

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 09/28/24 to 10/1/24, the Hermantown PD had 220 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.**

Suspicious Activity

On September 15th, 2024 at 2334 hours, officers were alerted second hand that there were people seen breaking into vending machines at the Econo Lodge in Hermantown.

Officers then spoke with staff who stated that they weren't aware of any damage to the vending machines. The officer on scene also confirmed that there was no damage while investigating with employees present. The staff member had told the officers that one of their guests had come downstairs to the machines and said one of their items got stuck in the machine, so they shook it to retrieve it. No further police assistance.

Vehicle vs. Motorcycle Accident

On September 18th, 2024 at 1600 hours, officers were alerted by dispatch of an accident involving a man on a motorcycle. It appeared that the motorcyclist was down in the road and not moving. Officers also were told that people on scene were tending to the man.

Officers shortly arrived on scene and saw a male laying in the middle of the intersection with a major injury to his leg. The 40-year-old man was able to talk and stated he was the driver of the motorcycle. The man stated he was driving on his motorcycle westbound on Maple Grove Road when a vehicle cut in front of him when he had a green light. The man told officers that he drove straight into the side of the vehicle. The man was transported by Mayo to the hospital.

Officers then spoke to the driver of the vehicle. The 78-year-old woman explained to officers that she was driving eastbound on Maple Grove Road turning onto Loberg Avenue. The woman stated that she had a blinking yellow arrow when she was turning. She told officers that she did not see the motorcycle coming until it hit her vehicle. The vehicle had minor damage to the passenger side door and rear bumper.

The woman was ultimately issued a citation for failure to yield to oncoming traffic. The woman and passenger were not injured and the vehicle was not towed.

Shoplifting

On September 15th, 2024 at 1533 hours, officers were alerted of a shoplifting incident that just occurred at the Walmart in Hermantown. Officers were told that a man had refused to stop for asset protection and was fleeing toward the bus stop on Loberg Avenue.

Officers spoke to store employees who explained that a male was concealing merchandise in a garbage can. The employee explained that once confronted by employees, the man started sprinting away from the doors toward the bus stop and dropped the unpaid merchandise prior to leaving the property and continuing to run towards Hom Furniture. The stolen merchandise totaled \$317.75.

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While the officer was at Walmart, another officer in the area advised over the radio that they had located the suspect who walked out of the woods into the Miller Hill Subaru parking lot. The officer said that the suspect was very sweaty and appeared to have been running through the woods. The officer also recognized the suspect from previous contacts with them. The man admitted to fleeing from employees from Walmart.

Officers were able to confirm the 29-year-old man was the suspect. He was then given a citation for misdemeanor shoplifting. He was also trespassed from Walmart for one year.

Later the same day on September 15th, 2024 at approximately 2125 hours, officers were notified by dispatch of a shoplifting report at the same Walmart in Hermantown.

Officers arrived on scene and met with store employees who stated the female suspect was cooperative. Store employees told the officer that they noticed the 34-year-old woman doing a Scan&Go order with her cell phone. Due to the increase in the Scan&Go fraud, the employee became suspicious. The employee said that he could only see her scan some items and place them into her cart and not scan others. At the self-checkout station, the woman confirmed her Scan&Go order that stated she had twelve items selected and purchased the items.

The employee said it was apparent that the woman had more items in her cart than the 12 items selected. As the woman pushed the cart out the exit doors, she was stopped by employees.

Employees asked the woman about the multiple items in her cart that were not on the receipt. After going through the woman's cart, they found 26 unpaid for items that totaled \$178.63.

The woman was ultimately issued a citation for misdemeanor shoplifting and was trespassed from Walmart for one year.

DWI

On September 20th, 2024 at 1456 hours, officers were dispatched to the Country Inn & Suites for a hold up alarm at the front desk. While squads were enroute, the front desk manager called to report she had pushed the button due to a male urinating out by their fireplace. She reported the male was now sitting back in his vehicle in a handicap spot.

Officers arrived on scene and located a male sitting in his vehicle. Officers were able to locate the 77-year-old man who was found with his belt and pants undone. He was showing signs of impairment but denied drinking, claiming he was waiting for a friend to come out. Officers mentioned the man's behavior and an open container near the driver led them to believe he was under the influence of alcohol. The man ultimately refused to do standard field sobriety testing or a preliminary breath test and was arrested.

A hotel guest reported to officers she observed the man exit his vehicle after being slumped over in it. She watched him get out, drop his pants and urinate before getting back in the vehicle. The man was ultimately lodged for 2nd Degree Test Refusal, 3rd Degree DWI, and Indecent Exposure.

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