

# 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 12/10/23 to 12/16/23, the Hermantown PD had 141 calls.  
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

## Animal Disturbance

On December 10, 2023 around 1120 hours, officers received a call that an injured fox was found near the 4700<sup>th</sup> block of Miller Trunk Hwy. The caller had stated they believed the fox had a broken leg.

Officers soon arrived on scene and the fox was nowhere to be found. Officers searched the area with no luck finding the fox.

## Assault

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 19:42 hours, officers were dispatched to an assault call near the 5000<sup>th</sup> block of Miller Trunk Hwy in Hermantown. A woman was reporting that she was assaulted by a man while working.

Officers spoke with the 19-year-old victim who stated that she was speaking with two males and that a 20-year-old male suspect then took a piece of paper with sticky tape on the back of it, stuck it to her forehead, and then cranked his arm back and hit her on the forehead with the palm of his hand. The woman said that the man hit her in the forehead with enough force that her head snapped back, and she had a headache afterward.

The other male witness admitted to seeing this event take place and agreed that the man hit her with such force that it looked like it would hurt.

Officers then met up with the suspect, who explained that he was joking around with the woman by taking a piece of paper, sticking it to her forehead, and then smacking it. He said that he was trying to be funny and didn't mean anything by it. The man was told that he would be receiving a citation for fifth-degree assault.

## Traffic Accident

On December 15, 2023 at 2257 hours, officers received a call that a vehicle had went off the road near the 4600<sup>th</sup> block of Lavaque Bypass and the party was unable to get out of the vehicle. Officers arrived on scene and could see the windshield was cracked.

The 18-year-old woman told officers that there was some slush on the right shoulder that she got into. She said when she left the roadway she also hit two mailboxes, which broke her windshield and right-side mirror. The woman was able to drive the vehicle out of the ditch on her own. No injuries were documented.

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On 12/11/2023 at 1550 hours, a call of a hit and run at the Menards in Hermantown came through dispatch. The reporting party was parked in the Menard's parking lot and their vehicle was hit while they were inside the store.

Officers spoke with the reporting party, 64-year-old man. He explained that he was parked in the Menards lot at the south end of the parking lot and that he was in the store for approximately 30 minutes. He noticed that damage when he got out shortly after being at the store and knew it was the only place this incident could have occurred.

The man said he received an estimate of \$1,800 for the repair of his vehicle. The vehicle had damage to the driver side rear bumper.

On December 14, 2023, Officers received an after-the-fact accident that occurred on the 8<sup>th</sup>. The caller claimed they drove into the ditch to avoid an accident in a parking lot near Timber Ridge. The caller stated that they were injured and there was vehicle damage, but at the time didn't think to call police.

The 46-year-old woman spoke with officers to report that on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 around 1800 hours, she was driving near the 4800<sup>th</sup> block of Starlite Loop when she met a vehicle that was driving the opposite direction down the middle of the road. The woman stated she swerved into the right ditch to avoid a head on collision.

The woman stated she was injured as a result of the crash and went to the hospital to find out she suffered a fracture. She was not able to make contact with the other vehicle and her vehicle suffered moderate damage. A state report will be filed in relation to this incident.

## Shoplifting

On 12/16/2023 at 1649 hours, Hermantown officers were dispatched to Menards for the report of an after-the-fact shoplifting incident.

The theft had occurred the previous night between 1848 -1918 hours. According to the report provided by Menards employees, a suspect male began selecting many items throughout the store for approximately 20 minutes. At one point he went to the hand tools aisle and selected merchandise valued at \$59.95. The male eventually leaves a cart with most of the selected items still in it, but is seen carrying one item passed the registers and out the exit doors.

Menards employees were able to identify the male from previous shoplifting incidents involving this party at the store. Officers reviewed store surveillance and were also able to determine the identity of the 22-year-old male suspect.

The man was mailed a citation for the misdemeanor theft. The store also requested the man be trespassed.

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On 12/15/2023 at 2116 hours, officers were dispatched to Walmart for a report of a female shoplifter. Dispatch then advised the female was throwing things and seemed to be under the influence and may have assaulted an employee. Officers on their way to Walmart were told that the female took off running towards the bus stop.

Officers approaching the scene made the decision to stop a DTA bus that was nearby to see if the female suspect had gotten on. Officers then observed a female sitting in the far back of the bus that matched the physical description of the suspect described by Walmart. When officers got on the bus, the woman got up and started walking towards them and said that Walmart got all their merchandise back. The woman was asked to get off the bus and she agreed.

The 21-year-old woman again made comments that she never took any of the merchandise and Walmart got it all back. She was returned to Walmart for an interview, but the woman did not want to speak to officers.

Prior to arrest, Officers discovered price tags on the boots the suspect was wearing. She admitted that she had stolen the boots from Walmart but had thrown her shoes, which were wet in a garbage. The boots were returned to Walmart. Officers also noted that they found several items that belonged to other people on the suspect and the woman told officers she wasn't the one who stole them.

With the addition of the Ugg boots, the total recovered value of the merchandise was \$630.52. Ultimately, the woman was transported to the St. Louis County Jail where she was lodged on charges of Gross Misdemeanor Theft-Shoplifting and Possession of Stolen Property.