

# 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 08/25/24 to 08/31/24, the Hermantown PD had 212 calls.  
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.**

## Shoplifting

On August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at approximately 1842 hours, officers were notified by dispatch of a shoplifting in progress at the Hermantown Walmart. Dispatch stated there were two females in the store that were concealing merchandise in bags.

Officers arrived and spoke to store employees who explained that they watched a female in one of the aisles zipping a bag up which he thought was suspicious. The employee followed the woman into the next aisle and witnessed her place two shower heads into a white and pink duffle bag. The woman then walked to the front of the store with the other woman and took the bag with the concealed items out of the cart and walked past the final point of sale making no attempt to pay for the items. Store employees then stopped the women who agreed to wait for law enforcement.

The woman agreed to speak with officers and said that when she was walking in the store, she saw some toothbrushes she wanted to get her kids so she concealed them in her duffle bag. She explained she then saw her mother select a shower head off the shelf and realized that she also needed one but she said, "I did not really feel like dealing with it at that moment because I don't have that kind of money". She then decided to conceal both shower heads in the duffle bag and when her mother went to pay for some items in her cart, she grabbed the duffle bag and attempted to leave the store without paying for the items. The officers explained that the 34-year-old woman was apologetic and admitted that she was wrong.

The total amount for all six items was \$90.32.

The woman was ultimately issued a citation for misdemeanor shoplifting and trespassed from all Walmart's and Sam's Clubs for one year.

On August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 1504, officers were dispatched to Walmart for a report of a cooperative shoplifter at the Hermantown Walmart. Store employees said the suspect was being cooperative and he told the employees that he was just released from jail.

Officers arrived and confirmed the 51-year-old male's identity and learned that he had just been released from jail at 1415 hours today.

The man told officers that he was just released from jail and walked to Walmart. He explained to officers that he is homeless and needed the items he took. He admitted that he came to Walmart with the intent to shoplift the items and that he did not have the money to pay for the items.

The total value of the recovered items was \$234.99. The man was issued a citation for shoplifting and trespassed from Walmart properties for one year.

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## Traffic Stop

On August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 at approximately 1555 hours, officers were conducting routine traffic patrol near the 5400<sup>th</sup> block of Maple Grove when a vehicle alert indicated that a passing vehicle's registered owner had a revoked driver's license.

Officers stopped the vehicle and approached the driver who identified himself as the registered 72-year-old owner. Officers advised the man they stopped him as he has a canceled driver's license and he stated the only reason he could think of why his license was canceled would be for medical reasons.

Officers soon found the man's license was canceled back in 2022. The officer explained to the man that driving with a canceled-IPS status is a gross misdemeanor offense. He was also advised that his license plates were going to be impounded.

He was advised to park the vehicle and call for a ride as he did not have a valid driver's license.

On August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 1224 hours, officers on routine patrol were near the Miller Trunk Hwy from Loberg Ave when they observed a vehicle's plate information and found that its registration expired in February. The vehicle quickly turned off into the Miller Hill Subaru lot.

Officers looked into local history on the vehicle as the driver did not appear to be the female registered owner. Recent history with the vehicle showed that a 29-year-old male had been using the vehicle. Officers also learned that the male had two warrants out for shoplifting and trespassing. Officers located the vehicle again behind the Econo Lodge and stopped it as it pulled into Dairy Queen.

Officers then made contact with the driver, who was the 29-year-old with recent contacts. The man was eventually placed under arrest for his warrants. He was lodged with no further issues.

On August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 2031 hours, officers on patrol near the 4100<sup>th</sup> block of Haines Road were working a Towards Zero Deaths enforcement shift in the city of Hermantown. At this time, the officer observed a vehicle driving north on Haines Road approaching them at 51mph in a posted 40mph zone.

The officer stopped the vehicle and the 45-year-old man was unaware of his speed. Upon running a routine query of the driver, officers soon learned that his driving status in Minnesota also showed to be revoked. The man admitted to the officer that he was picked up for DWI a couple months ago, but did not think the revocation period took effect until after court.

Ultimately, the man was cited for Driving after Revocation and warned for his speed.

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