry about "the wife." He said he had been at his friend's house for five or six hours and they had been drinking. He explained that his friend became angry when his wife didn't want to go to bed and he grabbed her by the throat and was slamming her on the sink. The man said he stepped in to pull the suspect off of the woman when the suspect punched him in the face. Officers noted a laceration near the man's eye that was actively bleeding and requested paramedics respond to provide medical care. The man declined to pursue charges for the assault. A white male with no shirt on then exited the residence and identified himself as the 42-year-old husband involved in the altercation. The man was handcuffed and placed into a squad car while officers spoke to the victim. While speaking to officers, the woman asked several times if the man was in custody and it was apparent that she was in fear of him. The 43-year-old explained that she and her husband had been married for ten years and said that the man drinks every day, calling him a "snaky drunk." The woman eventually admitted that he intimidates her with his size and tells her that he could hurt her if he wanted. The woman mentioned wanting an Order for Protection against her husband, but also stated that he had violated previous OFPs several times. Officers were advised that two children at the residence witnessed the incident. The older child explained what she had seen and said she was crying and screaming during the incident. The man was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for domestic assault. This charge was enhanced to a felony due to his prior convictions of domestic violence related offenses in the past ten years, including terroristic threats, violation of an Order for Protection, and stalking.

### Trespassing

On 05/01/23 at 4:15 p.m., Officer Enright was dispatched to a trespassing incident at Walmart in which a female was in the store with a small child. Officer Enright viewed a booking photo of the suspect before he and loss prevention staff approached her in the shoe department. She told the staff member that she didn't know she was trespassed. Loss Prevention was able to pull up records showing that she had been trespassed for one year on 11/13/22 when she was stopped for shoplifting. The 37-year-old woman was cited for trespassing and was re-trespassed until 05/01/24. While in the loss prevention office, the woman said that if she hadn't been confronted that day, she was planning on shoplifting and she would likely continue to steal forever.

Just before 1 p.m. on 05/06/23, Menards reported a female that was trespassing and stated that she was with a male and they had both been at the store a few days before, as well. Both parties left the store before squads arrived and Officer Leibel located them at McDonald's. The 48-year-old woman confirmed that she had just been at Menards. She remembered being trespassed from the Superior Menards, but said it was over a year ago. The Menards manager provided a copy of the trespass



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notice that the woman had signed, dated 10/31/22, showing she was trespassed for one year. He also stated that he believed both parties had been involved in a theft a few days before but he didn't have proof. Both parties were issued new trespass notices. The woman was cited for trespassing.

### Check Welfare

Just after 10:30 a.m. on 05/01/23, Officer Stracek received a request to check the welfare of a 68-year-old Hermantown resident. The caller was concerned after receiving information from another family member about the woman's living conditions, including that she had previously taken in a pregnant cat and it was unknown how many cats now lived in the home. The caller stated that the fire department had responded to the residence a number of times recently to assist with lifting the woman after she had fallen. Officer Stracek arrived at the residence and knocked with no response. He was unable to see or hear the woman inside and noted that he could smell the strong odor of cat feces and urine from outside the home. Dispatch reviewed calls at the address and determined that the woman had fallen six times in the last 24 hours. Due to the history, Officer Stracek was concerned that the woman was inside needing assistance and he obtained a key from a neighbor. He located the resident, who said she had been sleeping. Officer Stracek reassured the woman that he wanted to support her in any way he could, but she refused all help and would not go to the hospital. Photos were taken of the residence and Officer Stracek documented the conditions, stating in his report that he was feeling nauseous even with an N95 mask on. He also noted that the odor in the home was so extreme, his uniform was soiled with the smell for the rest of the day. At 3 p.m. on the same day, Hermantown Fire Department and Mayo Ambulance were dispatched to the address for a lift assist after the woman contact a neighbor for help. Officer Stracek arrived first and located the woman lying on the living room floor. He observed the cat hair path where she crawled from the bathroom, where she had fallen. The woman still refused to go to the hospital, but paramedics insisted on taking her. Officer Stracek's report was forwarded to social services for an emergency review of the living conditions.

### Theft

On 05/02/23, Country Inn & Suites reported a theft that occurred the previous night. The manager said that \$180 was missing from the register when the count was performed, so she reviewed video and discovered the theft. Just after 9 p.m. the previous night, a male dressed in black, a hood, and a mask walked in through the front door, jumped over the counter, grabbed the money and left.

On the afternoon of 05/03/23, Menards reported a shoplifting that occurred earlier in the day. Officer Leibel met with loss prevention staff, who advised that a male walked into the store with a sweatshirt draped over his shoulders. The man was observed selecting a \$269 hammer drill before disappearing from view. A few minutes later, the man reappeared and was cradling the sweatshirt under his arm, clearly concealing an item. A Menards employee discovered the empty hammer drill box shortly after the suspect exited the store. On 05/08/23, Officer Leibel received an alert that the hammer drill had been pawned for \$52. The pawn shop provided photos of the man, who matched the suspect in the theft. The 20-year-old man was mailed a citation for theft.