

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 09/21/25 to 09/27/25, the Hermantown PD had 187 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

Traffic Stop

On September 23rd at approximate 0850 hours, officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle in the 4400 block of Ugstad Road due to expired registration. The vehicle was familiar to the officer as they had been involved with a traffic stop less than one week prior for the same offense. At that time, the driver had been given a verbal warning for expired registration and expired proof of insurance.

The officer approached the vehicle and confirmed that the driver was the same individual from the previous stop. The driver said he recalled the stop, and admitted he had not followed instructions to carry proof of insurance, and had not renewed his registration.

The insurance for the vehicle was able to be confirmed, and found to be active. The driver was issued a citation for the expired tabs, and informed that subsequent stops for the same offense could result in his vehicle being towed.

Traffic Pursuit

On September 23rd around 2327 hours, officers observed a vehicle without a front license plate traveling in the 5000 block of Miller Trunk Highway. Additionally, the license plate displayed on the rear of the vehicle was found to have expired registration. Officers activated their emergency lights to initiate a traffic stop as the vehicle approached the intersection with Lavaque Road. The driver failed to yield, and instead then turned onto Lavaque Road and continued. After making the turn, the vehicle accelerated, began driving at speeds exceeding 80mph in a 40mph zone.

A second squad further down Lavaque Road was stationed parallel to the road near the Maple Grove intersection with their emergency lights activated. As the fleeing vehicle approached the second squad, it turned right and continued westbound on Maple Grove Road. The vehicle continued to travel erratically, but was soon observed to have a significant wobble, nearly losing a tire. Squads moved into position to safely perform a Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT) on the vehicle. The pursuit ended in the 5200 block of Maple Grove Road at 2330 hours.

Officers detained the male driver and female passenger safely without further incident. When asked why the male fled, he said he was scared due to "fake cops around town". Upon search of the vehicle incident to arrest, three license plates were located in the rear of the vehicle. Two of the plates seized were linked to recent fleeing incidents from other local law enforcement agencies. The female passenger was given a ride home by officers.

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The 40-year-old male driver was lodged at St. Louis County Jail on charges of fleeing a peace officer in a motor vehicle, driving after revocation, failure to stop at a stop sign, and exceeding the speed limit.

Parking Complaint

On September 24th at 1415 hours, officers were dispatched to a parking issue in the 4900 block of Arrowhead Road. The reporting party said there were several vehicles parked that were blocking the sidewalk, causing pedestrians to walk onto the roadway. Officers arrived and informed the jobsite manager of the complaint. The manager was advised to have his employees park their vehicles on the opposite side of the road where there is no sidewalk to avoid further issue.

Scam

On September 24th officers were dispatched to a fraud report from a business in the 4800 block of Miller Trunk Highway. The caller was an employee who said that he had received calls from an individual identifying themselves as an agent with the US Marshall Service. The scammer said they were looking to arrest an individual for money laundering. They instructed the employee to gather large bills, and meet them off site at another business. The scammer further explained that the employee could call his boss to verify the investigation. The employee said he had received three separate calls from the phone number, which he had saved in his phone as being for his direct supervisor. The employee took the money from the business, and began traveling to the meeting location.

While in route with the money, the man contacted his supervisor and learned that it was a scam. The employee returned to the businesses with the money, and advised management of the attempted theft.

Shots Heard

On September 24th around 1844 hours, dispatch informed officers of a report of shots heard in the 3800 block of Haines Road. The reporting party said after hearing a shot they went to investigate, and found a grouse that had just been shot just outside their home. The homeowner also noticed holes in the siding near where the grouse was, believed to be caused from the shot.

Upon investigation by officers, it was determined that the grouse had likely collided into the home, causing its death. The damage to the siding did not appear to be consistent with bullet holes. There was no further police action necessary.

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

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