

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 08/11/24 to 08/17/24, the Hermantown PD had 186 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.**

Fraud

On August 14th, 2024 around 0900 hours, officers responded to a call of fraud over the computer. The reporting party, a 32-year-old man, reported that he contacted a party on Facebook about purchasing Vikings football game tickets and was swindled out of money.

The man explained to officers that he messaged an account on Facebook that was advertising the tickets. He said the account belonged to the Hermantown Community page. The account messaged him back that the price was \$500.00 and to pay over Apple pay. After making a payment of \$500.00, he was messaged to pay another \$300.00 for a name change fee. The man paid both times to different Apple pay numbers which were both out of state. When he never received the tickets, he began to believe it was a scam.

Officers found the account on Facebook and noted it appeared to be from a person living in the area. Officers were able to make contact with the account holder on the phone. The woman said she used to live in Duluth but now lives in New York. She told officers that her Facebook account had been hacked roughly four months ago and the scammers have been using it since then.

She further explained that she contacted Facebook about it, but they will not close it down and she can no longer access the account. She also had her friends on Facebook report the account. Officers also submitted a fraud claim against the account, but was advised by Facebook it was not against Facebook policy.

There are no further leads to follow. The scammer is unknown at this time.

Shoplifting

On August 12th, 2024 at 1215 hours, officers were dispatched to a shoplifting incident at the Walmart in Hermantown. Dispatch advised officers that a female attempted to leave with unpaid merchandise but the reporting party recovered it from her prior to her leaving in a vehicle.

Officers learned that the store employees witnessed a woman walk to the front of the store, walk past all points of sale and attempted to leave without paying for items. Employees then confronted the woman in the vestibule of the grocery doors where she claimed she was going out to her car in order to make an exchange. When they asked the woman to come back in the store she refused, handed over the merchandise and fled in a vehicle.

The suspect vehicle was registered to a male and a phone number for the owner was found. The man told officers that they still owned the vehicle and that his daughter is the one who uses it and she must be using it today.

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Officers then compared a booking photo of the 44-year-old woman and confirmed she was the suspect in the video. The woman was ultimately issued a citation for shoplifting.

On August 17th, 2024 at 1838 hours, officers were dispatched to a report of a fleeing shoplifter at Walmart in Hermantown. Store employees advised that there was a male who attempted to steal merchandise and left in a vehicle.

Officers were able to identify the 41-year-old male suspect after review from previous contacts they've had with the individual. Officers reviewed the video during the male's transaction near the self-checkouts. They found that the man had pushed the cart to the checkouts and scanned two items, placed the two items into a shopping bag and then a few seconds later watched him remove the items from the shopping bag. The man did not make any effort to scan three other items that were in the shopping cart. The total for the three items was \$132.98.

Officers attempted to call the suspect, but were unable to make contact. Ultimately, the man was issued a citation.

Suspicious Activity

On August 11th, 2024 at 0303 hours, officers were alerted of a suspicious activity call near the 5100th block of Morris Thomas Road. The caller stated that a family member had heard the sound of a window being smashed and believed someone was trying to break into the home. The caller also told officers that they were armed with a firearm.

Officers arrived on scene and checked the entire perimeter of the residence. Officers noted that no dew was disturbed on the grass other than where officers walked. Officers then spoke with the reporting party who stated that he woke up to what felt like the house shaking, similar to a door getting kicked in. Officers walked some of the interior of the home and found that nothing appeared out of place. No further assistance requested.

Traffic Stop

On August 17th, 2024 at 1556 hours, officers on routine patrol near the Maple Grove and Ugstad Road area had observed a vehicle traveling at a speed of 44MPH in a 35MPH zone. A traffic stop was then initiated.

Officers made contact with the 61-year-old male driver of the vehicle, who initially gave the officer a date of birth with the year 1962 instead of 1963. Officers asked for the man's driver's license and his proof of insurance, which he explained that he did not have either on him. He then admitted to the officer that he had a suspended license in Minnesota.

When running the vehicle, the registration was shown to be revoked due to a plate impound. The man had an active warrant out of Ramsey County.

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The man was arrested on the warrant and the plates were removed. At the jail, the man was left with a citation for driving after suspension, speeding, no proof of insurance, and driving during the impoundment period.

