

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 02/23/25 to 03/01/25, the Hermantown PD had 183 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

Suspicious Activity

On February 25th, 2025 around 0330 hours officers were dispatched to a report of suspicious activity occurring in the Walmart parking lot. The reporting party observed two individuals walking around the far end of the lot with flashlights.

Officers learned that Duluth Police Department had been out with these individuals for the same suspicious behavior earlier in the night. In that call, the two informed officers they were out "looking for treasure".

Officers arrived on scene and located a male and female looking through the snowbanks with flashlights. The two were advised of the reason for the contact, and sent from the scene.

Shoplifting

On February 25th, 2025 at 1124 hours, dispatch advised of a shoplifter at Walmart. The female was reported by loss prevention staff for "sticker switching" items at the self-checkout lanes. The 27-year-old woman was observed placing a \$3.00 barcode tag over the barcodes of more expensive items during scanning. The suspect admitted to switching barcodes, and said she had done so because she lacked the money to pay for the items. The total value of the items shoplifted was \$235.95. The woman was issued a citation, and trespassed from Walmart properties for one year.

Traffic Stop

On February 26th, 2025 at 1550 an officer patrolling the area of Haines road observed a vehicle approaching that appeared to be traveling at a high rate of speed. The officer initiated the radar, and found the vehicle to be traveling 52 mph in a 40mph zone. A traffic stop was conducted, and the vehicle was found to be occupied by a male driver, and a female passenger. The driver of the vehicle was advised of the reason for the stop, and apologized for speeding, saying he hadn't been paying attention.

While running a routine query of the drivers, the officer learned there was an active DANCO (Domestic Abuse No Contact Order) in place with the male being the protected party. The passenger of the vehicle was found to be the respondent of the order.

The female party was advised she would be under arrest for the DANCO violation. The 43-year-old woman was taken into custody and transported to St. Louis County Jail.

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Traffic Stop - Arrest

On February 28th, 2025 just prior to 1426 hours officers were conducting patrol and noted a vehicle that had been recently stopped due to the driver having a cancelled drivers license.

As the driver passed the squad, the person operating the vehicle appeared to be attempting to conceal their identity. Officers followed the vehicle a short time before observing it completing a sudden turn on a blinking yellow arrow while failing to yield to oncoming traffic. The vehicle with the right of way in the intersection had braked, avoiding collision.

Officers then initiated a stop on the suspect vehicle as they entered the Kwik Trip on Haines Road. The driver of the vehicle was observed exiting the vehicle quickly, and attempting to enter the store. The woman was instructed to stop, and came back to speak to the officers. The woman said she did not have a valid drivers license. A query of the driver confirmed the woman to still have a cancelled driving status in the state of Minnesota. The woman was placed under arrest and booked into St. Louis County jail for the offense. She was ultimately charged with Driving After Cancellation- Inimical to Public Safety.

Attempt to Locate

On March 1st, 2025 around 1343 hours dispatched advised there was a complaint of a driver swerving while traveling along Miller Trunk Highway. Officers caught up to the vehicle in question, and followed to observe driving conduct. The officers did not note any swerving in the roadway, but did observe the vehicle complete a turn without signaling.

A traffic stop was conducted, and the driver was advised as to the reason for the contact. The man was agitated that someone had called him in, and denied ever swerving. The man was given a verbal warning, and sent on his way.

Traffic Stop

On March 2nd, 2025 around 0007 hours officers were conducting stationary patrol near the intersection of Morris Thomas road and Lavaque Road. Officers observed a vehicle traveling westbound through the intersection at 40mph without making any attempt to stop. As the vehicle passed, it was also observed to have darkly tinted front windows, and a license plate cover that was partially obstructing the plate information.

The officers conducted a traffic stop and advised the man the reason for the stop. The man was immediately confrontational with officers, insisting he had stopped at the intersection. The driver was issued a citation for failure to stop at a stop sign, and given a warning for the dark window tint and license plate cover.

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