

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 07/28/24 to 08/03/24, the Hermantown PD had 228 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.**

Drug Incident

On July 30th, 2024 at 1524 hours, officers were dispatched to 3700th block of Johnson Road in Hermantown for the report of a potential physical domestic assault. Dispatch advised that a caller who was passing by heard a male and female yelling at each other, and may have heard a slap.

Officers arrived on scene and heard someone from inside yelling “stop it” from inside the residence. Officers noticed the front door was open and approached. They observed a 62-year-old man sitting on a couch and a 60-year-old woman sitting in a chair in the living room. The man told officers that he was the one yelling. He explained he was yelling at the female to stop calling him names.

Officers spoke to the male who claimed the incident was only verbal and nothing physical had occurred.

Officers went inside to speak to the female party and observed a small glass mirror sitting on an end table that was between the couch and chair. There was a line of a white powdery substance on the mirror believed to be drugs. Officers questioned the woman about the powder and she said it wasn't hers and she didn't know what it was.

Officers then confronted the male about the drugs, who stated he didn't know anything about it and he doesn't use drugs. Officers then tested the substance for methamphetamine and it was positive.

Ultimately, the man was arrested for gross misdemeanor possession of methamphetamine.

Hit & Run

On August 1st, 2024, officers responded to a hit and run vehicle crash that occurred at the intersection of Lavaque and Hermantown Road.

Officers spoke to Driver 1, a 61-year-old man, who stated they had been driving north on Lavaque Road and came to a stop at the stop sign at Hermantown Road. The suspect behind them rear-ended them at the stop sign and fled East on Hermantown Road without stopping or giving insurance information. Officers searched the area and located the vehicle north on Haines Road.

Officers stopped the vehicle and identified the 28-year-old female driver. She was advised that she was being stopped for a hit and run accident, and the woman said that she did not hit the vehicle and said the vehicle backed up into her. Officers asked her why she did not stop as she was supposed to and she told officers that she thought the other driver would not be very polite.

Officers then issued the woman a citation for Hit and Run and driving without a Minnesota driver's license. Officers noted that the damage was light to both vehicles.

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Shoplifting

On July 29th, 2024 at approximately 1315 hours, officers were notified by dispatch of an after the fact shoplifting at the Menards. On June 16th, 2024, a male walked into Menards through the garden center exit doors straight to the lawn tools section, where he selected merchandise totaling \$219.99. The man then concealed the item in his backpack and walked out of the garden center doors. Store employees were able to view the license plate of the vehicle the man exited the lot in.

The store employees stated that they were able to identify this 24-year-old man from another more recent theft in which the total amount of stolen merchandise was \$364.95. At this time, an officer had issued the suspect a citation for theft.

Through further investigation, officers learned that the suspect male had pawned the item that was stolen from Menards. Both shopliftings occurred at the Hermantown Menards approximately six weeks apart from each other. Due to the thefts occurring within weeks of each other, officers requested charges of Gross Misdemeanor Shoplifting.

Unwanted Person

On July 30th, 2024 at around 1534 hours, dispatch alerted officers of an unwanted person at the Econo Lodge in Hermantown. The caller stated that a male has been in a vehicle in the lot all day and is not a guest. Officers learned that the man had been inside the hotel this morning for breakfast and was in the bathroom for over an hour. The caller and other guests from the hotel believed the party may be using drugs.

Officers arrived on scene and met with the 24-year-old man. The man was still sitting in the vehicle with the door open. Officers had noted that they had an interaction with another party with this vehicle earlier this same day and that the car had not moved since that interaction.

Officers observed that the man was twitching, punching the air and clearly under the influence. Front desk staff stated he had to leave as guests were uncomfortable checking in after seeing him. The man told officers that he was living out of the vehicle. Officers advised the man that due to the fact he had no driver's license and was believed to be under the influence, he would have to lock up the vehicle and leave the property on foot.

The man said that he is working on getting a valid driver to come get the vehicle. The front desk staff was advised on their rights to tow the vehicle. The man soon took off walking towards Haines Road.

Suspicious Activity

On August 3rd, 2024 at 0054 hours, officers were alerted of a call where a male and female were witnessed near the Hom Furniture in Hermantown. The caller said that the male and female were walking down the middle of Loberg Ave and then ran into the weeds. They also noticed a vehicle was there with hazard lights on.

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Officers were able to make contact with the male and female. They explained to officers that they were coming back from the cities and the female had to throw up, so she ran over into the weeds to do so. No other assistance needed at this time.

