

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 05/11/25 to 05/17/25, the Hermantown PD had 247 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

Driving Under the Influence

On May 11th, 2025 around 1657 hours officers were dispatched to locate a potentially impaired driver that was traveling northbound on Midway Road. The reporting party said the woman driver was slow to answer questions, and acted as though she may be lost. Her vehicle was reported to have front end damage, and she acted confused when asked about how the damage occurred.

Squads located the vehicle traveling eastbound on Maple Grove road, and began following it to observe driving conduct. The driver was observed weaving within the lane and driving along the fog line of the road. A traffic stop was initiated just east of the intersection of Ugstad and Maple Grove Road. The driver continued traveling along Maple Grove Road for another mile without stopping. The vehicle passed through the Lavaque Road intersection and continued short distance before turning onto the shoulder and coming to a stop.

The officers contacted the female driver who was the sole occupant of the vehicle. The woman was advised as to the reason for the stop, and asked to show her driver's license. As the woman looked for her ID, she was asked about the damage to her vehicle. She said she wasn't sure how or when it happened, but said it wasn't new damage. She further stated that other people were driving her vehicle when the damage occurred, but she didn't know who.

There was an odor of alcoholic beverage coming from inside the vehicle, and the woman was asked if she had anything to drink that day. The woman mentioned that she had three seltzers earlier in the day, and was on her way to the Two Harbors area from Detroit Lakes. The woman was ultimately unable to locate her driver's license, and provided another form of identification.

As the officer conducted a query on her driving status and record, a second officer arrived on scene and spoke to the woman. That officer mentioned they could smell alcohol, and the woman said that it was her breath because she had recently consumed four alcoholic seltzers.

The woman was agreeable to field sobriety testing, and showed several signs of impairment during testing. She was then placed under arrest and transported to the police department where she provided a breath sample resulting in a .25 BAC. The year 31-year-old woman was lodged at St. Louis County Jail on DWI charges.

Check Welfare

On May 12th, 2025 around 1656 hours a call came into dispatch regarding a woman and child sitting on the roadside next to a vehicle. The caller said they appeared to have run out of gas,

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and there was a man walking toward the gas station with a gas can. They were concerned as it was a very hot day, and they were out in the sun.

The woman was no longer sitting next to the vehicle as squads arrived. There was another vehicle nearby that had stopped to provide the couple some fuel. The woman was located a short distance away, pushing the child in a stroller. The woman said she was walking toward her boyfriend who was on his way to get gas for the vehicle. She said was comfortable walking, and did not want any assistance.

A short time later a second call came in regarding a female walking northbound on Midway Road with a child in a stroller. The caller was also concerned due to the hot weather, and lack of sun cover for the child.

Stop Arm Violation

On May 14th, 2025 at 1532 hours dispatch advised of a stop arm violation that had just occurred in the 4100 block of Lavaque Road. The driver of the school bus provided a description of the suspect vehicle, and said they would have camera footage of the incident.

Officers investigated the incident and reviewed the camera footage from the school bus. The suspect vehicle was observed passing by the bus approximately seven seconds after the stop arm had been fully extended. The vehicle did not appear to slow the entire time it was in frame of the video. The bus driver's hand can be seen extending out the window during the violation. Interior video footage of the bus showed a young child walking down the steps of the bus during the incident. The horn of the bus can be heard sounding as the vehicle passed the stop arm. Officers contacted the registered owner of the suspect vehicle to discuss the incident. The man said that his teenage daughter would have been driving the vehicle at that time.

Officers spoke to the teen who recalled the incident and the bus driver yelling at her. She mentioned she was overthinking whether she needed to stop or not depending if there were children activity crossing the road. She was adamant that she was not driving inattentively, or using a cellular device during the infraction. The driver was ultimately issued a citation for failure to stop for a school bus.

Check Hazard

On May 15th, 2025 around 2201 hours officers patrolling the area of Midway Road and Highway 2 observed a vehicle missing a tire stopped in the driving lane of the roadway. The driver and a passenger were outside of the vehicle looking for the tire that had rolled away. The tire was soon located, and the pair said they had help on the way to help fix the vehicle. Officers provided emergency lights for safety until the vehicle could be moved.

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