



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 07/09/23 to 07/15/23, the Hermantown PD had 209 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

Traffic Accident

On July 9, 2023 at 1156 hours, officers arrived on scene and spoke with a 23-year old female driver. The woman said she was eastbound on Maple Grove Road from Haines Road in the left lane on Maple Grove Road and a dump truck was in the right lane. She stated the dump truck must have swerved from his lane because he side-swiped her vehicle. Officers on scene spoke with the driver of the dump truck, a 73-year-old male, who advised he was backing into a lot and the woman attempted to drive around him and hit him. When officers asked the female driver about this she denied moving around the truck and hitting it.

The man stated he was eastbound on Maple Grove in the right lane just east of the Haines intersection. Driving a dump truck, the man said he needed to back into a job site he was working at on the corner of the intersection and when he did, he nosed out into the left lane to get in position to back up where he needed to back up. The man stated that his flashers were on, but the woman went to drive around him in the left lane and the front driver's side tire of his truck made contact with the passenger's side of her vehicle as she drove by. No damage to the dump truck, some scraping and denting to the woman's doors. No injuries reported on scene.

Unwanted Person

On July 9, 2023 at 1558 hours, 911 received a call from the Amoco Gas Station on the Haines Road regarding a very irate male that was pounding on the door that employees had now locked. Officers learned that a 59-year-old male customer was upset about not being able to pay half cash and the rest on his card for gas. The gas station requires customers to prepay for their gas. When this was explained to the man, he started to yell and once he left the store, employees locked the doors. The customer was causing a scene outside and eventually left in his vehicle. Officers advised the store to call back if the male returns.

Officers then located the man putting gas in his van at the Holiday Station and made contact. The man was upset and was saying he didn't do anything wrong and started explaining why he was upset by the Amoco Gas policy. Officers tried to explain to the man that he was trespassed, but he kept yelling and talking over officers. He was then told he would be jailed if he returned to Amoco as he was trespassed.



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Security Alarm

On July 10, 2023 at 0027 hours, 911 was alerted of a motion security alarm going off at the Lakes 10 Theatre. Officers responded to the scene and unlocked the front door after hearing banging noises near the front end. A white male was walking around near the food and officers held him at gunpoint until he was frisked for weapons. The 26-year-old explained he fell asleep during a movie and woke up to the room being dark. The male had a strong odor of alcoholic beverage emitting from him. Officers found the male's phone in the theater and walked him outside. The male provided a PBT of 0.148. The keyholder checked the premises, nothing to suggest any criminal activity had occurred. The male then met his sober friend for a ride.

Theft

On 07/12/2023, Detective Williams was dispatched to Walmart for a felony theft incident involving an employee that is contracted to work at Walmart. Walmart Loss Protection stated that on 07/05/2023, a 38-year-old man came to the store on his day off and processed two phone sale transactions in the electronics department and tendered a large amount of cash during both transactions and never put cash in the drawers or collected cash from the customer. This incident caused the registers to be short \$1,780.14. It was later determined that the sales tax was the only payment accepted via two debit card transactions.

Officer Williams then met with the man in the loss prevention office. He identified himself and stated that this was all a big misunderstanding. Officers asked him to explain what happened and the man said that he brought a female friend to Walmart who needed to purchase two phones. He claimed that he made an honest mistake and forgot to collect the cash from his friend as he was on the phone and distracted during the transactions. The video does not correlate with this story. Officer Williams advised him that the customer was his friend and he forgot to collect over \$1,700 cash during two transactions, this did not appear to be a mistake and that this appeared to be intentional.

Officer Williams explained that it appeared the friend did not have cash for either transaction, and most likely did not bring that large amount of cash with her as video proved the female did not have cash in her hands. Officer Williams said video showed him entering the cash payment amounts. The man then became emotional, claiming it was a mistake and asked for forgiveness, and continued denying his intentions and involvement. He then started saying he was not properly trained and this was just a silly error a new employee would make. The officer's attempts to reach the female friend were unsuccessful it seemed her phone number was no longer in service.

The man was ultimately lodged at the Saint Louis County Jail and charged with Felony Theft.



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