

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 09/22/24 to 09/28/24, the Hermantown PD had 202 calls. The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

Driving While Intoxicated

On September 28th, 2024 at 0212 hours, officers traveling in the area of Stebner Road and Miller Trunk Highway observed a pickup truck in the lot of Skyline Social and Games occupied by a male party who was slumped over in the driver's seat.

The truck was running as officers approached and knocked on the truck. Officers had to physically shake the man to actually wake him up. Officers asked the 22-year-old man to shut off his truck as it was difficult to hear him, and he did so. Officers asked how many drinks he had that night and the man replied "not enough." Eventually he explained to officers that it was probably three 4oz beers. Officers asked how long ago he consumed those, and he stated "three to twelve ounces ago."

Officers observed the man had slurred speech and bloodshot, watery eyes. He agreed to perform field sobriety tests, but would not provide a preliminary breath test sample. Once back at the Hermantown intox room, he agreed to submit a breath sample that resulted in a .16 BRAC.

He was ultimately charged with 3rd Degree DWI.

Suspicious Activity

On September 22nd, 2024 at 0028 hours, officers were dispatched to a suspicious activity near the 4200th block of Midway Road. Officers learned that there was a vehicle parked at the end of a driveway with the lights off. The vehicle had been there for approximately five minutes.

Officers arrived on scene and observed a vehicle parked approximately 30 feet off of Midway Road in the driveway. Officers made contact with the 45-year-old male who claimed that there was a vibration going on in the driver's seat due to a wire shortage and he was trying to figure the issue out. He further stated that the car died as he was driving and he had to pull into the driveway to get off the road.

Officers noted that throughout the interaction with the man, he was very distracted and hard to understand while he was talking. They soon learned the man had a revoked driver's license. As there was no valid driver, the car was blocking a driveway, and it was not operable, they made the decision to tow the vehicle. The man told officers that he had a ride on the way.

Eventually, the man chose to walk from the stop. He declined rides from officers claiming he was going to walk to a friend's house even though he could not say where the house was.

Officers further witnessed the man walk down Jamebard Road which is a dead-end road. Officers went to explain this to the man, who then claimed he was going to cut through the woods. Officers advised him of trespassing laws. The man said that he thought that due to it just being woods, it was fine for him to walk through them. No further police assistance was needed at this time.

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Violation of Order

On September 22nd 2024 at 0125 hours, officers driving west on Hwy 2 witnessed a vehicle in front of them driving much slower than the speed limit at 40mph in a 60mph zone. The vehicle continued at this speed as it turned on Morris Thomas Road

Officers approached the truck and explained to the male driver why they pulled him over. He said that he was driving slowly because he saw the squad behind him, making him nervous. He said the truck was his wife's and she had too much to drink tonight, was sick and needing to go home. Officers saw a 26-year-old female wave at them as she was lying back in the passenger seat. Officers asked him if he had an ID on him and he said he did not.

Officers ran a check on the 29-year-old male and found that he had a revoked driver's license and an active domestic abuse no-contact order against the passenger in the vehicle.

Officers then spoke to the driver about the active domestic abuse no-contact order (DANCO) against the woman. She then sat up and asked officers if she would get into trouble. The woman was placed under arrest for violating the DANCO order. The man was advised to call and find someone with a valid driver's license to drive him home.

The woman was ultimately charged with a DANCO violation.

Traffic Stop

On September 23rd, 2024 at 2353 hours, officers were northbound on Miller Trunk Hwy from Ugstad Road when they observed a vehicle driving at a high rate of speed and also an illegal license plate cover around the edges of the plate. The vehicle also began swerving within its lane towards the center line multiple times.

Officers stopped the vehicle and made contact with the driver and a female passenger. Officers advised the reason for the stop and the driver argued the plate cover was not illegal. The 36-year-old woman also stated she did not have her license on her and told only her first name. Officers also recognized the woman at this time from previous contacts.

The woman was found to have a St. Louis County warrant for gross misdemeanor DWI. Officers began to attempt to arrest the woman. As the officer attempted placing the woman's arms behind her back to handcuff her, she tensed her muscles and began pulling her arms forward. She continued resisting and pushed her right hand towards her front pants pocket. Officers were now on the ground with the woman, and she started kicking her legs up and down.

After cuffing, officers began to take the woman towards the squad car. While walking with her, the woman lifted her feet and began stomping on the officer's foot. The officer also had scrapes on their hand from the resisting arrest incident.

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While in transport to the jail, officers further learned that the woman's driving status in Minnesota was canceled – inimical to public safety. Ultimately, the woman was lodged at the Saint Louis County Jail for the warrant, assault on peace officer, obstruct with force, and DAC IPS.

