



Hermantown Police Department
5111 Maple Grove Road, Hermantown, MN 55811
218.729.1200 // cops@hermantownmn.com

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 11/16/25 to 11/22/25, the Hermantown PD had 158 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

Chief

Jim Crace

Deputy Chiefs

Mark Gunderson
Jon Esterbrooks

Sergeants

Griffin Pfeiffer - K9
Jon Pernu - K9

Detective

Jake Williams
Jeff Dwyer

Officers

Jason Salo
Jon Enright
Erika Johnson
Olivia Gottschald
Andrew Leibel
Alex Prouse
Rebecca Towner
Lucas Hedin
Devin Kleive
Colin Kostiuk

K-9 Officers

Tuuko
Jack

Records

Samantha Knapp
Ashley Johnson
Anna Johnson

Fire Outside

On November 16th at approximately 0031 hours, dispatched advised officers of a report of a fire near a vehicle parked on Elmwood Lane. An officer soon arrived, and found a small fire on the ground below the vehicle's engine compartment. The officer utilized their fire extinguisher to knock down the flames quickly.

Medical

On November 19th around 1947 hours, officers were notified of a medical call in the 5800 block of St. Louis River Road. The reporting party advised that a young child had placed a nicotine pouch in their mouth. The caller said the child had begun to feel unwell, and then started vomiting. Officers arrived on scene and found that first responders were attending the child who was stable and doing well. They learned the child had likely located the nicotine patch on the floor that was meant to be in discarded in the garbage, but missed.

Crash Notification

On November 21st around 1438 hours, dispatched advised of an iPhone crash notification near the 5400 block of Miller Trunk Highway. Dispatch reported there was sounds of traffic in the background, but no answer on callback or voices heard. They also advised there have been no other reports of a crash in the area at the time. Squads arrived in the area and did not locate any vehicle accidents in the area. A short time later, a man was located nearby searching for his phone that had fallen off of his vehicle. The phone was soon located nearby, and returned to the man

Damage to Vehicle

On November 21st officer were requested to call back a male in reference to a hit and run that had had occurred in the Walmart parking lot. Officers spoke to the man who reported that he was at the store on the 19th for about 45 minutes. When he returned to his vehicle he noted the side tail light was broken, and there was denting on the wheel trim and fender. Officers reviewed the surveillance footage from the moment the man entered the lot until he exited, and never saw anything come in contact with his vehicle. The man was advised of the findings.

Fleeing

On November 21st at 2116 hours an officer patrolling along Loberg Avenue observed an individual on a bicycle traveling southbound. The bicyclist caught their attention as they did not have any lights or a rear reflector present, making it very difficult to see them in the dark. The



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officer activated their emergency lights to initiate a traffic stop for the bicycle offense as the male approached the intersection of Market Street.

The bicyclist turned to look at the officer, then rode across the roadway to the east side of the road. The male continued to ride away, traveling through a parking lot, and a grassy area of a nearby business. The male was observed looking back at the squad several times, and it was clear the man was attempting to flee from the officer.

As the male approached a nearby hotel he suddenly dropped the bike, and began fleeing toward the building on foot. The officer exited their squad, and made commands for the male to stop, informing him he was under arrest. After a brief foot pursuit and struggle, the male was safely detained in handcuffs.

When asked if the male had any drugs on his person that would be found in jail, the male replied "I do drugs". The officer repeated the question, asking if the man had any drugs on his person, and he said "no, not on me". Upon search, five tightly rolled pieces of tin foil were located within the man's wallet. Each piece of tinfoil contained a white, powdery substance that was field tested and showed a preliminary-positive result for Fentanyl.

A review of the man's criminal history showed he had previous felony convictions for drug possession. The 43-year-old man was lodged at St. Louis County Jail on several charges related to the incident.

Suspicious Activity

On November 21st around 2253 hours, officers were dispatched to Walmart for a report of suspicious activity. The caller said their teen daughter had been approached by an unknown male while shopping in the store. They reported the male had gotten very close to her, then began following her in the aisles while making strange comments. Officers located and identified the suspect male in the store. The male admitted had approached the teen, and said he pretended to know her "as a joke", because someone had done it to him previously. He claimed he only had good intentions by it, and said he never touched the female. The female reported the male had approached her saying "don't you remember me", and then followed her, making her feel uncomfortable. She could not recall if the male had touched her at any point, but knew he was close to her. Store surveillance footage was reviewed by officers from the incident. It showed the male approaching the female in the aisle, but never touching her in any manner. The male then following her for about 10 seconds before walking away.



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