



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 12/07/25 to 12/13/25, the Hermantown PD had 159 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

Fraud

On December 8th officers took report of a fraud that had occurred online. The reporting party said they had attempted to buy a camera from an individual on Facebook Marketplace. It was noted that the individual selling the camera had a newly created account, and the only activity showing for it was the sale of the camera.

The seller of the camera was requesting a deposit for the camera while awaiting to meet for pickup. The buyer was skeptical, but did end up sending two electronic payments totaling \$250 toward the camera, which was listed for \$340. When it was time for the buyer to meet up to collect the camera, the seller began making excuses, and asking for more money to be sent.

The buyer then accused the seller of being a scammer, and threatened to call the police. The seller told the buyer that she did get scammed, and mentioned being in Nigeria. The seller stopped responding, and appeared to block the woman on Facebook. The account and sale post were no longer found on the social media site.

Suspicious Activity

On December 12th at 1430 hours, dispatch advised squads there was a request from a concerned resident regarding an unannounced utility worker. Officers called the individual who explained that they had gone outside to brush snow their vehicle off, and were startled to find an unknown man in the snowbank. They then noticed it was a local utility worker, but were upset they had not been informed that someone would be coming.

The officer explained that it may not be abnormal for utility workers to perform maintenance or repair to meters without notifying the homeowner. The reporting party was advised it would be best to reach out to the company directly to discuss the matter further. The caller requested that police also document their concerns about not being notified first.

Traffic Stop

On December 13th at 0034 hours an officer conducting stationary patrol observed a vehicle traveling along Haines Road at a high rate of speed. With the use of a radar device, it was confirmed the vehicle was traveling 73mpg in a 40mph zone. A second reading was taken as the vehicle passed, verifying speeds over 70mph. The officer activated their emergency lights and initiated a traffic stop as the vehicle approached the intersection of Morris Thomas and Haines Road.



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When the officer explained the reason for the stop, the female driver said she hadn't realized how fast she was going. She further apologized for her speed, and mentioned she had been upset about something. The driver was noted to have red, glossy eyes, and there was an odor of alcohol coming from inside the vehicle. The driver denied having any drinks that night, and said the smell must be from open containers of alcohol in the vehicle.

When the officer explained they would like to do field sobriety testing, the driver admitted she had had drinks earlier in the evening with dinner. The testing was conducted, and a PBT result of 0.10 was given. The driver was transported to the police department, and provided a DMT result of 0.07. The 21-year-old female was ultimately issued a citation for speeding, and driven home by a parent from the police department.

Shoplifting

On December 13th officers were informed of a shoplifting incident that had occurred at Walmart. The female suspect had fled the store with a computer without making any attempt to pay. A description of the female and the vehicle she left the parking lot in were provided.

After a brief investigation, the female suspect's identity was confirmed. The 31-year-old woman was known to law enforcement for similar incidents. The computer that had been stolen was located at a local pawn shop where it had been sold soon after the suspect fled Walmart.

The female was ultimately arrested, and held at St. Louis County jail for felony shoplifting charges.

Suspicious Vehicle

On December 13th just after 2200 hours, officers were alerted of a suspicious vehicle in the 3800 block of Stebner Road. The reporting party said an unknown vehicle had pulled into their driveway and stayed for a short period of time. When the homeowner walked outside to see what was going on, the vehicle then drove away. The man was concerned that the unknown individuals may have been casing his property.

Officers informed the man they would conduct additional patrols in that area. A short time later, a vehicle matching the description was observed at a nearby residence. Squads made contact with the occupants who explained they were just headed to a friend's party, and had mixed up the address. The original reporting party was advised of the officer's contact.



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