



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

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 05/14/23 to 05/20/23, the Hermantown PD had 200 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

## K-9 Officers

Tuuko  
Jack

## Records

Jessica Sorensen  
Dana Ross  
Samantha Knapp

### Disturbance

On the afternoon of 05/18/23, officers were dispatched to the report of a physical domestic at the Econo Lodge. The reporting party stated that a male and female were outside and she observed the female hit the male first and then the male hit back. She stated the male was a guest of the motel and he went back to his room. A witness, the motel manager, stated that the pair began arguing in the hallway before going outside. She was watching through a window when the woman grabbed the man's hair in one hand and hit in the face with the other. The male then responded by punching the woman twice before his friends pulled him away. The manager wanted the female trespasses, as the woman began yelling when she was told to leave the property. Officers located the female, who got into the driver's seat of a vehicle and did not comply with numerous commands to exit the vehicle. She pulled body closer to the center of the car and yelling "don't touch me" several times. As officers attempted to remove the woman from the vehicle, she resisted and screamed, and officers noted it appeared she was trying to make as big of a scene as possible. The woman eventually agreed to exit the vehicle, but again was uncooperative, screaming and resisting as officers handcuffed her and placed her into the back of a squad car. The male was not located and his friends stated he had left already and was headed toward St. Paul. They opened the door of what they said was the man's room and he was not inside. The female eventually told officers that she drove two hours to the Econo Lodge today to surprise her boyfriend. She said that he told her he was working, but when she got to the motel, she located him inside and confronted him about lying to her. She admitted that she got upset and grabbed on to him, ripping his shirt, and said that he punched her. Officers learned that the female was 17 years old and made contact with her mother by phone. She was lodged at Bethany Children's facility as a safe place to stay until her mother could get to town to pick her up. The woman was cited for disorderly conduct and obstructing police. A citation was mailed to the 18-year-old man for disorderly conduct.

### Order Violation

On the morning of 05/17/23, a 33-year-old man contacted the Hermantown Police Department looking to retrieve personal property from his vehicle, which is being held for forfeiture. At approximately 11 a.m., the man arrived at the police department as a passenger in a Nissan Rogue. While the man collected his items from his vehicle, detectives discovered that the driver of the Rogue had an active Order for Protection against him. The 33-year-old woman told detectives that she obtained the order after a domestic incident in Duluth, but said she thought it only prevented him from going to her work of home addresses. The man admitted he had been served but claimed he did not understand the



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information in the order. Detective Williams located the order and accompanying paperwork. He noted that it clearly states that the man shall have no direct or indirect contact with the woman. The man was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail and was cited for the order violation.

### Drugs

Shortly after noon on 05/14/23, Officer Stracek conducted a routine license plate query and discovered that the owner had a revoked driver's license and active warrant for assault. He observed the vehicle turn eastbound onto Market Street as he turned southbound onto Loberg. He made a u-turn and discovered that the vehicle had done the same and was now at the red light facing westbound on Market Street. He turned onto Market Street to get behind the vehicle, but it turned northbound onto Loberg Avenue. He turned on his emergency lights and as he attempted to catch up to the vehicle he observed the occupant throw two sandwich baggies out of the window. The vehicle eventually came to a stop and Officer Stracek made contact with the 30-year-old female driver. He admitted to having a warrant and denied throwing anything out of her vehicle. She provided her Minnesota Identification Card and tried to call her boyfriend for current proof of insurance. The woman eventually admitted to throwing something out of the window, but denied that it was drugs. Officer Enright located the baggies; one contained twenty-three (23) M30 pills and the other had an unknown powdery substance. The woman later said that the white powder was crushed M30 pills. She claimed that her boyfriend had forgotten his drugs in her car the day before. A relative responded to the scene and picked up the two juvenile passengers that were in the car with the woman. She was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for her warrant. Charges of drug possession are pending test results. M30 pills are known to be counterfeit and laced with fentanyl.

### Damage to Property

On 05/17/23 at 3 p.m., Officer Salo responded to Sam's Club after a 40-year-old man reported that his truck had been damaged while he was in the store. Surveillance video showed a cart collector park his motorized cart mover across from a cart corral, behind the suspect's truck. The suspect walked out of the store and the cart collector walked in front of him, wearing blaze yellow. The suspect walked directly to the cart mover, stood behind it for a few seconds and activated it. The cart mover moved forward and a row of carts broke free, striking the victim's truck as the suspect watched. The suspect then got into his truck and left the parking lot without making an attempt to speak to the cart collector, the truck owner, anyone in the store, or police. Sam's Club was able to identify the suspect and on 05/18/23, Officer Salo was able to make contact with the 65-year-old man by phone. He confirmed it was him in the parking lot and admitted that the carts



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damaged the truck. He said that he did not think it was his responsibility since the carts were left unattended and unsecured on a hill. Officer Salo advised him that he was on video moving the cart mover, causing the carts to hit the truck. He agreed that he moved the cart, but still did not feel that he was responsible. He claimed he was looking for a cart attendant but did not see one. Officer Salo advised the man he would not be pursuing this as a criminal incident at this time, but he may be contacted by the victim's insurance company.

### Theft

On 05/16/23 at 2:20 a.m., night staff at the Country Inn & Suites reported an attempted theft. She described the man, including his black hoodie with a green dragon printed on the back. The woman advised officers that she was in an adjacent room when she heard the front door open around 2:17 a.m. She stated that she assumed it was a guest, as they walked passed the counter, which she was viewing on camera. She stated that the man began walking back toward the desk, so she started walking to the front. When she emerged from the room she was in, the man was on top of the counter. He fled when she asked what he was doing. The woman told officers she believed that the suspect is the same man who stole money on 05/03/23. In that incident, a male called from a cell phone and asked for towels to be delivered to a guest room. When the front desk employee stepped away from the desk, the suspect walked into the lobby and jumped behind the desk, stealing money out of the cash drawer. While Hermantown officers were investigating, Duluth Police advised they had performed a traffic stop on a vehicle and the driver matched the description of the suspect in this incident and had a sweatshirt on the seat that matched the suspect's sweatshirt. The 21-year-old man was identified as a former employee of the hotel. He had been terminated from his night auditor position in January 2023. The man was released pending further investigation into the previous theft.

Just after 5:30 a.m. on 05/17/23, Officer Battaglia was advised of a vehicle prowling at the Holiday Inn Express. The 46-year-old reporting party advised that his CN work truck was broken into overnight and the suspect gained entry by cutting a lock that allows access to multiple compartments on the back of the truck. The man stated that multiple Milwaukee tools and batteries were stolen, along with a \$1000 jump pack. The value of the items taken was approximately \$6,264.90.