

# 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 09/03/23 to 09/09/23, the Hermantown PD had 157 calls.  
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

## Vehicle Damage to Property

On September 7, 2023 at 1652 hours, officers were alerted of an incident in the Walmart parking lot. Dispatch advised that a vehicle was witnessed hitting a barrier in front of the store. The caller mentioned that the driver also appeared to be confused. Officers responded on scene and found a single vehicle accident in Walmart parking lot.

The driver, a 71-year-old man, left a parked position in front of the store. He then began to proceed forward, veering to the right and struck a cement pillar barrier in front of the Walmart entrance. The vehicle was found to be undrivable and a private tow was called. Officers reviewed video which showed the vehicle drive straight into the concrete post. It was noted there was a glare on windshield, but it appeared the driver had both hands on the wheel.

## Traffic Accident

On September 4, 2023 at 1637 hours, officers were dispatched to a report of a two-vehicle accident blocking the roadway on Arrowhead Road near Miller Trunk Hwy. Officers arrived on scene and observed a vehicle blocking the westbound lane of Arrowhead Road. Officers made contact with Driver 1, a 45-year-old male, who ensured he was not injured. The other involved Driver 2, an 81-year-old woman, also stated she was not injured.

Driver 1 stated he was driving westbound on Arrowhead Road when he observed Driver 2 suddenly pull out into the roadway from the North Shore Bank Place parking lot. Driver 1 said he did not have time to stop, and Driver 2's vehicle collided with his. Driver 2 stated she did not see Driver 1 before pulling out into the roadway. Both vehicles needed to be towed from the scene.

## Unwanted Person

On September 4, 2023 at 1321 hours, the Hermantown Police Department was dispatched to an unwanted person call at the Volkswagen dealership. Staff advised dispatchers that a man was inside of the store acting agitated, trying to buy a vehicle with a large bag of cash, and telling staff he had a warrant out of Wisconsin.

Officers arrived on scene with assistance from the Sheriff's Office, and the 36-year-old male was detained inside the store. The man had a large amount of cash within a bag that was secured and placed in the squad on camera. Due to the party having a warrant, he was to be brought to the jail.

The man was verbally advised he was trespassed from the dealership for one year.

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On September 8, 2023 at 2045 hours, officers were dispatched to Walmart in Hermantown for a male “flipping out” inside of the store, threatening to jump and fight the caller and everyone else present. Squads located the 41-year-old man near the front door. He was intoxicated but able to talk with officers. He was found to be very agitated. Walmart staff advised the man came in and was acting 'off'. Another unknown customer called the man a “tweaker” which set him off and caused him to start yelling.

The man said he wanted to get on the bus tonight so squads helped him get to the bus stop. However, the man then tried walking to a different bus stop and did board a bus there, but that bus took him right back to Walmart where the driver was scheduled to take his 20-minute break. This upset the man further, which resulted in the DTA calling and saying he was no longer welcome to ride the bus for the night.

## Vehicle Prowl

At September 9, 2023 at 2234 hours, officers received from dispatch that a man wanted to report a recent vehicle prowling at the Walmart. The 31-year-old man stated that he was in Walmart for approximately 45 minutes and when he returned to his vehicle, items were missing. The man explained that his truck's locking mechanism is broken and his truck does not lock. A wide variety of items were explained to be missing from the vehicle, including fishing gear and children's backpacks.

## Shoplifting

On 09/07/2023 at 1622 hours, officers were dispatched to a report of a shoplifter at the Hermantown Fleet Farm that had just walked out of the store. The reporting party advised that the male suspect had taken a knife out of the packaging and concealed it on his person. The suspect had already left the parking lot in a truck.

Officers reviewed the case video evidence, which showed the male suspect in the tool aisle holding a maroon shirt, ratchet handle and a small red and white package. The suspect was seen manipulating the package he was holding and removed the item from the package and then discarded the package on the bottom shelf.

Through further investigation, officers were able to identify the 63-year-old male suspect seen on the surveillance video. Due to recent history with the individual and vehicle, the officer was able to make contact via phone. The party admitted to being at Fleet Farm, purchasing other items that were verified on camera, but continued to deny stealing the knife.

Officers also determined that the male had used another sharp object to open the stolen knife packaging. Because of this, the man was charged with Shoplifting and Possession of Shoplifting Gear. The knife stolen was valued at \$89.99.

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