

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
Andrew Leibel
Alex Prouse
Rebecca Towner

Clerical
Dana Ross
Samantha Knapp
Ashley Johnson

K-9
Tuuko
Jack



During the week of 12/31/23 to 1/6/24, the Hermantown PD had 149 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

Vehicle Vs. Crossing Arm

Officers received a call from dispatch on December 31, 2023 at 1125 hours involving a vehicle vs. crossing arm. The passerby had called and reported witnessing a crossing sign that came down on a vehicle after a train had passed through the area near the 3700th block of Midway Road. It was also reported that the barricade was off on the side.

Responding officers found the stop arm to be broken off, and stated that there were still working lights in the area. The suspect vehicle never stopped or reported the incident. Officers notified the railroad about the damage.

Vehicle Accident

On January 1, 2024 at 0900 hours, officers were alerted by dispatch of a vehicle accident in the parking lot at the Walmart in Hermantown. Responding officers spoke with the 34-year-old woman who claimed that she was turning in to the pharmacy drive thru area on the west side of the building. While doing so, she drove into a stop sign. The stop sign was not damaged at all but the vehicle was reported to have major damage. The driver reported no injuries at the time of the call. The woman told officers she would arrange a tow.

Driving under the Influence

On January 3rd, 2024 at 2006 hours, dispatch received a request for an officer to attempt to locate near the 4600th block of Sugar Maple Drive as an elderly male was reported to be driving in the area and that the man appeared confused or lost. It was reported that the vehicle was driving back and forth, and witnesses said the driver kept saying help, but was refusing assistance.

Officers soon arrived at the incident location and asked the 77-year-old man what he needed help with. The man stated that he was lost and driving home. More questions proved that the man was struggling to answer and looked confused.

Officers began to realize that the man appeared confused, but was also displaying signs of intoxication. His speech to be slurred and thick, his eyes to be watery and bloodshot, and an odor of alcohol was present.

Officers asked the man to get out of the car, and they could soon tell that his balance was poor and needed to assist him with stepping out. Once he got out, he lost his balance and fell forwards, but officers had to catch him from falling. Officers then had the man sit back in the car as he could not stand on his own.

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Officers then asked the man if he had anything to drink tonight which he admitted to, but didn't remember when, where or how many he had.

Officers attempted to perform standardized field sobriety testing, but ended the testing early as the man had a lot of trouble doing them safely. Officers performed a breath test and it provided a sample of .124.

The man told officers he was unaware of the legal limit. The man was ultimately arrest for a 4th Degree DWI.

Shoplifting

On December 31st, 2023 at approximately 1126 hours, Officers spoke with Menards employees about a shoplifting incident had occurred on the previous evening at approximately 1847 hours.

Footage of the event showed a woman selected merchandise totaling \$749. She then approaches the checkout lane and continues through an open lane past the last point of sale, making no effort to pay for the items.

Through investigation, officers learned that the item stolen was received by a local pawn shop on December 31st by a female party. Officers were able to verify the 28-year-old woman's identity as they had previous contact with her and that she was wearing the same clothing that she wore during the shoplifting incident at Menards.

The woman was ultimately charged with Gross Misdemeanor Shoplifting as the total was over \$500.

Warrant Arrest

On December 4th, 2023 at approximately 0905 hours, officers were dispatched to a public assist request at the Holiday Station near the 4700th block of Miller Trunk Hwy. The reporting party stated that a male was requesting a ride.

Officers arrived on scene and spoke with the 42-year-old man who stated that he had just gotten out of jail and waited for the bus for some time before deciding to walk to the gas station. Officers learned that the man had a bus voucher and because of this, officers would not be giving him a ride. Officers asked the man what his intentions were and he requested to think about it for a minute.

While waiting for the man to respond, dispatch advised that a neighboring county had just placed a warrant request out for this same man. Officers contacted the man's probation officer who requested that the man be returned to jail for the warrant. Officers returned the man back to the Saint Louis County Jail.

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