

# 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 08/18/24 to 08/24/24, the Hermantown PD had 244 calls.  
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.**

## **Disturbance**

On August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 1227 hours, dispatch advised officers of a disturbance at Walmart. Dispatch explained that a male driving a tan vehicle backed into a woman's shopping cart which then hit her. The reporting party got upset and kicked the vehicle. Dispatch advised that the reporting party was declining a medical response.

Officers arrived on scene and met with the reporting party, a 39-year-old woman and her 38-year-old husband. The woman explained that she was standing behind her vehicle unloading her cart, which was directly behind her vehicle. Soon after, a vehicle backed up from the parking spot across from them and backed into the woman's cart which then "jarred" the woman.

The woman told officers that she just got angry and kicked the car which caused the driver of the vehicle, a 73-year-old male, to ask what she did that for. The woman said she told the man that he hit her but he denied it and said she was lying. The woman said the man then said he was sorry if he hit her and then took off.

Officers then went inside and reviewed surveillance video of the incident which showed the man in the vehicle was backing out of his parking spot and almost halfway across the driving aisle when the woman pushes her cart right behind the man's vehicle which was still in motion. The woman stopped her cart behind her vehicle and the man stops short of the cart. The man starts pulling forward to adjust his direction and then starts backing up again very slowly. The vehicle then backs into the cart and pushes it slightly. The woman is standing next to the push handle of the cart but the video is inconclusive on if it struck her in any way or not.

The woman did not react in any way to suggest she was injured or in pain, but immediately kicked the vehicle just behind the rear driver's side wheel. As the man is driving away he stops several times as it appears words are being exchanged. At one point, the woman grabs her cane out of her cart and holds it up in the air towards the man. The husband is also seen waving the vehicle off in a manner that would suggest he was telling him to leave.

Officers then called the vehicle owner who stated he started backing out of his spot when he saw one of the couple's children run behind his vehicle so he stopped. He then started backing up again and realized he couldn't make the turn so he pulled forward, started backing up again and then the woman and the shopping cart were behind him. The man said he was backing up very slowly, approximately 1 mph and the woman started screaming at him that he hit her cart. The man admitted that he and the woman exchanged some words and the husband told him to leave.

Officers asked if there was any damage done to his vehicle and he said there were maybe a couple scuffs. Officers told the man that he did back into the cart but the video was inconclusive as to if the cart hit the woman or not. There are no criminal charges as a result of this incident.

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## Shoplifting

On August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 1549 hours, Hermantown officers were dispatched to a report of a shoplifting at Walmart. The suspects had fled in a vehicle and all merchandise was recovered by the store employees.

Officers in the area found a vehicle matching the suspect description and initiated a traffic stop. The officer approached the vehicle and observed it was occupied by three people: a male driver, female front seat passenger, and male rear-seat passenger. A male and female claimed to be the ones that were in the store. They claimed that they were trying to pay for an item inside at the self-checkout, and they had purchased some items which they had the receipt for.

Officers spoke to the female who was found to have voided items at the checkout. She later admitted to stealing items worth \$34.97. After researching the woman's history, it was learned that the woman was trespassed from the store the previous month and that she also was recently charged for felony aid and abet of a transaction card fraud.

Due to the previous recent involvement with the 44-year-old woman, she was ultimately charged with third degree burglary. The men who were mentioned were not involved in the thefts.

On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 at 1830 hours, officers were dispatched to a shoplifter at the Menards in Hermantown. Store employees reported that a male was actively shoplifting and concealing merchandise in a bag. The 36-year-old man had admitted he had unpaid merchandise concealed in his bag. The stolen merchandise totaled to \$46.98.

At first, the man stated he didn't want to talk with officers. While sitting in the quiet room, the man eventually admitted to shoplifting. He told the officer that he was hoping to pay for a few items and get a few items for free. He also stated that he was sorry for what he did and did not like that he was wasting Law Enforcement resources. The man was issued a citation for shoplifting.

## Theft

On August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 0911 hours, officers were dispatched to a theft call. A woman had called 911 to report that her husband's trailer had been stolen from their property near the 5500<sup>th</sup> block of Highway 2. The woman stated that she had last saw the trailer the previous night.

The woman told officers that said she did not have an exact location for where the trailer was left, but that it was on their property in this vicinity. The woman explained that the trailer was placed on the side of the highway in the ditch because they had placed a large political sign upon it. She also explained that there were wooden pallets on the trailer to hold down the sign.

On August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, officers were informed that The Minnesota Department of Transportation impounded the trailer due to it being in the ditch illegally placed in the right of way. They were explained that MnDOT crews are required to remove unlawful placed signs and impound them to their local truck station.

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After calling the owner, officers learned that the owners had been made aware of the trailer being taken by the MnDOT crew and already retrieved the trailer. No further police assistance was needed at this time.

