

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
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During the week of 09/10/23 to 09/16/23, the Hermantown PD had 207 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

Traffic Accident

On 09/16/2023 at 2339 hours, dispatched advised squads of a two-vehicle accident near the intersection of Hermantown Road and Stebner Road. The first caller on the crash was an automated system reporting a crash notification and provided the intersection as the location. A short time later, another party called reporting there was an accident where one vehicle rear-ended another near the intersection and further reported the female driver appeared to be intoxicated.

I arrived on scene and made contact with the two drivers of the vehicles. The driver of the vehicle that rear ended the other, Driver 1, was identified as a 36-year-old woman. The other driver that was hit was identified as a 33-year-old woman, Driver 2.

Both drivers provided their insurance information and they explained they knew each other. Driver 2 explained that Driver 1 was supposed to be following her home when she rear-ended her. There were no injuries reported and a towing company was called to respond for the vehicles. Officers detected the odor of alcoholic beverage emitting from both drivers as they were spoken to individually. They both admitted to drinking at the Beacon Sports Bar.

Both drivers performed standardized field sobriety testing. Driver 1's PBT sample resulted in a 0.099 BRAC. Driver 2 provided a PBT that was under the legal limit and was released from the scene. Driver 1 was told they were under arrest and asked for officers to grab some belongings from her vehicle. When doing so, officers further observed an open and empty Heineken beer bottle in the passenger door. The woman was ultimately charged with 4th Degree DWI and Following Vehicle More Closely than Reasonable.

On September 12, 2023 at 1829 hours, dispatch advised officers of a call from a party who claimed they just witnessed an accident with two vehicles involved near the Lavaque Bypass. Vehicle 1 was driven by a 22-year-old woman traveling southbound on Lavaque Bypass from Martin Road. Vehicle 2, driven by a 61-year-old male, was traveling northbound on Miller Trunk Hwy approaching Lavaque Bypass Road. The female's brakes went out and she couldn't slow down or stop for the red light she had at Miller Trunk Hwy. She navigated the turn to get northbound on Miller Trunk Hwy as Vehicle 2 was in the driving lane going through the intersection.

The woman entered Vehicle 2s lane, striking his front driver's side of his vehicle with her passenger side. Vehicle 1 took heavy damage and she rolled to a stop on the shoulder. Officers were able to confirm that she didn't have any brake pressure.

Shoplifting

On 09/10/2023 at 1550 hours, officers were dispatched to the Walmart in Hermantown for a shoplifting incident. The reporting party was Walmart Loss Prevention employee who apprehended a

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female suspect who was attempting to push out a cart with merchandise without attempting to pay. The female was cooperative and awaiting police presence in the Loss Prevention office.

Officers spoke with the 21-year-old woman who stated that she understood her rights and admitted to the theft of groceries and said she didn't have money for the items. She said she was struggling and had two kids at home. The woman was cited for Misdemeanor Theft. Through investigation it was learned that the woman had several prior similar thefts at other Walmart locations, so she was additionally trespassed from all Walmart stores for one year.

Suspicious Activity

On September 16, 2023 at 0847 hours, dispatch alerted officers of a report of a white male in a red and black sweatshirt who was waving around a "pretty big knife" then stuck it into his sleeve. The party was reported to be walking on Haines Road towards Maple Grove. Officers located and identified the suspect as a 32-year-old man. The man said he did not intend to cause any fear and was carrying the scrap metal for "personal protection" after finding it on the ground.

Traffic Stop

On 09/16/2023 at 2206 hours, a Hermantown officer was on routine patrol in the Walmart parking lot in Hermantown where he witnessed a vehicle leaving the parking lot without any license plates displayed to the front or rear and there was no temporary tag displayed.

During the initial stop, the officer observed the male lean over the center console and reach to the passenger floor board of the vehicle. Upon stopping, the man explained his license plates were in the back of his vehicle and that he didn't have his driver's license on him.

Officers questioned what the man was reaching for on the passenger floor board. The man said he was looking for his proof of insurance. The officer stated the man disconnected with the conversation and appeared overly focused on what was in the passenger area of the vehicle. Due to this behavior, the officer became concerned that there may be a weapon.

Officers questioned where his license plates were and he explained that his parent took them off because he wasn't supposed to be driving. Officers questioned if there was anything illegal in the vehicle and the man replied "do I get a ticket for no proof of insurance."

The male admitted that there was a "meth bubble" inside his center console and he started reaching for it. Officers told him multiple times not to reach and asked him to step out of the vehicle.

The man claimed that the drugs belonged to another person. With permission to retrieve the drugs, officers began to search the vehicle. Officers found what appeared to be methamphetamine and officers placed the male under arrest for possession.

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The man asked why he was going to jail for a “little chunk of meth.” The officer then explained it was still illegal in the State of Minnesota. The man was charged with 5th Degree Possession, No Proof of Insurance and No MN Plates.

