

# 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 6/16/24 to 06/22/24, the Hermantown PD had 135 calls.  
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.**

## DWI

On June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 0016 hours, officers on patrol observed a truck driving with no headlights on near the Miller Trunk Hwy and Birchwood Drive area. The truck caught their attention as it was late at night and raining. After running the license plate, the vehicle's registered owner showed to have a canceled driver's license.

When approaching the truck, officers noticed a strong odor of alcoholic beverage coming from inside the truck. The 58-year-old man was slurring his words and had watery eyes. He told officers that he had two beers with dinner. Officers told the man they would need to perform standard field sobriety testing to make sure he was able to drive. The officer had to stop several tests because they felt it was unsafe to continue due to the man's poor balance. The man provided a PBT sample of .29. Once back at the Hermantown Police Department, the man stated he would not take another breath test.

At this time, the man was placed under arrest for 4<sup>rd</sup> Degree DWI, Driving after Cancellation – Inimical to Public Safety, Headlights Required Sunset to Sunrise, DL Restrictions Ignition Interlock Required and 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree DWI Refusing to Test. His vehicle was also towed at this time.

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at approximately 2243 hours, officers on patrol were approaching Hwy 2 and observed a vehicle near the intersection with an inoperable headlight. The officer decided to stop the vehicle for this traffic violation.

As officers walked up to the vehicle, the 61-year-old male driver immediately said "you got me I'm done" and "I'm drunk, how the hell did you know". Officers explained the reason for the stop was for one of his headlights being inoperable and further asked him how much he had to drink tonight. The man said he had a few drinks and pointed to an open case of beer sitting next to him. There was also an open beer can in the cup holder. The man told officers that he had approximately 8 beers and asked officers to let him go home because he hasn't had a DWI in 20 years.

Officers told the man they would have to run him through a couple of tests to see if he is okay to drive and he said, "I'm not, I'm not okay to drive". The officers ran the man through SFSTs at this time. Prior to taking a PBT breath test, officers asked the man how many drinks he had and he changed his answer from eight to approximately three and a half over the last two hours. He then provided a PBT and it resulted in a .09.

Ultimately, the man was placed under arrest for 4<sup>th</sup> Degree DWI and Open Bottle Law Drinking and Consumption.

## Shoplifting

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at approximately 2123 hours, officers were dispatched to an active shoplifting incident at Walmart. The reporting party stated that a male and female were inside of the store attempting to steal a cart of groceries. The couple ran to their car after being confronted. Loss Prevention staff explained that they had recovered the items. They also told officers that the

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suspects entered a vehicle that went the wrong way on Loberg Avenue and ran a red light before heading north on Miller Trunk Highway.

Officers in the area observed the suspect vehicle traveling northbound toward their location and conducted an enforcement stop. Officers approached the driver's window and asked the male driver if he knew why he was being stopped, and he stated that he did not. Officers asked if there was anything that happened at Walmart and the male claimed that staff asked him for his identification and he stated that his wallet was in the car. Staff told the man that they were going to contact 911 and the male stated that idea was dumb because he can't provide his identification unless he was able to get to his car.

The 37-year-old man told officers that store employees told him that the woman he was with had failed to scan one or two items. The man claimed the 37-year-old woman didn't intent to shoplift these items, but that she was confused. When officers then spoke with the woman, she told officers that she believed the items had already been paid for by the male she was with.

Officers then spoke to store employees that witnessed the event. They explained that the couple skipped multiple items, which warranted a stop for the unscanned items. Once the scanning was complete, the couple did not pay for any of the items. They also stated that both parties handled and mis-scanned items. It was also clear in the video that the man had his wallet in his pocket and attempted to look through it for an extended period of time.

The male was ultimately issued a citation for shoplifting and operating a vehicle without a valid license. The woman was issued a citation for shoplifting. Both parties were also trespassed. The stolen merchandise which was recovered totaled \$224.56.

## Found Property

On June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 around 1256 hours, Hermantown officers were alerted of a caller near the Miller Trunk Hwy and Stebner Road intersection claiming to have witnessed a wallet fall from a motorcycle rider's pocket. The reporting party was now at the Hermantown Police Department with the wallet and wanted to speak with officers.

The reporting party told officers that they were behind the motorcycle at the stoplight at this intersection. When the light turned green, the motorcycle drove off fairly quickly and the man saw the items fall out of the driver's pocket. The reporting party said that they attempted to contact the person whose driver's license was inside of the wallet, but they learned he was a traveler who is constantly on the move to different parks.

Around 1416 hours on the same day, officers were able to get a hold of the man and his family and were going to attempt to make further arrangements for the return of the wallet.

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