

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 12/17/23 to 12/23/23, the Hermantown PD had 164 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

Car vs. Deer

On December 20th, 2023 around 1544 hours, dispatch alerted Hermantown officers of a deer-vs-vehicle accident that had just occurred near the Misty Morning Drive/Maple Grove Road intersection. Officers spoke with the 60-year-old woman who stated the deer was injured but off of the roadway. She wasn't sure if her car was drivable.

She stated the deer crossed in front of her as she was heading west on Maple Grove Road. Officers noted that deer had expired at the time of speaking with the driver. There was damage to the front of the vehicle. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

Vehicle in the Ditch

Officers were alerted of a vehicle that was in the ditch on December 17th, 2023 at 2241 hours near the Stebner Road and Morris Thomas Road intersection. It appeared the lights were on and the vehicle was still running. Another vehicle was on scene and the caller believed they weren't involved in the accident, but just assisting.

Officers were able to make contact with the 18-year-old female driver. She told officers that she spun out on Stebner Road and ended up perched down a steep embankment. There was minor front end damage to the vehicle and she told officers that she already called a tow. Officers noted that the roads were glare ice at the time and requested Public Works check the area for more sand and plowing.

No injuries were reported at the time of the event.

On December 17th, 2023 at approximately 0100 hours, officers were dispatched to a traffic crash that occurred at 4500th area of Lavaque Bypass.

Officers spoke with the first driver, a 16-year-old male, who stated that he was driving northbound and looked down to change the heat settings in his vehicle and did not see the vehicle in front of him turning right into a driveway until it was too late. The front of his vehicle struck the rear of Unit 2, which was driven by a 60-year-old male. Unit 1 suffered disabling damage and Unit 2 had severe cosmetic damage.

Ultimately, the juvenile male was issued a citation for inattentive driving. No injuries were report at the time of the crash.

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On December 22, 2023 at 1620 hours, officers were dispatched to a report of an accident near Miller Trunk Highway and Haines Road. Officers arrived on scene and located both vehicles on the shoulder of the road. Unit 1, driven by a 41-year-old woman, complained of neck and hand pain. The driver of Unit 1 told officers that she was southbound on Hwy 53 moving into the turn lane to turn onto Haines Road. Unit 2, driven by a 67-year-old man, advised they were also southbound behind Unit 1 and moving into the turn lane. Unit 2 said he was in the turn lane when Unit 1 started to move over in the lane and he was unable to avoid hitting Unit 1. Officers reported that Unit 1 had moderate rear passenger side damage and that Unit 2 had moderate driver side damage.

Shoplifting Attempt

On December 22nd, 2023 at 1759 hours, Walmart employees called dispatch and reported that they believed a shoplifting in progress was happening at the moment. The caller stated the man was talking and yelling to himself. Officers were on scene and spoke with employees. They told the officer that the man was walking around the store with a baby stroller and filling it with store items. After a bit, the man abandoned the stroller and left the store. Store employees were told to call back if anything else occurred.

On December 18th, 2023 at 1716 hours, Walmart employees called because they were worried about a potential theft and that they wanted to suspect trespass. Staff has explained that the male had been in the store every day for the past few days filling up carts, but had not taken anything out of the store. They wanted to identify the man so they could trespass him from the store.

Officers arrived on scene and located the male walking away from the bus stop. When officers asked the male to talk, he kept saying he did not do anything and walked away. The store was advised that the male would not stop and talk and officers could not detain him to identify him without a theft occurring. Employees said that the male did drink some soda without paying for it and left it in his shopping cart, but they did not wish to pursue charges for that soda being drank. Employees said they will verbally trespass him and would call back if he returns.

Suspicious Activity

On December 23rd, 2023, at 22:35 hours, Hermantown officers assisted St. Louis County deputies on a suspicious activity call at a store parking lot near the 5700th block of Miller Trunk Hwy in Duluth. Deputies were out with a parked occupied vehicle outside of a closed business.

Upon arriving at the scene, deputies informed Hermantown officers that they identified a 34-year-old woman as one of the people in the stopped vehicle whom had a warrant out of St. Louis County. She was advised she was under arrest for this warrant.

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Upon entry to jail, jail staff advised they located possible narcotics within the woman's jacket. Officers recognized the substance which appeared to be fentanyl.

During a cavity search, jail staff also seized a plastic baggie containing a white crystalline substance which appeared to be methamphetamine. Both of these items tested positive for the suspected drugs.

Officers requested the woman be charged with 5th Degree Possession and a Gross Misdemeanor charge of Introduce Contraband- Drugs/Liquor into Correctional Facility.

