

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 11/19/23 to 11/25/23, the Hermantown PD had 126 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

Shoplifting

Officers responded to a shoplifting call at the Walmart in Hermantown on November 22, 2023 at 1700 hours. Walmart employees stated that they had observed a female in the store for over an hour selecting items. She placed them into bags in the cart and walked out the grocery exit.

The female suspect had not even gone through a checkout lane but straight down the main aisle and out the doors. The stop had been made in the vestibule and she was cooperative. Walmart employees had added up the value of the 103 stolen items. The total value was \$1,041.35. The items were mostly food, clothing and personal items. All the items were recovered by Walmart.

The 45-year-old woman told officers that she had come to Walmart to buy a birthday present for a girl she knew, ended up filling her cart, and then walked out the doors without paying. She said she forgot she had to pay. After confronting her on her intent, she confirmed she had no money on her to pay even if she wanted to.

The woman was lodged at the Saint Louis County Jail for Felony Theft and Walmart trespassed her from their properties for one year.

On November 25, 2023 at 1633 hours, Hermantown officers were dispatched to an after-the-fact shoplifting report at Fleet Farm. An employee advised dispatch that a male shoplifter stole two firearm red dot sights.

Officers learned that on this day around 1532 hours, an unknown male entered the store and went to the sporting goods department where he selected two red dot sights valued at \$64.99 each, then he went to a different aisle in the store and was witnessed concealing the items on his person. He then hid the empty packaging behind some dog food in the aisle. The male without making any attempt to purchase the red dot sights, walked out of the store and entered his vehicle and drove off the property.

Officers reviewed the suspect vehicle's plate number, and found that it had been involved on a traffic stop back in August of this year. Officers compared the 38-year-old man from that stop to the photo provided by Fleet Farm and it was found to be the same party.

Ultimately, he was mailed a citation for shoplifting along with a notice of trespass by the request of the store.

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Accident

On November 25, 2023 around 1955 hours, officers received a call from a party stating her vehicle was struck while she was at work near the 4800th block of Woodridge Drive. Furthermore, she stated the suspect vehicle gave her insurance but she then realized it was expired. Officers spoke with the victim, a 21-year-old woman, who advised her parked vehicle was struck on the roadway while she was at work. She said the suspect driver, a 30-year-old man, stopped and provided his insurance card, but he provided an expired copy. The woman said that she took a photo of the card and did not see it was an expired copy until after the driver left.

Officers called the owner of the suspect vehicle, who explained he was driving his vehicle and struck the woman's vehicle when he was looking for an address on Woodridge and when he was backing up he struck the vehicle. He then said he logged into his insurance application and saw that his insurance policy was not effective. Officers advised the man he will be issued a citation for no insurance.

Driving While Intoxicated

Officers were dispatched to a report of an intoxicated male that drove his vehicle through a yard and got the vehicle stuck on November 21, 2023 around 6:30 pm near the 5800th block of Rose Road.

The vehicle was located roughly 50 yards through a backyard and into the woods. The officers approached the vehicle to find the 26-year-old driver passed out in the driver's seat. The vehicle was running and the car was in drive. When the door was opened, officers noted it smelled strongly of alcohol and marijuana.

When the driver woke up, he was confused and didn't know where he was. He said he believed he was on his way to a friend's house. Officers told the man he was not at his friend's house and that he drove his vehicle onto someone's property and crashed it in the woods, where he was stuck.

The man said when he got off work he had two or three whiskey mixed drinks at a local bar and while he was there he smoked marijuana. Officers asked the man what time he thought it was and he said it was 2200 hours when it was approximately 1850 hours.

The man was asked to complete standard field sobriety tests, but he said that the tail lights on the squads would affect his eyes and he wouldn't be able to complete the tests. He provided a PBT sample of .072.

Due to the driving conduct, the admission to drinking and smoking marijuana within the past three hours, and the speech and balance issues officers witnessed, the man was placed under arrest for DWI.

While in the Hermantown Police Department intox room, the man stated numerous times that he mixed his medications with alcohol and marijuana and said that he took a pain killer a few days ago, so he believed he may have opioids in his system.

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