

# 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 4/21/24 to 04/27/24, the Hermantown PD had 185 calls.  
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

## Threats with a Gun

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 around 1450 hours, dispatch alerted officers of a report from a woman driving near the Miller Trunk Hwy and Sugar Maple Drive intersection. The woman told dispatch that a male passenger in another vehicle had pointed a black handgun at her as she passed by them.

Responding officers spoke to the caller who stated she and the other vehicle were driving northbound on Miller Trunk Highway. The woman said she was attempting to pass by the vehicle, but it would not let her and that this continued up the highway.

When she was in front of the Chalet Lounge on Miller Trunk Highway, she attempted to pass on the right side in the right lane. There was a male wearing glasses in the passenger seat who produced a black handgun. The woman stated that the window was open, he put his hand out the window, resting his arm on the doorframe and pointed the gun at her. The woman said she immediately pulled back, and the suspect in the vehicle continued northbound. As officers spoke to the woman, she stated that she was still following the vehicle at a distance.

Officers were able to catch up to the suspect vehicle and took the occupants out of the vehicle. They placed the male passenger in to custody at this time. Officers had located the handgun in the door pocket on the passenger side of the vehicle. It was determined that the driver wasn't involved in the threats so she was released after questioning.

Officers then questioned the 27-year-old male, and asked they him if he knew why he was brought to the Hermantown Police Department. He told officers "I figured somebody called the police because I pulled my gun out." He also confirmed that the gun that was found in the car was his gun. When asked why he pulled out his gun, the man stated there was a car that was following closely to them to the point it appeared they were going to rear end them. He stated he was fearful as he did not know what the occupants of this car were going to do and he wanted to protect the people in the vehicle.

He explained to officers that he used the gun as a means to say "leave us alone" and it was a scare tactic. The man was ultimately lodged at the St. Louis County Jail on pending charges of 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Assault and Carrying Weapon without a Permit.

## Fraud

On April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at approximately 1224 hours, Hermantown officers were notified by dispatch of a fraud report.

Officers met with the victim, an 87-year old woman, and her 54-year-old son later in the day at the Hermantown Police Department. The woman stated that she started receiving a lot of phone calls

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from unknown numbers in early April. She said she received a voicemail on an unknown date that stated she had won a Mercedes-Benz in a contest. She called the number back and started talking to two males.

Both males claimed to work for a sweepstakes organization for senior citizens. The woman explained that the men were calling and texting her multiple times a day. They told her that she would need to pay the shipping for the vehicle to come from Louisiana and that she would get refunded the money once the vehicle arrived.

The woman stated that she then sent out a personal check on 04/11/2024 that she was told to make out to an address in Mississippi for \$4,999. The check was cashed shortly after. The woman said that she had deleted all text messages and voicemails from the suspect male and that she had reported the fraud to her bank. The case has been suspended at this time.

## Shoplifting

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 2039 hours, officers were dispatched to the Hermantown Walmart for a report of a female shoplifter. When officers arrived, the female suspect was sitting in the store office.

Staff stated that the woman caught their attention because she had a backpack in her cart that was open that appeared to have items in it. The backpack also appeared to have store tags on it. The woman's cart was completely full of items and she began to make her way to the front of the store. The employee witnessed the woman walk past all last points of sale and walk out the grocery exit doors without trying to purchase any of the items in her cart.

Officers attempted to interview the woman and asked her if she wanted to answer any questions and she told them 'no'. A total of 60 items were recovered from the 27-year-old woman's cart. The total value of recovered stolen items was \$528.28.

The woman was ultimately taken to the St. Louis County Jail where she was lodged and booked on a charge of Gross Misdemeanor Shoplifting. She was also trespassed from all Walmart properties for a period of one year.

## Traffic Stop

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 2255 hours, Officers conducting routine patrol at the Walmart observed a moped scooter with no license plate sitting in the parking lot. The driver of the scooter came out of the store and drove out of the Walmart parking lot. The driver drove south on Loberg Avenue. Officers followed the scooter and initiated a traffic stop at Market Street and Loberg Avenue. The scooter was slow to stop and drove into the Fleet Farm parking lot.

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The 28-year-old man stated he just bought the scooter from a friend and that is why it did not have any license plates. Officers soon learned that the man's Minnesota driver's license was cancelled inimical to public safety and he had multiple warrants for theft out of St. Louis County.

The man was taken in to custody at this time. Officers asked the man if he had any drugs on him and he admitted to having meth on him. During the search, officers found a crystal-like substance that appeared to be methamphetamine and a white powder wrapped in tin foil within a black container found inside of the man's fanny pack, along with numerous drug paraphernalia items.

The man was transported to the St. Louis County Jail for booking where he was lodged on his warrants, 5<sup>th</sup> Degree Possession (2 counts,) DAC IPS, and no MN registration.

