

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 08/31/25 to 09/06/25, the Hermantown PD had 157 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.**

Driving While Intoxicated

On August 31st, 2025 around 0030 hours, officers were dispatched to a single vehicle accident that had occurred on Miller Trunk Highway near Stebner Road. The reporting party advised they had witnessed the vehicle cross through the highway's median before coming to a stop in the driving lane.

Officers arrived on scene and briefly spoke to witnesses who said they observed the vehicle swerving prior to the crash. They said the driver was still inside the vehicle, and had been "slurring" his words when they checked on him.

Upon approach to the vehicle, officers observed the single male occupant in the driver's seat. The vehicle's airbags were deployed, and the hazard lights activated. When asked if the man was okay, he said he was, but did not know what had happened.

The driver was observed to have bloodshot watery eyes and slurred speech while speaking. Officers then opened the vehicle door, and asked the man to step outside. The man exited the driver's seat and stumbled out, nearly falling before being caught and helped to stand. The responding officers noted a strong odor of alcoholic beverage coming from his person as he came toward them.

When asked how much the driver had to drink that night, and he replied "a lot". Inside the man's vehicle there were several empty alcohol containers observed, with some falling onto the roadway with the opened door. The man declined initial field sobriety testing, but consented to a PBT (preliminary breath test). The result of the PBT showed a sample of .23 breath alcohol content.

The 24-year-old male was found to have a prior DWI in Minnesota from 2021. He was ultimately arrested and lodged at St. Louis County jail for charges of driving while intoxicated.

Check Hazard

On September 1st, 2025 around 1422 hours, officers were dispatched to a residence on Reinke Road. The reporting party said they found dynamite while attending an estate sale. The caller said they had removed it from the home and away from people, but they wanted it picked up. Officers arrived on scene and located an old coffee containing fireworks.

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Warrant Arrest

On September 1st, 2025 at approximately 2020 hours, officers on patrol observed a bicyclist riding southbound on Loberg Avenue. The officer took notice as the bike did not have a light present as required by law, making it difficult to see in the dark.

The officer initiated a stop to advise the bicyclist of the violation. The male was identified, and found to have an active warrant for his arrest. He was lodged at St. Louis County jail for the warrant, and his bicycle was transported for safe keeping.

Traffic Stop

On September 4th, 2025 at 2030 hours an officer patrolling the Walmart parking lot ran a routine query of a parked vehicle. The information returned for the rear license plate did not match the vehicle it was affixed to. A second plate bearing a different number was on the dash of the vehicle, but it was partially obscured and unreadable. The officer took note of the vehicle, and continued patrolling.

Soon after, the occupants of the vehicle returned, and exited the lot. The officer conducted a traffic stop as the vehicle entered onto Miller Trunk Highway. The female driver was advised as to the reason for the stop, and asked for identification and insurance.

The woman said she did not have any paperwork for the vehicle, as she had just purchased it from a private party one month prior. She stated that the individual she bought it from told her that the insurance was still valid. The woman further stated she had no knowledge that the vehicle was displaying the incorrect license plate.

While speaking to the woman, the officer noticed the second plate that had been up on the dash was no longer present. The woman was asked about this, and admitted to taking it off of her dash when she was pulled over. She said the license plate on the dash was expired, but she kept it up there to make it appear as though she had a front plate on the vehicle.

The two license plates were confiscated for destruction. The woman was cited for no proof of insurance, and allowed to park her vehicle in a nearby lot to await her ride. The woman was advised of the process to get the vehicle properly registered prior to driving it on public roads again.

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

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