

# 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  
Jon Enright  
Erika Johnson - SRO  
Olivia Gottschald  
Andrew Leibel  
Alex Prouse  
Rebecca Towner  
Devin Kleive  
Lucas Hedin

**Clerical**  
Dana Ross  
Samantha Knapp  
Ashley Johnson

**K-9**  
Tuuko  
Jack



**During the week of 3/31/24 to 04/6/24, the Hermantown PD had 186 calls.  
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.**

## **Vehicle Accident with Injuries**

On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 at 1116 hours, officers were alerted of an accident with injuries near West Arrowhead Road and Miller Trunk Hwy. It was reported that one vehicle was on its side and bystanders were trying to help people out of the vehicle.

Driver 1, a 37-year-old-man, was driving north on the highway. He told officers that he had his cruise set for 50mph and had a green light. The man explained that he believed Driver 2, a 73-year-old man, was westbound on Arrowhead and ran the red light in front of him. Two witnesses on scene claimed they were behind Driver 2 and they did have a green light.

Driver 1 denied any injuries and was wearing a seatbelt. His vehicle suffered heavy front-end damage and his front and right-side airbags were deployed. Both vehicles needed to be towed due to the extent of damage. The parties in Vehicle 2, which including a female passenger, needed to be transported to the hospital by ambulance for minor injuries.

On April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 around 2055 hours, officers were alerted of a three-vehicle accident with injuries that had occurred near the Morris Thomas and Ugstad Road. Unit 3, driven by a 24-year-old male, headed eastbound Morris Thomas Road approaching Ugstad Road. The man stated that a northbound Ugstad vehicle entered the intersection, causing him to apply hard braking, which caused his vehicle to skid sideways before the left front fender struck the power pole in the southwest corner and spun the truck a full 180 degrees.

Unit 1, driven by 45-year-old male, pulled into the intersection to block vehicles from traveling under the low hanging, unsecured power line. While contacting emergency services, Unit 2, driven by 76-year-old male, collided with Unit 1, causing minor cosmetic damage to Unit 1 and moderate disabling damage to Unit 2.

The 76-year-old male had a laceration on his left hand that was bandaged by medics. Unit 2 and 3 were towed due to disabling damage.

## **Shoplifting**

On April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 1755 hours, officers were dispatched to Walmart for a report of a male shoplifter who had left the store on foot. Employees had observed the man removed items from their packing in the store and then concealed the merchandise into his coat pocket. Store employees explained that after the male had been confronted at the doors, he left on foot and went into the woods across Loberg Avenue.

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Officers drove around near the Miller Hill Subaru parking lot and soon observed a male matching the suspect description walking east out of the parking lot and towards the Mexican Maya Restaurant. Officers contacted the man who denied taking anything from the store and claimed he left because they were harassing him. While checking the man for stolen merchandise, officers realized the man's boots were wet and the cuffs of his pants were dripping with water. When asked why his boots and pants were wet, he said he is homeless and always wet. The man then became defensive and asked if he was going to jail tonight.

Officers are familiar with low lying woods that contain swamps, as well as a creek that has to be crossed to get between the two businesses. It was presumed that the suspect may have ditched the stolen merchandise to avoid being caught with it. After attempting to speak with the man further, he told officers that he didn't want to talk anymore and again asked if he was going to jail.

The man was issued a citation for shoplifting. He was also trespassed from all Walmart and Sam's Club properties for a period of one year. The value of the stolen merchandise was \$99.97. It was ultimately not recovered.

## Drug Incident

On March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, officers were dispatched to a call at the Menards parking lot where the caller claimed to have found Marijuana in her vehicle and had no idea where it came from. Officers spoke with the woman who stated that she found a bag of marijuana in her vehicle and believes it's possible one of her adult children might have left it in her vehicle. Officers told the woman that if she did not want the marijuana she could dispose of it.

## Traffic Arrest

On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 around 0122 hours, officers on routine patrol near the area of Haines Road and Miller Trunk Highway observed a vehicle that was driving in inclement weather without its lights turned on. The officer noted after making a U-turn to get behind the vehicle, it took some time to catch up due to traffic conditions.

The driver, a 32-year-old woman, immediately started screaming at officers stating they were only pulling her over because of her race. After the screaming ended, the officer explained that she was stopped because she didn't have her headlights on and the registered owner of the vehicle was revoked. Dispatch then alerted officers the woman had multiple warrants for Driving after Revocation and no insurance out of St. Louis County.

She was told she was under arrest for multiple warrants out of St. Louis County. She was hesitant to get out of the vehicle and was verbally uncooperative. She also pulled away from officers and did not put her hands behind her back. The woman was booked at the Saint Louis County Jail for her warrants and for driving after revocation.