

# 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 6/23/24 to 06/29/24, the Hermantown PD had 189 calls.  
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.**

## Shoplifting

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 0921 hours, officers were dispatched to a report of a shoplifter at the Fleet Farm in Hermantown.

Officers arrived on scene and store employees stated the male took a pair of yellow gloves and put them in his backpack. Officers reviewed video footage of the theft and it clearly showed the male putting the gloves in his backpack. The male then walked past the last point of sale and out the front door where he was confronted. The suspect gave the gloves back immediately.

The suspect was identified as a 48-year-old male. He admitted to officers to stealing the gloves because he didn't have any money. He furthermore explained that he wanted to use the gloves for biking and said they would help him in the rain.

The man was issued a citation for shoplifting and the citation was explained in detail. He was also trespassed from Fleet Farm for a period of one year.

Later on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 1338 hours, Hermantown officers were dispatched to a report of a shoplifter at the Walmart in Hermantown as a male had shoplifted and was fleeing. LP stated the male suspect then stated he was "going to take the charge" because he lost the keys to his car and can't flee.

Officers arrived and located store employees and the 47-year-old male suspect walking back into the store. The employee told officers that the male concealed a bottle of gorilla glue in his pocket and walked out the front door without making any attempt to pay for it. Once he was confronted, the male the male threw the bottle of glue out the door and fled in the parking lot. It was learned that he tried to flee in his car, but lost his car keys.

The man did not wish to speak with officers. The total for the stolen glue was \$5.98. He was issued a citation for shoplifting and trespassed from all Walmart's for a period of one year.

## Scam

On June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 1203 hours, a woman spoke with dispatch concerning a possible scam that was happening to her. She stated that a sheriff's office was claiming to call her to discuss a legal matter.

Officers spoke to the woman who stated that today, she had received a call from a blocked number. She let the call go to voicemail. When she listened to the voicemail, the caller was claiming to be a Sergeant with the Sheriff's Office and explained that he needed to speak with her regarding an "urgent legal matter".

Officers called a local officer with the same name as the alleged caller, who explained that scammers have been using his name in recent scam call attempts. The woman caller was alerted of this and told to ignore these types of calls in the future. Nothing Further was needed at this time.

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## Vehicle Accident

On June 28th, 2024 at approximately 1810 hours, officers were dispatched to a traffic crash with injuries near the Stebner Road and Maple Grove Road intersection. Officers were alerted that there were four vehicles involved and that one person was unable to get out of the vehicle.

Officers arrived on scene and spoke with Driver 3, an 81-year-old male, who stated that he was waiting for the stoplight to turn green before proceeding into the intersection when his vehicle was hit from behind.

They then spoke with Driver 2, a 45-year-old woman, that was learned to have caused the accident. When questioned on what had occurred, she responded that she "didn't even know." She explained that she saw the vehicle's stopped and began to merge into the northbound Stebner Road lane and did not know what had happened from there. The woman denied any type of distractions that may have caused the accident.

Officers then approached Driver 1, a 35-year-old woman. The woman stated that a vehicle was coming up behind her while she was stopped at the red light for Stebner Road. It appeared that Driver 2 was attempting to merge into the turn lane, but did not merge soon enough and hit the right rear of her vehicle before veering sideways, hitting Driver 3's vehicle. Driver 1 estimated that Driver 2 was traveling 40 or 50 miles per hour when the collision occurred, which would have been considerably faster than reasonable when approaching the intersection.

The woman, Driver 2, was issued a citation for Duty to Drive with Due Care and was transported to the hospital by Mayo Clinic Ambulance.

## Suspicious Activity

On June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 1701 hours, officers were alerted of a suspicious person that was dressed in all black with his hood up near the Maple Grove Road and Westberg Road intersection. The caller claimed the man was wearing a black weighted vest that reminded them of a bullet proof vest. The caller also noted that it didn't appear the man had anything in his hands.

Officers driving nearby observed the male in question walking from Maple Grove to Deerfield. The officer noted that it appeared to be a man just out for a walk. There was nothing suspicious observed by the officer.

## Traffic Offense

On June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 1038 hours, officers on routine patrol in the area of Miller Trunk Highway and Stebner Road observed a vehicle with their passenger side taillight out.

Officers initiated a stop and approached the vehicle. The 43-year-old female driver immediately said "I know I shouldn't be driving." The woman was not wearing her seatbelt at the time of the stop and explained to officers that it was broken. A 65-year-old male passenger was also not

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wearing his seatbelt. The man said he has medical issues and that is why he is not wearing his seatbelt.

Ultimately, the woman was issued a citation for Driving after Revocation and not wearing a seatbelt. The citation was explained in detail. She was given a warning for her taillight being out. The passenger was given a warning for not wearing a seatbelt. Officers advised the woman to park the car and get a valid driver to come drive the vehicle.

