

# 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 2/11/24 to 2/17/24, the Hermantown PD had 174 calls.  
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

## Vehicle Fire

On February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 around 1512 hours, officers were alerted of a vehicle seen to be on fire near the DQ Grill and Chill on Market Street. A second call had come in and stated that the caller could see flames under the car and in the hood. It was also reported that a passerby was seen pulling a male party out from the vehicle. It was soon noted to be fully engulfed in flames.

Officers stated that the 79-year-old male driver was driving to the bank when his vehicle started smoking. He stated that he pulled over and got out and it started on fire. No injuries were reported and the vehicle was a total loss.

## Theft

On February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, squads were advised of a theft that had occurred at the Chalet Lounge in Hermantown. Officers spoke to staff and who explained that a group of four people came in for drinks and breakfast. The staff believed that three of the people were intoxicated.

When they left the building, the one female in the group grabbed a chair from their table and took it outside. One of the staff members were able to take a picture of the vehicle they were connected with and stated that they could see the chair in the back of the truck. Employee's stated that they do not want to press charges at this point and just want their chair back. The approximate value of the chair was \$125.

## Shoplifting

On February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 0607 hours, officers were dispatched to a shoplifting call at Walmart in Hermantown. Employees explained to officers that a cooperative shoplifter was currently in the office with them.

Store employees said that they started to watch a man who seemed to be acting paranoid. They watched the man as he walked around the store, selecting different store items. When the man went to self-checkout, he did not scan all the items.

As the man walked past the final point of sale without paying for all the items, store employees confronted him when he exited the store. It was at this time that the suspect admitted to not scanning all his store items and agreed to return to the Loss Prevention office with staff.

The 36-year-old man told officers that he intentionally did not scan all his store items at self-checkout. He explained he had money with him, but not enough to pay for all his items. He admitted that he did not need any items, but wanted them.

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The man was ultimately charged with shoplifting. The total cost of the items that were not scanned came to \$104.28.

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 around 1504 hours, officers were dispatched to a shoplifting call at the Walmart in Hermantown. Officers were told that the suspect had entered a vehicle in the lot, and the driver of the vehicle was seen exiting the vehicle and entering the store. The shoplifting suspect was in the back seat of the vehicle.

Officers were able to find the suspect vehicle in the lot and made contact with the 28-year-old woman. After speaking to officers, she admitted to the theft. She was ultimately cited for shoplifting and trespassed from the store for one year.

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 1616 hours, officers were dispatched to a report of a shoplifter at Walmart. Staff reported that a female wearing a jacket with dog ears left the store with unpaid merchandise. The suspect left the parking lot and fled towards the bus stop on Loberg Avenue and was seen entering the woods near the bus stop.

Officers arrived on scene and soon found the 32-year-old woman sitting on the ground in the woods. She came out of the woods to speak with the officers. She denied shoplifting initially, but later admitted to leaving the store with unpaid merchandise. She explained that staff had retrieved all the unpaid merchandise from her when she attempted to exit the store.

Dispatch alerted officers that the woman had five misdemeanor warrants for theft and trespassing, and an additional warrant for larceny. Officers took her in to custody at this time.

The woman had numerous bags with her at her time of arrest which were searched and drug paraphernalia and miscellaneous pills were located. She also had dozens of hypodermic needles.

The woman was ultimately cited for shoplifting. The stolen merchandise totaled to approximately \$250.

## Gas Drive Off

On February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 1301 hours, officers were dispatched to a gas drive off at the Amoco gas station in Hermantown. The reporting party advised that a male pumped \$20.01 worth of gas and left without payment.

Officers made contact with store staff regarding the incident. They were advised that the suspect selected to pay inside the store. The suspect pumped \$20.01 worth of fuel into his vehicle and left, making no attempt to pay for the fuel. At this time, the case will be suspended.

## Accident

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, officers were alerted of an accident in the Haines Road Kwik Trip parking lot. Unit 2, driven by a 25-year-old woman, said that she backed into Unit 1, driven by a 21-year-old man, while they were in the parking lot.

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The woman did explain that the accident was her fault and claimed that she did not see Unit 1. Unit 1 was noted to have minor damage to the front bumper and Unit 2 had minor rear end damage. No injuries were reported at the time of this report.

