

AROUND TOWN



Chief
Jim Crace

Commanders
Mark Gunderson
Jon Esterbrooks

Sergeants
Griffin Pfeiffer - K9
Jon Pernu - K9

Detective Bureau
Jeff Dwyer
Jake Williams

Officers
Jason Salo
Tim Battaglia
Jon Enright
Erika Johnson - SRO
Olivia Gottschald
Jonathan Stracek
Andrew Leibel
Alex Prouse

Clerical
Dana Ross
Samantha Knapp
Ashley Johnson

K-9
Tuuko
Jack



During the week of 08/13/23 to 08/19/23, the Hermantown PD had 187 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

Traffic Accident

On August 16, 2023 at 1658 hours, officers received a call of a vehicle accident near the 4800 block of Maple Grove Road. Vehicle 1 was driven by a 35-year-old woman who stated she was in the turn lane when Vehicle 2 hit her. Driver of Vehicle 2, a 22-year-old woman, stated she was pulling out of a driveway through a space made for her by traffic waiting at the stop light. Vehicle 2 driver and passenger both stated that Vehicle 1 came "flying" through the turn lane as they attempted to cross onto Maple Grove Road. No witnesses other than involved passenger. Both vehicles had to be towed from the scene.

On August 14, 2023 at 1136 hours, was dispatched to a report of a two-vehicle accident at Miller Trunk Hwy and Stebner Road. Officers arrived on scene and made contact with the involved drivers. Both drivers stated they did not need medical attention. Officers first spoke with a 45-year-old male, who was driving Vehicle 1. The man stated he was driving southbound on Stebner Road, approaching Miller Trunk Hwy where he drove into the turn lane to go northbound on Miller Trunk Hwy. He stated that he was yielding to traffic on the highway and Vehicle 2 was in front of him waiting to merge. The man said he did not see Vehicle 2 and started accelerating until he rear-ended Vehicle 2. Officers then spoke with the 41-year-old woman who was driving Vehicle 2. The woman stated she was waiting to merge onto the highway when all of a sudden, Vehicle 1 rear-ended her vehicle. The male driver was ultimately issued a citation for Following Too Closely.

Vehicle Damage

On 08/16/2023 at 2133 hours, Officers were dispatched to a vehicle damage to property call near the intersection of West Arrowhead Road and Stebner Road in the city of Hermantown. A 28-year-old woman had called 911 to report her windshield had been smashed by something thrown from a white truck.

Officers met with the woman whom stated she had left work just prior to calling and was driving east on West Arrowhead Road. As she was approaching the four-way intersection with Stebner Road, a white pickup truck passed by her going west on West Arrowhead Road. The woman said the truck had not yet completely passed her when the driver's side of her windshield shattered. She had suspected someone had thrown an item from the truck as they drove by her due to the low speeds she was driving.

The windshield had a large 'spider web' break on it consistent with a heavy larger item striking the windshield. Squads checked the roadway near where the woman stated this incident occurred but did not locate any items in the road.

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Shoplifting

On August 17, 2023 at 1743 hours, officers were dispatched to a report of a shoplifter at Pure Pleasure store on Miller Trunk Hwy. The reporting party stated there was a cooperative party in the store who had been caught shoplifting.

Officers arrived at the store and the suspect, a 30-year-old woman, was standing in front of the store counter. The store employee advised the suspect had come into the store and taken pictures of some items and then told the employee that she needed to go outside and talk to her friend who was waiting in the car. The employee stated that when the suspect exited the first door, the alarms went off. She then walked back inside and produced merchandise that was concealed in her sweatshirt. Officers attempted to talk with the suspect, but she declined. The woman was ultimately cited for Shoplifting and trespassed from Pure Pleasure for a period of one year which was explained to her. The total value of the recovered merchandise was \$49.99.

Theft

On August 17, 2023 at 1000 hours, officers responded to an employee theft at the Hermantown Walmart. Dispatch advised that the employee was waiting with Loss Prevention in the office. Upon arriving on scene, officers spoke to Loss Prevention. They said they had confronted a 33-year-old female employee for stealing a \$100 bill on August 14th during a transaction at a register. Loss prevention said she had been honest and confessed to the theft. They said she may have also stolen some food and other money as well, but they had not been confirmed on video at this time.

Officers then spoke to the woman and she confessed to stealing the money. She said she had needed the money for her family since she was short and apologized and said she wanted to make restitution if given the chance.

Officers reviewed video which showed the woman take money from a customer, crumple it in her hand to conceal it and later put it in her pocket. The till was also noted to be under by \$100 that day. The woman was ultimately charged with Misdemeanor Theft.

DWI

On August 18, 2023 at 0249 hours, officers conducted a traffic stop for high beams and driving conduct near the Hagberg and Midway Road area. The officer approached the vehicle and identified the 22-year-old male driver. Officers found the male to show signs of impairment. The officer had the male run through standard field sobriety testing which he failed. He provided a preliminary breath test resulting in 0.179 and was arrested. Officers conducted a final breath test at the police department which resulted in a .16. The man was ultimately charged with 3rd Degree DWI.

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Alarm

On August 19, 2023 at 1410 hours, dispatch was alerted of a general fire alarm being tripped at a church located near the 4800th block of Maple Grove Road. Officers made contact with one of the keyholders who said that the call could be cancelled. They explained that there was a concert going on that evening and they believe a "haze" machine had set off the alarm. Everyone has alright and no problems reported.