

# 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 03/02/25 to 03/08/25, the Hermantown PD had 161 calls.  
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

## Hit & Run - School Bus

On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 around 1501 hours, officers were dispatched to a hit and run that had just occurred near the 5100 block of West Arrowhead Road. The reporting party was a school bus driver who said a vehicle had struck the rear of the bus before continuing eastbound on Arrowhead Road.

While in route to the call location, an additional witness called into dispatch to advise they were following the suspect vehicle. Officers in the area observed the vehicle turn southbound on Loberg Avenue from Miller Trunk Highway. They caught up to the vehicle as it approached Market Street, and activated their emergency lights to conduct a traffic stop near Fleet Farm.

Officers approached the vehicle and found it to be occupied by a juvenile male driver. When officers explained the reason for the stop, the male stated he had to be to work at 1500 hours. The male admitted to rear-ending the bus, and said he had been on his phone changing the music when the incident occurred.

While speaking to the driver, another officer spoke to the witness who had followed the suspect. They reported the driver had also ran the stop arm of the bus while fleeing the scene. The witness mentioned several people were honking their vehicle horns at the suspect during the incident.

Officers re-approached the vehicle to speak to the driver, and inquired about the reported stop arm violation. The male mentioned seeing the school bus stop arm, but stated "there were no cars around it". The suspect also stated that the children had already crossed the road, and he did not want to deal with the situation, so he left.

A subsequent review of the video footage revealed the child crossing the road in front of the stopped bus before completely exiting the frame. Moments later, the suspect vehicle can be seen driving around the bus, ignoring the flashing stop arm, and continuing down Arrowhead Road.

Ultimately the juvenile was cited for Hit and Run, School Bus Stop Arm Violation, and Hands-Free Violation.

## Disturbance

On March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 around 0912 hours, officers were dispatched to a check welfare call at Walmart. The reporting party witnessed an unknown male who appeared to be very intoxicated, slurring his words, and stumbling around the store.

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While in route to the call, dispatch advised that the individual had become aggressive, and had struck a Walmart employee in the chest. The suspect was reported to be yelling incoherently while chasing the employee around the parking lot.

Officers arrived on scene and located the suspect, placing him into custody for safety. The man was not able to speak clearly or identify himself due to his apparent level of intoxication. The 33-year-old man was ultimately identified by information located on his person.

Officers spoke to the original reporting party who had noted the suspect sleeping on an electric wheelchair in the entryway of the store. When they approached the man to see if he was okay, they noticed he smelled strongly of alcohol. The man then began yelling and stumbling toward them, but they could not understand him due to his slurred speech.

The reporting party continued to back away from the man who eventually chased them into the parking lot. During this incident, the suspect had swung at the employee, hitting his front shoulder/chest area.

The suspect was transported for evaluation and medical attention due to his level of intoxication. There was a citation issued for Disorderly Conduct, and 5<sup>th</sup> Degree Assault.

## Shoplifting

On March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 around 1745 hours dispatch advised of a shoplifting in progress at Northern Tool and Equipment. The reporting party observed a male and female in the power tool isle and appeared to be cutting security tags and concealing merchandise. It was reported the female had been carrying an empty bag when she arrived, but the bag clearly contained items as she left the power tool isle.

The suspects then exited the store without making any attempt to pay for the items selected. The reporting party was able to provide a detailed description of the suspects and their vehicle prior to them fleeing the scene.

Officers responded from the Northern Tool and Equipment store directly to Pawn America, where they observed the suspect vehicle parked outside the store. Upon entering the store, the two suspects were located at the counter with a power tool in front of a teller. The male suspect was recognized by officers from previous police contacts and shoplifting incidents. The female suspect was adamant that they had only visited Northern Tool and Equipment, and that the tool had been given to her by family.

Officers learned the male suspect had eight local warrants for his arrest. He was taken into custody and transported to St. Louis County Jail for the warrants. The female party was issued a citation for shoplifting, and the merchandise was returned to the store.

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