

# 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**  
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**Samantha Knapp**  
**Ashley Johnson**

**K-9**  
**Tuuko**  
**Jack**



During the week of 02/16/25 to 02/22/25, the Hermantown PD had 148 calls.  
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

## Disturbance

On February 19th officers were dispatched to a report of two unruly children inside Menards. The reporting party said the two teens were yelling obscenities, jumping all over store products, and playing hide and seek in the store.

Officers arrived to find the two juveniles accompanied by several employees and the store manager. The parents of both juveniles were contacted and advised of the situation. The two were trespassed from Menards properties indefinitely at the request of the manager.

## Driving While Intoxicated

On February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 0112 hours, officers were dispatched to a report of a vehicle in the ditch in the 4700 block of Hermantown Road. Dispatch advised that the caller was the driver of the vehicle, and he sounded as though he was possibly intoxicated. Officers arrived on scene and located the vehicle in the ditch which appeared to have slid down the embankment from the eastbound lane.

Officers approached the vehicle and confirmed that the sole male occupant was uninjured. While speaking with the driver, officers observed the man to have red, watery eyes, and he was speaking with slow, slurred speech. There was also a strong odor of alcoholic beverage and mint coming from his person as he spoke.

When the driver was asked where he was coming from that night, he answered "Hermantown". Officers then asked if the man had anything to drink, and he claimed he had not. The driver was then advised of the impairment signs observed, and the man responded by nodding his head. When he was asked a second time if he had any drinks, and he said no.

Officers observed the front of the man's shirt and lap of his pants were wet. They asked if the man had vomited, and he replied "yeah". The man was then asked how much he had to drank that night, and he responded "two beers".

The man was asked if he would be willing to perform testing to determine his level of intoxication, and he agreed. The man showed further signs of impairment during standardized field sobriety testing.

The 32-year-old male was ultimately transported to St. Louis County Jail where he was lodged on charges for a 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree DWI.

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## Traffic Accident

On February 21<sup>st</sup> 2025 around 2115 hours dispatch advised of a two-vehicle accident that occurred near the intersection of Morris Thomas Road and Okerstrom Road. Officers arrived to find that both vehicles had sustained heavy damage from the accident. While speaking to the drivers, it was determined that driver 1 was traveling west on Morris Thomas road, and slowing to make a turn onto southbound Okerstrom Road. Driver 2 then drove into the back of driver 1.

Driver 1 sustained minor facial injuries, and was attended to on scene by first responders. It was discovered that Driver 2 had a revoked driving status in Minnesota. Driver 2 was issued a citation for driving after revocation, no insurance, and following too closely.

## Traffic Stop

On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 around 1413 hours an officer on routine patrol observed a vehicle traveling along highway 2 much slower than the posted 60mph speed limit. As the vehicle approached, they noticed there was no front license plate, and a letter of the rear plate partially missing.

The officer conducted a traffic enforcement stop along southbound Midway Road. The male driver of the vehicle said he did not have his driver's license with him, and that the vehicle belonged to his girlfriend. The man then admitted to having a limited driving status with restricted times he could be driving.

A query of the driver revealed that he had never obtained a limited driving status. Additionally, it was discovered that the man had been cited less than one week prior in Hermantown for driving after revocation. The man later admitted he had applied for a limited license within the last few days. The driver was issued a citation for driving after revocation, and no proof of insurance.

## Check Hazard

On February 22<sup>nd</sup> dispatch advised of debris in the driving lanes of highway 194 that were causing vehicles to swerve. A patrol officer arrived and found several articles of clothing scattered across the roadway near Caribou Lake Road. The officer removed the clothing that was causing a hazard, and observed further clothing littering the roadside toward highway 2. State Patrol was advised of the additional clothes that were not causing a hazard.

Later in the evening a call came in regarding the clothing that had been located on Highway 194. The caller said her sister had been in a verbal dispute nearby, and the clothing was from that incident. The officer returned to the area and drove from Caribou Lake Road to Highway

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33, collecting all of the roadside clothing. The clothing was then brought to the address provided by the caller to return it. The woman said the clothing items did not belong to her.

