

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 05/18/25 to 05/24/25, the Hermantown PD had 155 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

Disturbance

On May 18th, 2025 around 1456 hours officers were dispatched to a report of two males panhandling near the intersection of West Arrowhead Road and Miller Trunk Highway. The caller said the pair were holding a sign that said "TOO UGLY TO PROSTITUTE", and acting aggressively toward passing vehicles.

Squads arrived to the area and met with the males. When advised of the complaint about their behavior, one of the males responded by saying "yeah, aggressively cute". The males were advised that the City of Hermantown has an ordinance against panhandling, and asked to be on their way. The two were cooperative and understanding, and said they would be clean up their belongings and leave the area.

Road Rage

On May 18th, 2025 around 0326 hours dispatch advised of an attempt to locate a vehicle in the 5700 block of Maple Grove Road following a road rage incident. The caller said they were being followed by another vehicle that had possibly thrown something at their vehicle. While speaking to dispatch, the male said the other vehicle had just hit their vehicle, causing them to go into the ditch.

Officers in the area quickly located the caller on the side of the road, with their vehicle hanging over the ditch. The three male occupants said they were uninjured, just shaken up. They said the other vehicle had fled up Solway Road.

A second squad soon located a suspect vehicle driving off of Solway Road onto a field. They began driving toward the vehicle, and observed the headlights and taillights shut off. Emergency lights were activated on the squad, and the occupant was instructed to exit the vehicle. The female driver complied with orders, and identified herself.

The incident was investigated, and statements were taken from all involved parties. The female suspect was ultimately issued a citation for hit & run, reckless driving, and no proof of insurance.

Driving While Intoxicated

On May 21st, 2025 at 1053 hours, officers were dispatched to a single vehicle rollover that occurred on Market Street. The caller said the male driver of the vehicle was climbing out of the sunroof, and smelled of alcohol.

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



Squads arrived on scene and spoke with witnesses who stated the man had accelerated into a tree, causing the vehicle to flip over. As the driver was being assessed by first responders, it was observed that his eyes were bloodshot, and his movements were lethargic. Officers also noted a strong smell of alcohol coming from his person as they stood nearby.

While speaking to the man about the incident, he claimed to have swerved to miss another vehicle which caused him to run into a tree.

The male driver denied drinking alcohol, and said he was driving to get some food nearby. He was asked why he smelled so strongly of alcohol, and responded by simply shrugging his shoulders. When further questioned about alcohol consumption, the man hesitated before admitting to consuming two drinks earlier in the day.

Field sobriety tests indicated that the man was under the influence, and the PBT sample revealed a .227 breath alcohol content. The driver was placed under arrest for suspicion of driving while intoxicated.

Shoplifter

On May 24th, 2025 around 1812 hours officers were dispatched to a shoplifter at Walmart observed concealing items inside a backpack. Loss prevention stated the woman was known to them from previous incidents, and had an active trespass order prohibiting her from the property.

While in route to the location, officers learned the woman had two active warrants for her arrest. Squads arrived just as the woman was attempting to exit the store with the unpaid merchandise. Once in the loss prevention office, the woman said she was aware that she was violating her trespass order, and that she had gone to Walmart with the intention of shoplifting. The total amount for the merchandise concealed was \$240.46.

The woman was advised she was under arrest for burglary as a result of shoplifting after being trespassed. While being searched incident to arrest, officers located more merchandise that she had concealed down the front of her pants. A prescription bottle of medication, along with several prescription pills inside a clear baggie were located hidden on her person. The woman was asked if there was anything further that may have been missed during the search, and informed that anything located during jail intake could result in additional charges. She said she sometimes hides narcotics on her person, but did not have anything else on her.

Upon intake at the jail, staff located a small plastic bag with a crystal-like substance that had been hidden on her person. The substance was seized by officers, and preliminary testing indicated a positive for Methamphetamine.

Hermantown Police Department
5111 Maple Grove Road, Hermantown, MN 55811
218.729-1200 // cops@hermantownmn.com

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

