

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 01/19/25 to 01/25/25, the Hermantown PD had 136 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

Hit and Run

On January 19th, 2025 around 2308 hours officers were alerted of an abandoned vehicle that had struck a power pole near the 4300 block of Lavaque Road. The vehicle was discovered by a power company crew that was responded to an outage stemming from the incident.

Officers arrived on scene and found the vehicle with heavy front-end damage, a shattered window, and the airbags deployed. The vehicle was confirmed to be unoccupied, and foot prints were observed in the snow leading away from the driver's side door. Squads searched the area, and were unable to locate the driver of the vehicle.

While conducting vehicle inventory, a cellular phone was located on the floor of the vehicle that appeared to belong to the owner. When officers attempted to call the registered owner of the vehicle, the found phone began ringing. Officers also observed a case of beer in the rear of the vehicle. It was noted that the vehicle had been traveling southbound on Lavaque Road in the direction of the registered owner's home. The distance from the abandoned vehicle and the owner's home was roughly 0.6 miles.

At 1102 hours on January 20th, dispatch advised of a stolen vehicle report near the 5100 block of West Arrowhead Road. The vehicle description matched the abandoned vehicle from the previous night, and the caller was confirmed to be the registered owner. The woman said her vehicle was left parked in her driveway, and was last observed the night before around 1900 hours. She said that nobody had permission to take her vehicle from her property. She stated a spare key was kept inside the center console, and would have been used to steal the vehicle.

The woman mentioned she had two cellphones, and that her work phone was left in the vehicle. The woman said her personal phone was charging, so she was calling from someone else's phone. Officers requested her personal phone number, and it was confirmed to be the phone found in the abandoned vehicle.

Upon investigation it was discovered that the woman had been convicted of making false report to police in the past. The woman was advised that there would be an investigation conducted into this incident. Officers also reiterated that making false reports to law enforcement is a crime, and she stated understanding. When questioned about the inconsistencies in her story, the woman said "I don't know what to tell ya". She said she was going to stick with her statement about her car being stolen, because it was.

Officers conducted an investigation which included reviewing surveillance footage of a nearby business. The registered owner was observed operating the vehicle at 2248 hours on January

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19th, and travelling southbound on Sugar Maple Drive. The power outage occurred just four minutes later, about one mile away, toward the direction of her home address.

During investigation officers also learned that the woman had reported her vehicle stolen to her insurance provider.

Ultimately the woman was charged with Insurance Fraud, Falsely Reporting a Crime, and Hit & Run- Fail to Report Property Damage.

Traffic Stop

On January 20th, 2025 at 1414 hours a patrol officer stopped at Hermantown Road and Piedmont Avenue observed a vehicle travel through the intersection with her phone in front of her face talking toward it. The officer conducted a traffic stop for the hands-free violation, and learned the woman had been previously cited for the same offense. The driver was cited for second/subsequent hands-free violation. The woman was also warned for not carrying proof of vehicle insurance.

Fraud

On January 23rd officers received a callback request regarding fraud. The reporting party said she had an unrecognized charge on her banking statement. The woman said she didn't recognize the charge, or the payee, but noted it was a local company.

Officers investigated the information provided, and discovered the charge to be from a computer business in a neighboring town. The business owner provided officers with an invoice for the aforementioned charge for services rendered to the woman.

The reporting party was contacted and informed of the officer's findings. She said that she is a customer of the business, but didn't recognize the charge as it was under a different name.

No further police action necessary at this time.

Suspicious Activity

On January 23rd, 2025 officers received report of unknown trouble in the area of Copley Road. The reporting party said they could hear the sounds of a female screaming and yelling for help.

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Officers arrived to the area of the report and spoke with a young male and female at a residence. The two were laughing hysterically, and not at all in distress.

