



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 01/04/26 to 01/10/26, the Hermantown PD had 184 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

Chief
Jim Crace

Deputy Chiefs
Mark Gunderson
Jon Esterbrooks

Sergeants
Griffin Pfeiffer
Jon Pernu

Detective
Jake Williams
Jeff Dwyer

Officers
Jason Salo, SRO
Jon Enright
Erika Johnson
Olivia Gottschald, K9
Andrew Leibel
Alex Prouse
Rebecca Towner
Lucas Hedin, K9
Devin Kleive
Colin Kostiuik

K-9 Officers
Bruno
Kylo

Records
Samantha Knapp
Ashley Johnson
Anna Johnson

Check Welfare

On January 4th just after 2300 hours, an officer patrolling along Miller Trunk Highway near Lavaque Road observed three individuals walking on the roadside. The officer stopped to check on them to see if they required any assistance. The three young males said they had just left Skyline Bowling, and were headed up to Pure Pleasure to see what it was all about.

The group was advised it would be best to spend as little time as possible on the highway due to the poor road conditions.

Driving While Intoxicated

On January 5th at approximately 0012 hours, an officer conducting stationary patrol near the intersection of Morris Thomas Road and Lavaque Road when they observed a vehicle approaching at a high rate of speed. The vehicle crossed through the four way stop intersection without any attempt to stop, and continued northbound on Lavaque Road.

The officer pulled onto the road, and began catching up to the vehicle. In the distance the brake lights were illuminated a short time indicating the vehicle appeared to stop at the Hermantown Road intersection. As the officer caught up and began following, a radar device confirmed the vehicle was traveling at 63mph in a posted 40mph zone.

A traffic stop was initiated, and the vehicle stopped on Lavaque Road near Foxborrow Road. The officer approached and observed the driver's side window rolled down, and a single male occupant. The officer immediately noted an overwhelming odor of cologne or body spray coming from the vehicle. When asked for his identification and insurance information, the man just stared at the officer with a blank expression. At that time, the officer noted the man had red, glossy eyes. The man was asked where he was coming from, and he ignored the question, and began looking for his ID and insurance.

When asked a second time, he responded with "why does it matter?". With further conversation, the officer detected an odor of alcoholic beverage coming from the truck. The driver explained he was meeting up with friends, and admitted he had been drinking that night. He said he had a couple drinks, and his last drink was 30 minutes prior.

The man ultimately failed field sobriety testing, and refused to submit to any breath testing. The 51-year-old man was lodged at St. Louis County Jail for charges relating to the incident.



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Damage to property

On January 6th just before 2200 hours officers were dispatched to Walmart to a report of a window being shot out with a pellet gun. The caller had witnessed the glass on a sliding door shatter just as a vehicle had gone by. On scene officers observed a portion of the tempered glass entrance door shattered. The witness later said they never saw a weapon, or anyone actually shooting at the door. Officers found no indication that the window had been shot at.

Suspicious Activity

On January 7th at 1749 hours, officers were dispatched to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 4800 block of Oak Ridge Drive. The caller said the older vehicle with only one headlight had been driving slowly through the neighborhood.

The vehicle was soon located on southbound Stebner Avenue, turning back onto Oak Ridge Drive. The officer spoke to the driver, who said he was delivering food for Instacart, and could not find an address. The driver was found to have a revoked driver's license in the state of Minnesota. The male was issued a citation for Driving After Revocation, and given directions for a new driver.

Attempt to Locate

On January 10th around 1521 hours, dispatch advised officers of an attempt to locate in the area of Miller Trunk Highway and Arrowhead Road. The caller reported a male had their vehicle parked in the driving lane, and was passed out at the wheel. The caller said the man had smelled of alcohol when he went to check on him. While on the phone with dispatch, the reporting party said the man had woken up, and began driving.

Officers soon located a matching vehicle on southbound Lavaque Road, and observed it did not have a front license plate. A traffic stop was initiated, and the vehicle was found to be occupied by a lone male driver. The man explained that he was driving a long distance to an auto dealership, and was very tired. It was noted that there was no odor of alcohol detected, and no signs of impairment observed.

The driver was advised he would need to park the vehicle, and contact another individual to drive the rest of the way. The dealership owner and another driver arrived to take both vehicles from the stop location.



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