

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 10/01/23 to 10/07/23, the Hermantown PD had 172 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

DWI

On 10/2/23 at 2351 hours, Hermantown officers were on routine patrol in a fully marked squad car driving through the area of Hermantown and Haines Road when they observed a truck parked at the Korner Store. Officers were aware that the store was closed and the truck did not appear to be an employee's vehicle. Officers observed a male in the driver's seat of the truck.

Officers approached the truck and observed the male's head was slumped over and his eyes were closed. Officers knocked on the window of the vehicle and loudly announced it was the police department. The male woke for a moment, but he proceeded to close his eyes again and did not respond. After a minute and a half of knocking on the vehicle's window, the driver eventually woke and opened the door. When the 33-year-old male then opened the door, officers noted they immediately observed an odor of alcohol emitting from inside the vehicle. When asked how much alcohol he consumed that night and he stated "a lot." The male agreed to do standard field sobriety testing. He provided a PBT sample of .23 BRAC. The man was ultimately charged with 3rd Degree DWI.

Accident

On October 3, 2023 at 1538 hours, dispatch notified officers that they received a notice from a phone application that the user may have been involved in a crash as it sensed irregular movement and they were not able to contact the party. Squads arrived on scene and located the attached vehicle in the weeds off the end of Lightning Drive. A 16-year-old male was on scene and identified himself as the driver of the vehicle. The male said he lost control going around the corner and ended up in the weeds 20-30 yards past the end of the road. Officers noticed skid marks on the gravel road on Lightning Drive leading up to where the vehicle went off the road.

There were also two passengers in the vehicle, who stated the driver was going too fast and told officers that the driver was trying to drift the corner. A nearby homeowner of the accident also explained to officers that the vehicle narrowly missed running over her dog when he went off the road and that she has seen this same vehicle drift that corner multiple times in the past. The male was issued a tag for City Ordinance Exhibition Driving and Provisional License Violation for having two passengers in the vehicle during the first six months of having a license.

Disturbance

On October 3, 2023 at 1755 hours, dispatch received a call of a male acting erratic outside of Dairy Queen, holding an axe and making people nervous. Officers arrived and a male matching the reported description was standing on the outside patio holding multiple items. Due to the report of the male armed with an axe in a public place, he was detained him in cuffs for everyone's safety and

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the male lightly resisted. Officers then patted the 48-year-old male down and found a small axe in his left front pants pocket.

Officers reviewed video and it appeared that the man was walking both inside and outside of restaurant and at times holding the axe in his hand. The man explained to officers that he never threatened anyone and claimed it was a tool. Officers noted that the man did use the axe to cut some flowers he had on him. The restaurant only wished to have him trespass, which he was.

Hit & Run

On October 2, 2023 at 1229 hours, a 24-year-old male called in to officers to report a hit and run incident that happened at the McDonalds location in Hermantown. The man stated that he was at McDonalds eating lunch in his work truck. He suddenly felt his work truck shake and saw a vehicle backing out of the parking spot next to him. Officers tracked down the suspect vehicle and made contact with the driver, a 35-year-old male. The male admitted to being at McDonalds as well, but said he was unaware that he struck the vehicle that was parked next to him. The vehicle was noted to have damage on the driver side bumper.

Shoplifting

On October 1, 2023 at 1938 hours, dispatch received a call from Walmart stating there had been an attempted shoplifting at the store. The female suspect was reported to have left on foot. Officers were able to locate the suspect at the nearby Dairy Queen due to the description they received from dispatch. Officers questioned the 31-year-old woman about the theft. She admitted that she had tried to steal clothing from the store. She also said that she had stolen some paper towels and then went and returned them at the service desk for money.

Through further investigation, the store was able to learn that the woman had actually stolen closer to \$200 worth of merchandise. The woman was ultimately charged with Shoplifting and was also trespassed from the store.

Animal Disturbance

On October 1, 2023 at 1051 hours, dispatch alerted officers of a report of a horse running loose on the road. The horse was close to the fence near the airport and seemed to be acting confused. Officers were able to locate and secure the horse until its owners were able to come and retrieve the horse. The owners alerted the officers that at the time of the call, another one of their horses was also missing.

Vehicle Prowl

On October 4, 2023 at 2040 hours, Officers were dispatched to a vehicle prowling incident at the Outback Steakhouse in Hermantown. The woman stated she parked her vehicle and went inside

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for a few minutes to visit with a friend. When she returned to the vehicle, she stated that she found numerous items missing. The woman told officers that she thought she had locked the vehicle but it appeared to be unlocked when she returned to it. The woman stated that she had approximately \$1200 worth of items taken including clothing items, a laptop, head phones and school books.

