



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

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 07/23/23 to 07/29/23, the Hermantown PD had 178 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 23, 2023, the Kwik Trip staff at 4145 Haines Road had called in to report that a male had went in to the restroom around 0300 hours and had not come out for close to an hour. They wanted him to be checked on. Officers located the 26-year-old man seated on the toilet where they believed he'd been the whole time. Officers were able to get the man out of the bathroom and he told officers he walked there from a local bar. Officers assisted with calling a taxi to get the man home.

## Property Damage

On July 25, 2023, officers received a call from Burger King stating that during the air show events earlier in the month, someone hit the building and left, causing damage. It was learned that at the time, employees were able to obtain a license plate but no further information. Officers were able to contact the driver, a 38-year-old man about the incident. The man claimed that he remembered crashing in to the building, but did not think there was any damage, and he confirmed that he spoke with employees at that time.

## Vehicle in the Ditch

On July 25, 2023, 911 dispatch received a call regarding a vehicle that was found south of the Ugstad Road/Morris Thomas Road intersection that was located in the woods and hard to spot. Officers responded and learned that the vehicle was deep down in the ditch wrapped in brush and small trees. Officers were able to contact the mother of the driver who explained to officers that her 21-year-old son told her that he went off the road the previous day and had to walk home and was trying to arrange a tow for the vehicle. Vehicle is not a hazard at this time.

## Injured Person Off Road Vehicle

On July 23, 2023 at 1056 hours, 911 dispatched a call to officers stating a 35-year-old male had crashed his motorbike near the 4900<sup>th</sup> block of Jamilee Dr and was conscious and alert. Officers were able to speak with the male on scene who was now sitting up on the ground about what happened. The man stated that he had just purchased the motorbike and was taking it out for a test run. He said that as he was doing this, the throttle got stuck and he wasn't able to stop the dirt bike and fell off. He said he was driving approximately 20 MPH when this happened. The man had minor lacerations on his face and a possible broken wrist. He was transported to the hospital by MAYO.



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

# AROUND TOWN

**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

## DWI

On July 26, 2023 at 0138 hours, Officer Stracek was on routine patrol near the Stebner Road where he observed a vehicle that was drifting back and forth from the centerline to the fog line and varying its speed. The radar detected that the vehicle was over the speed limit, so he initiated a stop on the vehicle. As the officer was speaking with the male driver, he noticed an odor of alcohol. The 39-year-old driver admitted that he had a beer and that he was driving his passenger home at the moment. The officer stated he would like to perform field sobriety testing and the driver agreed. He also admitted then to having two beers, not just the one. After this, the man provided a PBT sample of .138, which is over the legal limit. The man was later charged with 4<sup>th</sup> Degree DWI and Speeding.

## Suspicious Activity

On July 26, 2023 at 0048 hours, 911 received a call near the 5000<sup>th</sup> block of Maple Grove Road stating that they believe a break in may be happening at a house in this area. The caller stated someone had pulled in to the driveway and was walking around inside with a flashlight and a male and female were seeing transporting things inside. Officers responded and learned the house is a rental property and the parties involved were arriving late from Texas and had some trouble locating the address.

## Assault

On July 25, 2023 at 2004 hours, Hermantown officers were dispatched to an accident with injuries at the intersection of Stebner and Hermantown Road. A man and woman were standing outside of their vehicle. The male was being treated for an injury on his head. The 74-year-old woman stated that her 73-year old husband was driving their car South on Stebner when they noticed a truck driving dangerously close to them to the point they could not see the truck's headlights in the rearview mirror. The woman stated that when her husband stopped at the stop sign at Hermantown Road, the driver of the truck immediately exited and advanced toward them and screamed obscenities.

The woman claimed that her husband got out of the vehicle and was thrown down to the pavement and was attacked by the other driver. The couple both described the suspect vehicle as being an older faded red pickup. After following up on leads from the public, the suspect was found. The suspect initially denied involvement, but after speaking with detectives admitted to being involved. The suspect, a 32-year-old man, claimed that he was acting in self defense as the other driver hit him first, and he was taken to the ground and punched twice.

Officers followed up with the 74-year-old driver who could now tell his story as he was recovering from the incident. The man admitted to getting out to confront the driver to find out why he was following them so closely, which he admitted was a risky thing to do. He also acknowledged to swearing at the driver at this time as well. The man further stated that the other driver was the



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

# AROUND TOWN

**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

first one to throw a punch. Each of these stories were found to be conflicting. Officers ultimately submitted charges for 5th Degree Assault and Follow Too Closely.

## SUMMERFEST

The Hermantown Police Department officers had a great time during the Hermantown Summerfest events this year that were held July 19-23. It has been a heavily missed event for the last few years due to covid. Officers enjoyed the Fran Hubert Memorial parade, the "Band Together to Save Lives" blood drive sponsored along with the Fire Department and of course, seeing a lot of people enjoying the family fun activities at Fichtner Field and also the music during the Summer Fest Tent Party. We can't wait to see everyone again next year!