

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 5/26/24 to 06/01/24, the Hermantown PD had 232 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

Suspicious Mail

On May 31st, 2024 at 0822 hours, Edgewood Vista employees called dispatch to advise them that they received a package in the mail at their facility with a name they do not recognize that smells like marijuana. Hermantown officers arrived to Edgewood and spoke with the reporting party who said the package came two days prior. The name on the package is not anyone who currently lives at the facility or has in the past.

The woman explained to officers that she opened it up and there was a glass bottle packaged up in a clear bag and it smelled strong of marijuana. The bag was labeled vinaigrette with a number on it and was filled with a light brown colored oil. Officers took the package and will dispose of it.

Damage to Property

On May 28th, 2024 at 1521 hours, officers were alerted of a man in the Hermantown Police Department lobby that needed to file a report. Officers spoke to the 61-year-old man who stated he was driving pulling his camper down Copley Road when the antenna of the camper caught the Mediacom wire hanging over the roadway and ripped it out, causing a cable outage to at least one house in the area.

In further speaking to the man, officers learned that when the cable ripped, it struck the man's vehicle and caused some scratching and scuffing damage to the hood and passenger side windows, as well as some scratching to the top of the camper. The man said he has driven the camper underneath that wire numerous times in the past without issue and the wire must have dropped somehow. Officers advised the man that this is a civil matter between he and the power company at this time.

Disturbance

On May 26th, 2024 at 2323 hours, officers were dispatched to a report of a disturbance at the Econo Lodge in Hermantown. The reporting party stated that eight people were in the lobby of the hotel screaming.

When officers arrived on scene, the reporting party quickly walked up as officers were exiting their patrol vehicle. Officers advised the 53-year-old woman to take a step back as they did not know who she was or if she was involved in the incident. The woman told officers that there was a group of people arguing inside the lobby. Officers told the woman to stay outside as they went into the hotel to ensure there was no one inside arguing.

Upon speaking to the front desk staff, officers learned there were no issues inside. Employees said the only individuals causing a disturbance were the reporting caller and her daughter. The other guests in the lobby agreed that the two outside had caused the disturbance.

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Officers went back outside and spoke with the woman who reported that the employee was being rude to other guests when she was trying to check into the hotel. However, there were no other guests inside reporting that the employee was being rude or yelling at guests. The woman claimed the employee was cursing and yelling at approximately eight guests who were trying to check in to their hotel room. The woman explained that she went to the counter and asked the employee to stop yelling as it was upsetting her daughter. The woman said the employee then started to yell at her.

Officers advised the woman and her daughter that the Econo Lodge did not want them staying there anymore and wished for them to be trespassed. The woman was upset with officers but eventually left. There was another guest outside who witnessed the woman argue with the employee. The other guest said that it was the woman who caused the disturbance inside the lobby and the employee wasn't the one who started the argument.

Shoplifting

On May 28th, 2024 at 1432 hours, officers were dispatched to an after-the-fact shoplifting report at Fleet Farm. The reporting party explained to dispatch that the shoplifting incident happened on 5/25/24 and resulted in a generator being stolen. The generator was valued at a total of \$1199.99. At no point did the male make an attempt to pay for the item.

Officers went to the store and reviewed the incident on video with store employees. They were able to make out a license plate on the vehicle as it exited the store. The officer soon learned that a Hermantown officer had just arrested a male individual the previous day who was described as driving the same type of suspect vehicle. Reviewing the officers body camera footage and comparing it to the suspect video information, it was found to be the same male party.

The officer then went to the Saint Louis County jail and attempted to speak with the 22-year-old man, who told the officer he wanted an attorney. He was then lodged on a new charge of Felony Shoplifting.

On 05/27/2024 at approximately 1942 hours, officers were notified of a shoplifting in progress at the Walmart in Hermantown. Dispatch stated there was a male concealing merchandise in two duffel bags in the rear of the store.

A St. Louis County Sheriff's deputy was the first squad on scene and stopped the male as he was getting into the suspect vehicle. The deputy told Hermantown officers that the 37-year-old man attempted to leave the store with merchandise worth over one thousand dollars.

The man told officers that he was going through a hard time and he decided to go to Walmart because he needed some stuff for his house. He estimated the amount of the items he attempted to leave the store with was close to one thousand dollars. The total theft was learned to be \$1,182.29

The man was transported to the St. Louis County Jail and lodged for felony theft by shoplifting.

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