

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 1/14/24 to 1/20/24, the Hermantown PD had 137 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

Shoplifting

On January 15th, 2024 at 1530 hours, Hermantown officers were dispatched to an active shoplifting call at Fleet Farm. Employees called 911 after watching a customer put on unpaid boots and leave his own shoes in the box.

Officers spoke with the store employees who stated they witnessed the male suspect take off his own shoes, place them into a shoe box, and put on the new boots. The man was seen walking around the store wearing the unpaid boots, selecting different store items and putting them into the cart.

Officers on scene were able to observe the suspect walk around the store for some time on store surveillance. The man eventually put everything in his cart back on different shelves and left the cart. He then walked past the checkout area and out of the store entrance wearing the boots without attempting to pay for them.

Store employees then stopped the suspect explaining that he had not paid for his boots and was caught on camera doing it. The 31-year-old male apologized for taking the boots and said that he did it because he was short on money and it is cold outside. The stolen merchandise was valued at \$74.99. The man was ultimately cited for Shoplifting.

Suspicious Activity

On January 20th, 2024 at 0027 hours, officers were alerted of an unknown person near the 4000th block of Haines Road, running around the caller's yard potentially looking at vehicles. The caller stated the suspect was a male wearing all black and that they left the scene in a vehicle.

Officers spoke with the reporting party who stated that they he saw a vehicle southbound on Haines Road do a U-turn and shut their lights off. The caller advised a male in all black exited the vehicle and began running around their yard. They believe the man was even on the porch at one point. The caller said once the male saw him moving around inside the house, the male left.

The caller said he then checked his yard and vehicle after the male left and found what appeared to be a broken chair leg in the driveway. The caller said it appeared that the male threw it at his vehicle, but there was no obvious damage. No suspects at this time.

Traffic Stop

On January 20th, 2024 at 2039 hours, A Hermantown officer was conducting routine patrol in the area of Stebner Road and Morris Thomas Road. At this time, the officer observed a vehicle that was displaying expired registration.

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A traffic stop was performed and the 47-year-old male driver was advised that the tabs on the vehicle had expired. The driver provided his MN driver's license, where one of the corners on the driver's license had been cut off. The officer asked the man if he knew why his license was clipped and said he wasn't sure why his license was clipped. Officers soon learned that the male did not have a valid license as it was in cancelled – inimical to public safety driving status. The man also had an out of state warrant that was non-extraditable for driving under the influence.

The man was advised of his driving status and out of state warrant. The man's daughter was in the vehicle and had a valid driver's license and was advised to drive the vehicle home. He was charged with Gross Misdemeanor Driving after Cancellation.

Theft

On January 20th, 2024 at 2234 hours, 911 dispatch received a call from a female that a wallet was stolen and she was looking for assistance. A second call came in from another party saying that the original caller was accusing a male of theft, but the male was attempted to return the items to her.

Officers spoke with the original caller, a 17-year-old female, who stated she was hanging out with an 18-year-old male after meeting him on Snapchat. He pulled into Kwik Trip to get gas and the caller went inside the store. While inside the store, the male left the female and blocked her on Snapchat. The caller stated that she left her jacket, phone charger, and wallet at the male's apartment.

Officers learned that somehow a family member contacted the suspect male through Snapchat and requested the female caller's belongings back. The male then returned and threw her jacket on the ground in the lot but there was no wallet. The caller said that the wallet was left outside of her jacket somewhere in the man's living room. Officers then responded to the man's address, but there was no answer at the apartment and it didn't appear anyone was home. The family member then again called officers and said that they made arrangements with the man to get the wallet back tomorrow and they were no longer requesting police involvement. Officers did not believe this was considered a theft at this time.

Traffic Accident

On January 18th, 2024 at 1334 hours, a two-vehicle accident was reported to have occurred near the 4800th block of Miller Trunk Hwy. Unit 1, driven by an 89-year-old male, was traveling west on West Arrowhead Road in the left lane when a vehicle pulled out of Menard Drive and started to drive into his lane. Unit 1 did not want to have a head-on collision, so he made the decision to abruptly slam on his brakes.

Unit 2, driver by a 31-year-old woman, was behind Unit 1 and ultimately rear ended them. The third vehicle was not identified. Both vehicles had minimal damage and were able to be driven away from the scene. No injuries were reported as well.