

AROUND TOWN



Chief
Jim Crace

Deputy Chiefs
Mark Gunderson
Jon Esterbrooks

Sergeants
Griffin Pfeiffer - K9
Jon Pernu - K9

Detective Bureau
Jeff Dwyer
Jake Williams

Officers
Jason Salo - SRO
Jon Enright
Erika Johnson
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 01/12/25 to 01/18/25, the Hermantown PD had 154 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

Hit and Run

On January 17th, 2025 at approximately 1338 hours, officers were notified of a hit and run in the Walmart parking lot. Officers met with the reporting party who said he was approached by a bystander in the parking lot as he was leaving the store. The bystander had witnessed a vehicle attempt to park next to the reporting party, and hit their vehicle. The driver was then observed backing away, and parking in the next lane before entering the store.

The man showed officers the minor cosmetic damages to the passenger side of his vehicle. There were also paint chips on the ground below the damage.

Officers observed the suspect vehicle parked in the next lane with damage to the right front bumper. There was a large area of paint that was cracked and chipped, matching the paint chips that were observed near the victim's car.

Officers waited near the suspect vehicle until the driver returned. They spoke to the man about the incident, and he said he knew he had struck the other vehicle after not taking the turn wide enough. The man said he did not observe any damage to the other vehicle, so he drove away.

Officers explained that whenever accidents occur the involved party must notify the owner of the vehicle. The man was issued a citation for Hit and Run- Failure to Report Collision.

Traffic Stop

On January 17th, 2025 around 2016 hours a patrol officer conducted a stop on a vehicle after observing a traffic violation. Officers made contact with the occupants of the vehicle, and advised the reason for the stop. The male driver of the vehicle informed officers he did not have a valid driver's license. Passenger 1 stated he did have a valid driver's license, and provided it as identification. Passenger 2 said he did not have any form of identification with him, and only verbally identified himself.

Officers learned that Passenger 2 had two active felony warrants for his arrest. The man was then placed under arrest, and transported to St. Louis County jail where he was lodged for his warrants.

The driver of the vehicle was issued a citation for driving after revocation.

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Check Welfare

On January 18th, 2025 around 1142 hours officers received a check welfare request for an individual walking near the 5300 block of Miller Trunk Highway. The caller said there appeared to be a teenage female walking along the roadside that was arguing with a male in a passing vehicle. The reporting party said the male in the vehicle was following the female, and thought she should be checked on.

Officers soon located the described female walking southbound on Ugstad Road from Miller Trunk Highway. The female said she was out walking, and that there were no vehicles following her. The female was confused as to why the call was made, and said she did not need any assistance.

Shoplifting

On January 18th, 2025 at 1746 hours officers were advised of a shoplifter that had just left Walmart. When the suspect was confronted by loss prevention, he and fled on foot and got onto a bus. The suspect was recognized by the loss prevention team from prior shoplifting incidents.

Officers arrived in the area and located the bus heading eastbound on Maple Grove Road. The bus soon stopped, and the officers were able to locate the suspect inside. The man identified himself, and admitted to the theft. The man said he tried to take a folder and coloring book, but claimed he left the items with loss prevention when he was confronted.

Upon further investigation, officers learned the man had an active warrant for theft, and a second warrant for missing court on a separate theft charge. The loss prevention staff confirmed with officers that the male was actively trespassed from Walmart due to a recent shoplifting incident.

The 46-year-old man was transported to St. Louis County jail for his warrants, and charged with 4th degree burglary.

Suspicious Activity

On January 18th, 2025 at approximate 2231 hours, dispatch advised officers of a request for call back regarding suspicious activity. An officer called and spoke to the reporting party who said she was visiting from out of town, and staying at a hotel in the area. The woman said she

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has had multiple odd circumstances occur that day that made her feel as though someone may be following her.

The woman recalled an unknown man standing in the hallway outside of her hotel room that was smoking, and he gave her an “odd feeling”. She said later in the day she went to a local restaurant and observed another unknown male brush something off of her license plate. The woman said this caused her concern, because she thought the man could have placed a tracking device on her vehicle. The woman noted that the man was still in the parking lot when she left the area.

The woman was advised that officers would conduct extra patrol in the area.