



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 12/14/25 to 12/20/25, the Hermantown PD had 213 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

Accident

On December 17th just after 2300 hours, a patrol officer traveling along Haines Road observed what appeared to be vehicle hazard lights in the northbound lane near the intersection of Maple Grove. As they got closer, they observed a vehicle had crashed into a power pole and sustained disabling damage to the front end.

The officer approached to check on occupants, but could not see inside the locked vehicle due to window tint and airbag deployment. The officer broke out the passenger window, and observed a male slumped over in the driver's seat. The man was found bleeding from his face, and appeared to have sustained injuries from the crash.

The driver was ultimately transported by ambulance, and the crash appeared to be the result of a medical event.

Parking Complaint

On December 19th dispatched advised of a callback request from an individual back regarding a parking concern at a local business. Officers called the man back, who said he was upset about a vehicle being parked in a handicapped parking space, forcing him to park further away in the lot. The man said he voiced his concern with the business, and was frustrated when they did not do anything about it.

Officers contacted the registered owner of the vehicle to advise them of the parking complaint. The driver explained that they also had a handicap placard, which was placed on the dash of their vehicle. They further explained that the placard was not placed into the rearview mirror due to their limited mobility. The original reporting party was advised of the officer's findings.

Harassment

On December 19th officers received report of online harassment occurring between two adults. The reporting party said a male had been posting disparaging things about her on Facebook. The woman said the two were in a common Facebook "group", and the man was telling people not to buy from her small business due to her political beliefs. The caller was provided resources and advised on civil routes she could take to stop the unwanted behavior.

Driving While Intoxicated

On December 20th at approximately 0304 hours, officers were notified of a single vehicle accident near the intersection of Miller Trunk Highway and Lavaque Bypass. The reporting party



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said the vehicle was in the ditch, and the male driver appeared to be intoxicated. When they stopped to check on the man he was on the phone with his mother, and told them not to call the police.

Squads quickly arrived and observed the driver standing outside the vehicle and talking on the phone. The driver was found to have facial injuries, and was advised that medical was in route to evaluate him. The driver told officers he had lost control on a slight curve, and believed he had rolled his vehicle into the ditch. The vehicle was found to have sustained disabling damage with airbag deployment, but there was no evidence of a rollover occurring. The male was noted to have red, glossy eyes, and slurred speech while he spoke. The officers requested ID, and asked if the man had anything to drink that night. He ignored the question, and began searching for his ID. They asked again if the man had been drinking and his response was "correct".

The driver was then taken into a nearby EMT vehicle to be evaluated out of the cold weather. After declining further medical treatment, the man returned to speak with officers. The man was asked to perform field sobriety testing, and he said he did not want to do any testing. The driver was placed under arrest for suspicion of drunk driving, and transported to the police department for a DMT test.

The man ultimately declined the DMT test, and requested to go to the hospital for medical treatment. Once being cleared medically, the man was transported to St. Louis County Jail and lodged on DWI charges. The 26-year-old man had a previous DWI charge from December of 2024.

Disturbance

On December 20th at 2139 hours officers responded to the 5000 block of Miller Trunk Highway to a report of an intoxicated man trying to drive. The reporting party said the unknown man was incredibly drunk, and they were holding the car door open and attempting to remove his keys. The drunk male was reportedly threatening the caller, and had taken a few swings at him for intervening. While talking to dispatch, the reporting party said another individual helped him, and they were able to get the man out of the car.

Officers arrived on scene and spoke to both males separately. The suspect male explained that he was mad at the reporting party because he didn't know him, and he was stopping him from getting into his vehicle. They learned the intoxicated man was attending a holiday party, and already had a sober ride planned for him. The man's friends said they hadn't realized he left the building, and were able to calm him down and take him back inside.



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