



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

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 11/30/25 to 12/06/25, the Hermantown PD had 208 calls.  
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

## Chief

Jim Grace

## 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

### K9 Ceremony

On December 1st Hermantown Police Department held a special ceremony to mark the retirement of K9s Jack and Tuuko. The two served about a decade each, and will now enjoy a cozy life of retirement at home with their human partners. They leave behind some pretty big paw prints to fill...

Along with the retirement of both dogs, the department also welcomed two new K9s, Bruno and Kylo! The pair recently graduated an intensive training program alongside their human handlers, and were very eager to get to work.

### Accident

On November 30<sup>th</sup> around 0930 hours, officers responded to a traffic accident in the area of Loberg and Market Street. Driver 1 said he was trying to get up to speed when he lost control. He said his vehicle spun out, and caused him to strike vehicle 2. The driver of vehicle 1 said he had recently moved to Minnesota, and was not used to driving in snowy conditions yet.

### Found Property

On December 1<sup>st</sup> at 1009 hours dispatch advised of a gun near the area of Stebner Road and Morris Thomas Road. The caller had been driving by when they noticed in lying the roadway. The caller said that passing cars had been running it over. Officers met with the reporting party to collect the shotgun and shotgun shells that were found on the road.

### DWI

On December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 0447 hours, a patrol officer traveling on Maple Grove Road observed a vehicle that appeared to be crashed in the ditch near the roundabout. As the officer approached, a man was located standing outside the vehicle, and appeared to have difficulty maintaining his balance.

Officers approached the man and confirmed that he was not injured. The male was swaying back and forth as he explained that he drove through the roundabout too fast, causing him to slide into the ditch. There was also a strong odor of alcoholic beverage coming from the man as he spoke. When the officer asked if he had been drinking, he responded by saying he had "too many shots to be driving" that night.

The officer requested to do some tests to check if he was safe to be driving, and the male agreed. While stepping away, the man lost his balance and stumbled backward toward his vehicle. Officers attempted to clarify what the man had been drinking, and he advised he was



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drinking shots of vodka, and had consumed “more than enough”. When asked where he was coming from, he said that he was coming from home, and just wanted to go home.

Officers attempted to continue testing, and the man soon tumbled into the snowbank. They advised they would discontinue the testing for his safety, and the man requested to complete the testing. Ultimately, the man was arrested on suspicion of driving while intoxicated. A subsequent DMT test resulted in a .32 BAC. The 22-year-old man was lodged at St. Louis County jail on DWI charges.

### Animal Complaint

On December 2<sup>nd</sup> around 1425 hours officers were dispatched to a report of dogs running loose near Stebner Park. The caller said she had come to walk Boulder Trail with her dog, but another person had arrived and released two dogs. The dogs were running all around the park dragging their leashes, and not under the control of the owner. The caller felt forced to leave the park with her dog, because she didn't want to be near the unleashed dogs. Officers spoke to the other party who admitted the dogs were not under her control for a period of time at the beginning of their walk. The woman was advised that her dogs must be kept under the control of a leash at all times while visiting the park.

### Warrant Arrest

On December 2<sup>nd</sup> just after 2238 hours, officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle traveling southbound along Loberg Avenue. A female passenger in the vehicle was found to have an active warrant for her arrest. When the woman was advised she was under arrest, she grabbed an open bottle of liquor and took a drink before stepping out of the vehicle. Upon search incident to arrest, officers located numerous items of drug paraphernalia. Additional drug paraphernalia and other unknown substances were located on her person.

### Suspicious Activity

On December 4<sup>th</sup> officers spoke to an individual wishing to report suspicious activity in the Walmart parking lot. The reporting party said that a group of people had approached his vehicle while he was sitting in it. The group began dancing, hitting the vehicle with their hands, and acting strangely. This disturbed the caller, and they wanted officers to be aware of the incident. Squads conducted extra patrol in the area, and there were no additional calls regarding similar behavior.



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