

AROUND TOWN



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Jim Crace

Commanders
Mark Gunderson
Jon Esterbrooks

Sergeants
Griffin Pfeiffer - K9
Jon Pernu - K9

Detective Bureau
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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 10/08/23 to 10/14/23, the Hermantown PD had 168 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

Shoplifting

On October 11, 2023, officers responded to a shoplifting in progress at the Hermantown Walmart. While enroute, the reporting party advised that a white male suspect carrying a blue duffle bag stole LEGO blocks from the store. Upon arriving in the area, squads searched for the suspect. He was not located.

Officers spoke to store employees who provided video of the suspect leaving the store. Total loss that was confirmed was \$65.00 of merchandise.

On 10/10/2023 at 1813 hours, officers were dispatched to a report of a shoplifter at Fleet Farm. The caller said there was a white female who was concealing items in the store. The suspect attempted to leave the store but was stopped by store employees. The suspect agreed to wait for law enforcement in the Loss Prevention office.

The 36-year-old woman admitted to concealing and attempting to leave the store with a Milwaukee M18 Impact Wrench valued at \$219.00. She also admitted that this wasn't the first incident where she had shoplifted from Fleet Farm. It was noted that the woman had been suspected of shoplifting in approximately 6-10 different incidents at Fleet Farm. The woman said that she primarily would shoplift tools and would take 1-2 items each time she was at Fleet Farm. She estimated that the total for all the shoplifting incidents she was involved in totaled to thousands of dollars. She claimed that she was stealing the items to use for herself and then selling them to friends and family. She said she no longer had any of the items that she had previously stolen.

The woman was cited for Misdemeanor Shoplifting and was trespassed from Fleet Farm for a period of one year.

Unknown Trouble

On October 13, 2023 at 2231 hours, officers were dispatched to a report of a trouble unknown at Walmart. It was noted that there were multiple calls reporting that staff was having a dispute with a customer.

Officers arrived on scene and met with staff and the customer. Staff at Walmart advised they attempted to conduct a receipt check and the customer didn't have the receipt. Officers spoke with the customer, a 37-year-old woman, who stated that staff was physically taking her cart from her and her shopping bag. It was also noted another party punched a staff member in face during the incident.

Officers spoke further with staff about the incident. They spoke with the female victim and she advised that staff wanted to conduct a receipt check. When the customer didn't provide the receipt, staff said they tried to prevent her from leaving. Staff described that felt like they had a duty to

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prevent the woman from leaving with the merchandise in case she had shoplifted. Another staff member said that the customer wasn't producing a receipt and he advised her she couldn't take the cart until her purchase was verified. Eventually staff was able to verify her purchase but the argument continued until law enforcement arrived.

Officers reviewed video and observed the woman attempt to exit the store and was stopped and receipt checked by staff. The woman appeared to explain that she didn't have a receipt, but staff started to grab her shopping cart to prevent her from leaving. A male employee was seen on video grabbing the cart and not allowing the woman to leave with the cart. The hitting suspect was also seen arguing with the victim on video. The video showed the suspect take a step forward and leave the view of camera while the victim appeared to have been pushed back. The video didn't clearly show the assault however all parties admitted that the party did hit the victim.

The victim did not wish to pursue charges.

Officers spoke with Walmart manager who advised if a customer does not provide a receipt, staff is supposed to advise loss prevention for follow up.

Traffic

On October 10, 2023 at 2155 hours, officers were in the turn lane to go eastbound on Arrowhead Road from the highway where they observed a vehicle stopped in the intersection (past the stop line) while waiting for the turn light to turn green. Once the light turned green, the vehicle remained stopped for an extended period of time before driving eastbound on Arrowhead.

Officers then initiated a stop on the vehicle. Officers identified the driver as 41-year-old male by viewing his Wisconsin driver's license. After running a query on his name, he was found revoked in Minnesota. The man was then issued a citation for Driver after Revocation. Officers had the male park his vehicle and advised him to contact a valid driver.

Disturbance

A group of seven individuals were reported to be outside of the Walmart in Hermantown yelling near the grocery doors on October 9, 2023 at 1826 hours. Officers were told that a possible fight could be on the way. It was noted that it appeared to be mostly adults with some teens, both male and female parties.

Officers learned soon after that the incident was related to a misunderstanding related to shoplifting.

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