



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 01/11/26 to 01/17/26, the Hermantown PD had 161 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
Kyro

Records
Samantha Knapp
Ashley Johnson
Anna Johnson

Driving While Intoxicated

On January 11th at 0422 hours, patrol officers observed a vehicle traveling in the 4300 block of Lavaque Road drive into a snowbank on the right shoulder while approaching a stop. The vehicle turned onto westbound Arrowhead Road, and the officer began following to monitor driving conduct. The vehicle was observed crossing over the fog line multiple times in a short distance, then turned its blinker on near Grouse Ridge Drive. The patrol officer activated their emergency lights to initiate a traffic stop for failure to maintain lane.

The vehicle was found to be occupied by a lone male, and the officer immediately detected a strong odor of alcohol coming from the vehicle. The officer noted the man was acting very nervously, and exhibited abnormal behavior and movements. Furthermore, the man was observed to have bloodshot, watery eyes. While conversing with the man about the reason for the stop, he mentioned he was just trying to go home. It was noted that the road the man had turned onto was a dead-end road, and not on the route to his home address. The male told the officer he had a few beers at a friend's house earlier in the night. He later clarified that he had consumed about ten beers that night.

The driver performed field sobriety testing which indicated signs of impairment. A subsequent breath test sample resulted in a 0.17 BAC. The 23-year-old male was transported home to the care of a parent, and charges were submitted for 3rd Degree Driving While Intoxicated.

Hit and Run

On January 14th at 1450 hours, officers were dispatched to a hit and run witnessed in the Walmart parking lot involving multiple parked vehicles. The reporting parties told officers they observed an elderly man was attempting to back into a parking spot when he hit a nearby vehicle. The driver readjusted before attempting to back again, striking a second vehicle. They said the male then moved his vehicle down a few parking spots in the same row, and struck a third vehicle. After parking, the man walked into the store.

Squads arrived on scene, and began gathering information from the involved parties. The first two vehicles struck were found to not have sustained any damage from the incident. The third vehicle had a significant dent in the bumper from a trailer hitch on the suspect vehicle.

While officers were gathering information, the male suspect returned to his vehicle. He told officers he did not know that he had struck any vehicles, and seemed generally confused. While



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speaking to the man, another individual attempted to park in the next spot, and struck the suspect's vehicle tire. The fifth involved vehicle sustained minor cosmetic damage.

Driving While Intoxicated

On January 17th around 0140 hours, a patrol officer traveling north on Lavaque Road observed a vehicle run through the stop sign at the 4-way intersection with West Arrowhead Road. The officer noted the vehicle had been traveling at a higher rate of speed, making it more apparent that the driver did not just roll through.

The officer caught up to the vehicle as it continued eastbound, and observed speeds varying between 48-51 mph in a posted 40mph zone. At the next intersection, the vehicle was observed stopping, before turning south onto Stebner Road without using a turn signal. The patrol officer activated their emergency lights and conducted a traffic stop.

The patrol officer approached the female driver, and advised her as to why they were stopping her. The woman acknowledged running through the stop sign by nodding her head, and saying "right through it". The woman explained that her tires were bad, and she had slid through the intersection. While speaking with the woman, the officer noted a faint odor of alcohol coming from the vehicle, and the woman's eyes had a glossy appearance. When asked if she had any alcoholic beverages that night, she admitted to having a couple of seltzer drinks earlier in the night.

The officer explained they would like to conduct field sobriety testing to be sure she was safe to be driving, and the woman agreed. She then spontaneously informed the officer she lived just up the road, and had four small children at home with her husband. The 32-year-old woman was ultimately charged with 3rd Degree Driving While Intoxicated, and Stop Sign Violation.

Check Welfare

On January 13th officers were requested for a check welfare of an individual. The caller told dispatch he was calling for himself because he felt weird, and said his father was also acting strangely.

Squads arrived to find the man showing obvious signs of drug impairment. The male admitted he had smoked some "bad meth" earlier in the night. While being assessed by first responders, the man attempted to walk away, telling them he would just walk to the hospital. Moments later an ambulance arrived, and the male was transported for medical care.



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