

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 09/17/23 to 09/23/23, the Hermantown PD had 214 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

Check Hazard

On September 20, 2023 at 1624 hours, dispatch informed officers of a check hazard request near the Sam's Club in Hermantown. Officers went to the area and found 200-250 water bottles in the median in front of the store which appeared to have fallen off of a vehicle. Officers noted that a lot of the water bottles were intact, but even more so appeared to be leaking. The bottles were found to not be a hazard and the Public Works were requested to help with the clean up process.

Shoplifting

On September 20th, 2023 at approximately 1900 hours, Hermantown officers were dispatched to a shoplifting incident in progress at the Hermantown Walmart. It was reported that a male wearing all red stole toys and was now walking past the bus stop towards HOM Furniture.

While responding to the area, officers observed a male matching the suspect description just south of the bus stop on Haines Road near Market Street. Officers approached the 33-year-old male who claimed that he did not know why officers were stopping him. Officers asked about the bag he had with the items in it and the man claimed that he had brought the items with him to the store to compare to the toys on the shelf in an attempt to purchase different items from the collection.

Officers contacted Walmart employees who stated they had witnessed the selection and believed there to be two toys in the bag and that he knew the man's bag to be empty when he entered the store. The store also requested that the male be trespassed from Walmart for the violation.

When explaining to the suspect what the employee had said, the man admitted that he rode to Walmart on the bus and walked directly to the toy section of the store. He said he wanted to purchase the toys for a relative but only had \$10 and never intended on paying for the items.

The man was issued a citation for Shoplifting and also trespassed from all Walmart and Sam's Clubs for one year. The stolen items were worth \$220.

Traffic Accident

On September 21, 2023 at 1943 hours, officers were called to a report of a vehicle crash that occurred near the 5100 block of Maple Grove Road. Driver 2, a 67-year-old woman, was westbound Morris Thomas Road and said she only saw what she thought were reflectors ahead of her. She told officers that she thought the reflectors were on a mailbox on the side of the road and did not see Vehicle 1 until right before they collided. The woman's vehicle t-boned Vehicle 1.

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Vehicle 1 was backing up with a boat trailer attached into a private driveway. Driver 1, a 33-year-old man, reported to have been taking up the westbound lane of Morris Thomas when the collision happened. Severe damage was reported to both vehicles which needed towing. Driver 1 had to be transported to the hospital for a possible broken ankle.

Vehicle Prowl

On September 22, 2023 at 1135 hours, officers were dispatched to Kolar Toyota for a report of a vehicle prowling that had occurred overnight. The victim was reporting approximately \$1,500 worth of tools stolen out of his truck which was parked at Kolar overnight. Kolar was able to provide video of the incident that occurred at 0406 hours in the morning.

A few hours later, officers noticed the suspect vehicle parked at the Econo Lodge. Officers witnessed a male walk out to the vehicle. Officers made contact with the 39-year-old man and upon interviewing him, he admitted to the theft. Almost all the tools were recovered. The man was ultimately lodged at the Saint Louis County Jail for Felony Theft.

DWI

On September 23, 2023 at 1200 hours, officers responded to an intoxicated person call near the 5100th block of Miller Trunk Highway in Hermantown.

Assisting agency officers found the 66-year-old man down in his driveway. The man told the responding deputy that he had been overserved at a local bar and had been drinking since 9 AM. He also had confessed he drove his truck home; however, he had not made it into the house. The man told the deputy that he had drank three beers and a mixed drink. The deputy observed that man's balance was very poor and that he needed assistance walking. The man further admitted to the deputy that he had felt too drunk to drive.

Officers attempted to run Standardized Field Sobriety tests on the man, but his balance was too poor to continue the walk and turn portion. Officers determined that he would not be able to do the walk and turn test or the one leg stand test. During this time, the man was struggling to stay balanced and officers had to catch him from falling forward.

The male then refused to do a breath test, stating that he had had a previous DWI, and it cost him a lot of money. Officers advised the male that they believed he had been operating his motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol. The man told officers that his vehicle was in his garage and they had no proof that he been driving. Officers told him that he had already told the deputies that he had driven here, and he once again agreed that he had been driving.

Once at the HPD Intox room, the man gave a PBT of 0.12. The man was ultimately booked into jail for 3rd Degree Gross Misdemeanor DWI, as he had a previous charge in 2015.

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Gas Theft

On September 21st, 2023 at 10:25 hours, Officers responded to a no pay gas drive off at Fleet Farm in Hermantown. The reporting party stated that approximately 25 minutes ago they had a vehicle intentionally leave without paying for the gas. Employees stated that this was the third report of the same female doing gas drive offs in recent months. The stolen amount of gas was worth \$53.38.

The gas station attendant observed the suspect's actions and attempted to stop the suspect as she was fleeing the store, but the vehicle did not stop and continued towards Loberg Avenue.

Officers viewed video which clearly showed the license plate, as well as front view of the female driver in the vehicle. Officers compared the photo of the driver to recent booking photos of the registered owner, a 31-year-old female. It appears that this woman is the suspect and is alone in the vehicle at the time of the gas theft.

On the 23rd, Officers attempted to contact the woman on the phone regarding the theft. The suspect answered the phone and first told officers that it was her sister driving the vehicle at Fleet Farm two days ago and she forgot her wallet. Officers told the woman that she was identified as the driver alone in the vehicle on the video. She then changed her story and stated that she was the one on video and also tried to claim that she spoke with an employee. Officers knew this to not be true as video showed the woman driving away after an attendant at the gas mart tried to stop her.

She was advised a citation for Misdemeanor Theft would be sent to her in the mail.