



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

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 07/16/23 to 07/22/23, the Hermantown PD had 186 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

## Check Welfare

On July 17, 2023, officers received a call from a man who was calling in for himself to receive a check welfare. He stated that he was "ridiculously intoxicated", all of his belongings were at a motel in Duluth and that an Uber left him at the Kwik Trip on Haines Road in Hermantown and he doesn't know what to do. He also said his phone was dead but he would wait by the doors for an officer to come.

Officers responded and found the 34-year-old man to be intoxicated, but able to walk and talk just fine and not to the point in which he could not care for himself. The man had no money and his phone was dead so he couldn't use Uber's services again. Officers gave him a courtesy ride back to the motel where he was staying.

## Disturbance

On July 16, 2023, 911 dispatch received a call regarding a woman who was walking her dog and making rude comments to two children while they were out riding their bikes near the 4100<sup>th</sup> block of Meadow Parkway.

Officers found that the 45-year-old woman was walking her dog in the complex and said she believed the two children who were riding bikes were following her around and riding closely behind her on purpose. The woman admittedly said something to the kids and the caller found out when the older of the children called them. The caller then came over and made a comment to the woman with the dog that she better not speak to the children again. Officers spoke with all parties involved and advised on potential solutions so that all tenants can enjoy outdoor and recreational activities. Nothing further.

## Found Property

On July 16, 2023 at 1201 hours, officers were alerted that a loaded gun was found in the restroom at the Fleet Farm in Hermantown. The gun was initially found by a child. Fleet Farm staff had advised that two children were in the store with their grandparents and found the gun in the bathroom. The juveniles alerted grandparents who advised Fleet Farm staff.

The gun owner, a 29-year-old woman, was already on scene when officers arrived. She was able to provide a current Permit To Purchase and Permit To Carry. The gun had a loaded magazine, but did not have a round in the chamber. The woman advised that she took the gun out of her waistband



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and set it in the stall in the bathroom and did not realize she left the gun in the bathroom until she left the store. The gun and magazine were given back to the owner separately and she was advised on the dangers of leaving a gun in a public place.

### Traffic Accident

On July 17, 2023 at 0915 hours, officers were dispatched to a two-vehicle accident at the 5100<sup>th</sup> block of Maple Grove Road. Officers arrived on scene and located both involved vehicles. Unit 1 and Unit 2 were eastbound on Maple Grove Road approaching Lavaque Road. Due to construction, traffic was backing up on Maple Grove Road. There was a vehicle in front of Unit 1 that had to slow down due to the construction workers stopping traffic. Unit 1, driven by a 28-year-old male, swerved out of the way to avoid hitting that vehicle. Unit 2, driven by a 46-year-old woman, rear ended Unit 1 as they swerved out of the way. Unit 1 did hit the mailbox nearby as they swerved off the roadway. Unit 1 had a complaint of neck pain but denied medical.

On July 19, 2023 at 0955 hours, officers were notified of a rear end accident near W Arrowhead Road and Miller Trunk Hwy intersection. Unit 2 was driven by a 63-year-old man who stated he started slowing/braking as the car in front of him started to brake. Unit 1, driven by a 29-year-old woman, stated they were looking left at the Kwik Trip gas station prices (comparing Hermantown prices to Virginia prices) and when they looked back at the road, UNIT 2 had started to slow. She stated they suspected their tires were balding which was a contributing factor in the rainy weather. Unit 1 was not able to stop prior to striking the rear of Unit 2 despite maneuvering into the right turn lane to attempt to avoid collision. Accident Exchange provided. Unit 1 driver was warned for Expired Tabs.

### Vehicle Theft

On July 18, 2023 at 1345 hours, a vehicle was reported to have crashed into a pond and was 100s of feet off the roadway by 3700<sup>th</sup> block of Lavaque Road. Officers responded and noticed that the tracks went to the west and into the woods. There, officers found the vehicle and the 30-year-old female occupant who could be heard shouting for help. The vehicle was partially in the pond and the female was standing outside the driver's door. Female denied need for medical help and she walked around where officers assisted her back up to a trail and walked her out of the woods. It was then determined that the vehicle was stolen from a local group home. It was later learned that the vehicle was involved in hitting two other vehicles prior to leaving the group home. Due to the crash, the woman's behavior and the theft of the vehicle, the woman was transported to a local hospital.

### Theft

On July 17, 2023 at 1440 hours, officers received a call from the Korner Store in Hermantown. Store staff alerted that they were going over camera footage from the previous night and discovered a theft occurred. A man was seen stealing several bundles of firewood and cases of



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water. Officers were able to identify the suspect, a 39-year-old male. The man claimed that he was drugged and did not recall the theft. He stated that he woke up to the firewood and water in his car and was confused on how he received it. The man was ultimately issued a citation for Theft.