



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 06/25/23 to 07/01/23, the Hermantown PD had 189 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

Fireworks

On June 30, 2023, 911 received a call stating that near Kenroy Road area there was people lighting off fireworks nearby that were going into the air. The RP stated the fireworks landed into the tree and now they see people are running with buckets of water. The caller didn't believe fire department was needed at this time. Officers checked the area while illuminating their emergency lights. The officer stated they observed no one outside anywhere, no trees on fire, and no smell of fireworks.

Accident

On June 29, 2023, Officers were alerted of a two-car accident with possible injuries. Driver 1, a 35-year-old female, was southbound on Midway and vehicles were backed up leading into the roundabout. She stated she was slowing down and saw Vehicle 2 in her rear-view mirror before they rear ended her.

Driver 2, a 20-year-old female, stated she was southbound Midway and when she realized the cars in front of her were backed up and stopping, but it was too late and she rear ended Vehicle 1. A child passenger in Vehicle 1 was in the backseat and was complaining of a headache and may have gotten the wind knocked out of her. No other injuries reported on scene. Severe front-end damage to Vehicle 2 and airbags were deployed. Both vehicles needed to be towed. Ultimately, Driver 2 was tagged for inattentive driving.

Found Property

On June 29, 2023, a woman called in from out of state about her daughter's lost cell phone. She explained to officers that her daughter is a flight attendant and on the east coast right now. Somehow, her daughter's phone ended up in the purse of an elderly woman at the Apple store in Minneapolis. It should be noted this woman is not a suspect in a theft. This appeared to be accidental or this 93-year-old woman was unwitting of someone who stole the phone at airport and ditched it at the Mall of America. The women drove up to Hermantown and officers retrieved the phone when she discovered it. The phone was found to be in lost mode. Officers connected back with the caller by phone and worked out a plan to get the phone back to the family.



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Shoplifting

On 06/30/23, Officer Salo responded to a shoplifting in progress at 4740 Loberg Ave, The Hermantown Walmart. Dispatch advised that a suspect pushed merchandise out a fire door and ran towards Hom Furniture. The suspect had left with expensive stolen electronics.

Responding officers immediately recognized the suspect from a past shoplifting incident in Hermantown. During that incident, the 35-year-old male resisted physically for several minutes while high on methamphetamine.

Officers noticed the suspect had a backpack on the ground near him, observing that he had a hatchet attached to the outside of his backpack. The backpack appeared to be full. The suspect denied coming from Walmart when asked. The party was eventually detained and returned to Walmart. The total amount of the theft was valued at \$643.75.

Through reviewing footage from the last nine days of push out incidents, Walmart Loss Prevention was able to identify the suspect having a total of three thefts within that time frame. The total value of the three thefts was \$1,040.75, making the theft a felony. The items recovered from the theft on 06/30/23 were returned. The other items from earlier in the nine days were not recovered. Ultimately, the man was charged with Felony Theft and MS Trespassing.

Suspicious Activity

On June 28, 2023, 911 received a call from a local business stating there was a couple of large grey bins sitting outside near the corner of Sunrise Cemetery and they were concerned about the possible contents and felt that it should be checked out. Officers arrived on scene shortly and the bins were found to contain Holiday Decorations. Public works was notified on cleaning up the bins.

On June 29, 2023, Officer Leibel was inside the Walmart in Hermantown and were flagged down by the door greeter who stated that a group of young females were bouncing between aisles acting suspicious. When the group noticed the officer, they stopped what they were doing and started whispering to each other and looking in the direction of the officer before promptly heading for the restroom. A white female wearing a yellow sweatshirt appeared to have objects in the large front pocket in her sweatshirt. A female staff member checked the garbage's in the rest room when they exited and found no packaging. Nothing further at this time.



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