

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 07/14/24 to 07/20/24, the Hermantown PD had 194 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

Check Forgery

On July 19th, 2024 at 1958 hours, Hermantown officers responded to Menards for the report of a male using a stolen check. Employees stated they believed they identified the male and that he may have active warrants.

Officers driving nearby noticed a male matching the description of the suspect riding a bike across West Arrowhead Road heading towards the Kolar Toyota dealership. Officers followed the suspect on the bike through the dealership parking lot and initiated his squad siren to stop the suspect. The suspect stopped his bike in the back-parking lot of the Kolar Dealership next to Miller Trunk Highway. Due to traffic, the officer exited his squad and ran after the suspect on foot where they caught the male on the side of the road.

The 63-year-old man was found to have an active warrant out of Douglas County for check forgery. The man was upset and told officers that he was falling on hard times. The man was searched prior to arrest and multiple knives and lighters were located in his pocket. Officers also found a checkbook in the back pocket of his shorts that did not belong to him. After looking closely at these documents, officers were able to identify where the man falsely endorsed a check that he provided to Menards for the merchandise.

Officers followed up with the rightful owners of the checkbook to confirm that checks were stolen. They explained that the checkbook was reported stolen from their vehicle and did not give permission for anyone to use the checks. The suspect refused to speak about the checks to officers.

Ultimately, the man was transported to the Saint Louis County Jail and booked on Felony Check Forgery and for the warrant out of Douglas County for check forgery. The total for both cases combined was \$527.19.

Damage to Property

On July 18th, 2024 at 1108 hours, a woman came into the Hermantown Police Department to report that an unknown person has been putting trash in her mailbox and this morning, there was dog feces.

Officers then spoke to the woman who stated that she goes to work very early every morning and noticed that the 16 silver mailboxes that are placed at the end of her road have been filled with garbage. The woman explained that she cleans the garbage out of the mailboxes before continuing to work. The woman told officers that the mailboxes have all been filled with dog feces the last two nights. People in this stretch of road are becoming frustrated due to this activity apparently disrupting their mail service.

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There was currently no mail and no garbage or fecal matter in any of the silver mailboxes. She believes that this is happening during the night hours. The responding officer advised the night shift to be diligent in checking this area.

Disturbance

On July 18th, 2024 at 1643 hours, Walmart employees had called to report a woman that was screaming and waving around a stick in the parking lot. The officers were told the woman was upset because there wasn't a warranty on a product. Officers arrived on scene and were pointed to a grassy area and advised there was a female beating things with a stick, unknown if anything was damaged.

Officers approached and spoke with the 36-year-old woman. At first, the woman would not set the stick down and would raise it above her waist at officers in a threatening manner. She would continue to walk the other way. The woman walked away with officers following her for a short time before throwing the stick down and running at officers with her arms together, insisting that she be arrested.

The woman told officers that she was upset that she came to Walmart today to get a warranty claim on her phone because it was broken. She also explained that all of her things were stolen to include any way of validating a warranty. Therefore, loss prevention stated that a warranty claim could not be granted. Store employees observed the woman 'bear hug' an entire display of metal water bottles and toss a large amount of them on the floor. The woman was ultimately arrested on a warrant out of Hennepin County and lodged at the Saint Louis County Jail.

Traffic Accident

On July 18th, 2024 at 0639 hours, dispatch was notified of a two-vehicle accident near the Miller Trunk Hwy and Hwy 194 intersection. It appeared that one of the vehicle driver's was outside of the vehicle and walking around.

Officers responded to the scene and spoke to Driver 1, a 27-year-old woman. She explained to officers that she was eastbound on Hwy 194 and stopped at the stop sign for southbound Miller Trunk Highway. Driver 2, a 19-year-old woman, was directly behind her and was headed in the same direction. Driver 2 was looking northbound Miller Trunk Highway to confirm that the trafficway was clear to enter the southbound lane. Driver 1 stated that she was stopped and waiting for traffic to clear and had not proceeded into the intersection. Driver 2 began attempting to enter southbound Miller Trunk Highway without looking ahead to confirm that Driver 1 had already proceeded and struck the front of her vehicle to the rear.

Driver 1 was complaining of neck pain, so medical was called to assess her injuries. Officers noted that there were no obvious visible damages to either vehicle.

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