



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 06/04/23 to 06/10/23, the Hermantown PD had 199 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
Dana Ross
Samantha Knapp

Driving Under the Influence

At 1010 hours on 6/5, Officer Enright was dispatched to a welfare check at 3800 block of Okerstrom Rd. Dispatch advised that a male riding a lawn mower stopped in front of the address and appeared to be passed out. Officer Enright located the male driving a John Deere riding lawn mower EB on Hermantown Rd. The male was riding the fog line before going out into the middle of the EB driving lane. The 69-year-old male did not follow basic directions, had a hard time keeping his balance and a strong odor of alcoholic beverage was emitting from his breath. Officer Enright also noticed a 375 ml bottle of Jim Beam in the cupholder that was 75% empty which the male admitted to drinking. Due to the performance in SFSTs, and his inability to communicate with officers in a meaningful way on scene, Officer Enright thought it would be best to draft a search warrant for a blood draw. After receiving the lab reports back from the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, the driver was ultimately charged with 2nd Degree DWI.

At 0110 hours on 6/9, Officer Stracek was on routine patrol traveling EB on Anderson Rd from Stebner Rd. He observed a black SUV traveling EB ahead of himself. The vehicle drifted over the centerline and back into the EB driving lane multiple times. Upon making contact with the 42-year-old male driver, Officer Stracek detected a strong odor of alcoholic beverage emitting from the vehicle. The male also had glossy eyes and slurred speech. He admitted to drinking earlier in the night, and stated he was willing to perform SFSTs, which the PBT resulted in a 0.169. His DMT resulted in a 0.16 at 0226 hours. He is being charged with 3rd Deg DWI, 3rd Deg 0.08 or more, and with Failure to Drive in a Single Lane.

Theft

On 6/9, Officer Enright was dispatched to a gas drive off at the Holiday gas station. Dispatch advised that a black male in a greenish van drove away without paying for \$59.48 worth of gas. Officer Prouse stated over the air that he located the suspect vehicle and performed a traffic stop on it near the intersection of Maple Grove and Haines. The 34-year-old male driver was identified as was the passenger in the vehicle. The 52-year-old male passenger had a \$5,000 warrant out of another county. Officer Prouse transported the man to the SLCJ after the warrant was confirmed. Officer Enright issued the driver a citation for Theft and Driving after Revocation.



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Disturbance

On 06/08/2023 at 1845 hours, Officer Stracek was dispatched to a disturbance at Walmart located at 4740 Loberg Avenue in the City of Hermantown. The reporting party called advising that a male was hitting a female in the parking lot and provided a description.

Officers arrived on scene and located the involved parties who were identified. The 38-year-old female was arrested for a warrant and the 36-year-old male was detained in a squad car during the investigation.

While Officer Stracek was assisting with the female's arrest, he observed in her cart that she had a reusable bag of new items from Walmart that were placed in the bag. There was also numerous random receipts and the items appeared as if they were quickly tossed in the bag. The female later admitted to Officer Gottschald that the items were stolen and stated that the male committed the theft. The male later admitted that he didn't have the money for the items and he admitted to stealing them from Walmart.

The male was issued a citation for shoplifting and was advised he was trespassed from all Walmart's and Sam's Clubs for a period of one year.

Accident

On June 9, 2023 at 1351 hours, Officer Prouse was dispatched to a report of a 3-vehicle accident with injuries at the intersection of Midway Rd and Hwy 2. The officer arrived on scene and observed two vehicles that were pulled over to the shoulder of the roadway. A third vehicle was stopped in the driving lane of Midway Road. Officer Prouse pulled up and contacted the three involved parties. All parties advised they were in fact OK and did not want any medical attention.

After obtaining everyone's information, officers spoke with a female driver of Vehicle 2 that was involved, who stopped behind Vehicle 1 at the red light waiting to drive NB on Midway Rd. The female driver stated she saw Vehicle 3 in her rear-view mirror driving NB on Midway Rd, approaching her vehicle at a high rate of speed and did not believe Vehicle 3 was slowing down, and in turn Vehicle 3 rear ended Vehicle 2. The crash caused Vehicle 2 to move forward and crash into the rear tow hitch of Vehicle 1. Officer Prouse spoke with the male driver of Vehicle 1, who stated he did not see the crash occur, he just felt Vehicle 2 rear end his tow hitch. Officer Johnson spoke with the female driver of Vehicle 3, who stated she was slowing down as she was coming up behind Vehicle 2, but then she believed cars started moving forward and she must have accelerated too hard. Officers also observed heavy damage to the front of Vehicle 3 and oil was leaking out.



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After speaking with all the parties, the Driver of Vehicle 3 was ultimately issued a citation for following too closely.

On June 9, 2023 at 0516 hours, Officer Stracek was alerted of a vehicle vs. deer accident that had just occurred, resulting in a disabled vehicle. The 23-year-old male driver was traveling eastbound on Maple Grove Road from Lavaque Road and a deer jumped out near Getchell Road. The male struck the deer with his driver's side headlight area damaging his fender, hood and light. It was noted that the deer ran off and officers were unable to find it in the nearby area. The vehicle had to be towed from the scene.