



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 06/18/23 to 06/24/23, the Hermantown PD had 174 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

Recovered Stolen Vehicle

On 6/20, Officer Stracek was conducting extra patrol in the Econo Lodge parking lot due to recent vehicle prowls and narcotic activity that had been reported there over the last several months. While in the lot, he observed a red Subaru Forester with a male sleeping in the driver's seat. The license plate query came back with a stolen hit out of Duluth and the vehicle was listed as stolen. A felony stop was conducted and the male complied with the orders he was given. DPD Officers responded to the scene, and took the man into custody.

Accident with Personal Injury

On 06/18/2023 at 2020 hours, Sergeant Pernu responded to a two-vehicle accident with injuries near the intersection of Midway/Jamebard Road. Officers arrived on scene with medical and began treating patients.

Vehicle 1 was sitting facing in an eastern direction in the southbound lane with heavy front-end damage and damage to the rear passenger side as well. All air bags appeared to have been deployed. Vehicle 2 was in the ditch on the west side of Midway Road and had heavy front-end damage and all air bags appeared to have been deployed. Due to the severity of the accident and need for immediate medical treatment, officers were not immediately able to talk to the drivers of the vehicle. Additionally, they were unable to identify any witnesses on scene. All uninvolved parties who stopped had only come upon the accident.

Once all patients were transported to area hospitals, Sergeant Pernu was able to speak with the driver of Vehicle 1. The 36-year-old male stated he and his family were driving home from Milwaukee and that their home address within a short distance of the accident location on Midway Road. The man said he remembered looking in the back seat of the car while driving north on Midway Road. He said his wife yelled and he looked up to find himself in the southbound lane of Midway Road. The man told officers he did not believe he was making a left hand turn into his driveway at the time of the accident.

After the accident scene had been cleared, Pernu then went and spoke with the Driver of Vehicle 2 at the hospital. The 21-year-old female stated she was driving south on Midway Road and said she was driving fast but did not remember her speed. She stated she saw Vehicle 1 begin turning slowly into her oncoming lane. The female said she began turning her vehicle towards the ditch to avoid Vehicle 1, but it continued to turn into her. She recalled Vehicle 1 struck her head on, on the driver's side of her vehicle. The collision then forced her vehicle into the ditch.



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Due to the other passengers receiving medical treatment, officers were unable to speak with them regarding the accident. Both vehicles were severely damaged by the accident. The accident occurred during evening hours under cloudy conditions.

Based on the statements obtained, the male driver was mailed a citation for Inattentive Driving.

Hit and Run

On 6/20/2023 at 1529 hours, Officer Enright was dispatched to a hit and run at Sam's Club in Hermantown. Dispatch advised the reporting party's truck was hit within the last 45 minutes and a witness left a note on his vehicle with information on the vehicle that hit his. The owner of the truck showed officers a large indent on the corner of the rear bumper on the driver side. There was white paint transfer in the dent and on scuff marks leading from the dent up the side of the van to the rear driver side tail light.

The owner stated he noticed a note that was left on his car by a witness to the incident, explaining how they watched a white truck hit the vehicle and wrote down the license plate information and the witnesses contact information. The witness was contacted by officers and the woman explained that she witnessed the white truck back out of a parking spot and hit the victim truck. She said the collision was loud and obvious and there was no way the driver didn't know he hit the vehicle.

On 6/23, officers met with a Sam's Club manager who showed surveillance video of the incident. During the viewing, the male driver's identity was established.

Officer Enright called and asked the male suspect if he knew why officers were calling and he said he didn't. Officer Enright stated after reviewing footage, he found it impossible to believe that the suspect didn't know he hit a car and was looking for honesty from him. The suspect explained his truck is large and it can be hard to park in tight spots and it may have been possible for him to hit something without realizing. Officers explained to the suspect again that based on the surveillance video and the witness statements, there was no way it was believed that he didn't know he struck the vehicle. The suspect still denied knowledge of hitting the vehicle. Officers then advised the suspect that he would be receiving a citation for Hit and Run.

Miscellaneous

On 06/23/2023, a local church member from Trinity Episcopal Church on Maple Grove Road turned in a wallet that was found in their prayer box. The box is located in the front of the church entrance. Detective Williams located a phone number for the presumed owner and was able to reach her. The female stated that she reported the wallet stolen to the Eagan Police Department back on June 13th. The victim believed the wallet was taken while she was at a local park there. The female requested her wallet be mailed back to her address in Hastings, MN and that she had already cancelled all of her credit and debit cards.



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Gas Drive Off

On June 20, 2023 at 1658 hours, officers received a call from the Fleet Farm Gas Mart in regards to a vehicle driving away from the pumps without paying for gas. Officer Gottschald spoke with loss prevention who said it was not obvious if it was intentional or not. Officers called the owner of the vehicle, a 62-year-old male, who said he inserted his card and thought he paid. The man told officers that he would return in the morning to pay for the gas. Officers advised Fleet Farm of this. The store alerted they would call back if the man did not return and pay for the gas. Nothing further for now.

Community Engagement

On June 23, 2023, in partnership with Fleet Farm for their "Hometown Heroes" event, Hermantown officers participated in a community event called "Touch a Truck", which was a hands-on learning event for kids and adults to get a chance to see their favorite trucks up close and personal. Officer Erika Johnson, the School Resource Officer for the Hermantown Police Department, said the event was a great way to show the community a little bit about the department and their vehicles. Attendees got to check out fire trucks and firefighters, the Mayo Ambulance and crew and Hermantown police with their vehicles. The event was planned for 12-4pm, but it ended a bit early due to rain showers. Officer Johnson said she looked forward to future events partnered with Fleet Farm.