



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 02/08/26 to 02/14/26, the Hermantown PD had 160 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

DWI

On February 8th just prior to 0214 hours, an officer was patrolling along southbound Miller Trunk Highway from Ugstad road when a vehicle caught their attention. The car traveling in front of them was observed swerving within the driving lane, then abruptly changed lanes without signaling. Additionally, the vehicle was slowing to speeds of 30mph in a posted 55mph zone while approaching a green light. Suspecting that the driver may be impaired, a traffic stop was conducted as they turned onto Sugar Maple Drive.

The lone male driver was noted to have watery eyes, and slurred speech upon approach. With further conversation, the male admitted to drinking alcoholic beverages that night. When asked how much he had to drink, he said "not much". Officers conducted field sobriety testing and a PBT test before advising the man he was under arrest for suspicion of DWI.

A subsequent DMT reading showed the man had a .16 BrAC. The man was transported back to his college residence by officers, and charges were submitted for 3rd degree DWI.

Traffic Stop

On February 8th at 2253 hours patrol officers conducted a traffic stop near Menard Avenue for driving conduct observed. When the license plate was run, the vehicle was found to be registered to a female party. Further review of the record showed the woman was named as a protected party in a DANCO (Domestic Abuse No Contact Order), with a male party as the respondent.

The officer approached the vehicle and noted two occupants, a male driver, and female passenger. The two were identified, and found to be the individuals named in the active DANCO. The male party was placed under arrest, and lodged at St. Louis County Jail for the order violation.

Suspicious Activity

On February 13th at 2103 hours, officers were dispatched to the 5400 block of Miller Trunk Highway. The reporting party had called 911 after observing an unknown vehicle enter the parking lot of the closed business, and four individuals exit on foot.

Squads arrived on scene and located the vehicle unoccupied in the lot as described. Nearby two individuals were observed running, and officers made contact with those individuals to speak to



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them. The two juvenile males had differing stories about the reason for being there, and hesitated when asked if there were any others with them.

With further questioning, the males admitted they had come to the area to check out an abandoned property nearby. They said they entered the property, but had fled after being startled by something inside. Officers were also informed there were two additional males that had arrived with them, but were unaccounted for.

Officers responded to the abandoned property, and observed fresh footprints in the snow around the structures. They noted the buildings were boarded up, but there were broken windows, and areas where the boards had been pulled away to gain access. As the structure was cleared, an officer outside informed them that another young man had emerged from the woods. The juvenile informed officers that the fourth male refused to come out, and kept running through the woods. They learned the fourth male was not dressed for the weather, and did not have a cellphone with him.

Officers began tracking the male's footprints while awaiting the arrival of a drone to assist in the search. The prints were followed about 400 yards through a wooded area before they entered onto the roadway. Just as rescue squads arrived on scene, officers received a call from the missing juvenile. The male said he had run through the woods, and hitched a ride from a stranger to get home.

The parents of the juveniles were contacted by law enforcement, and all four boys were cited for trespassing

Suspicious Activity

On February 14th officers learned about suspicious activity near Highway 2 and Ugstad Road. The third-hand report was regarding pull tab boxes being dumped under the bridge. The caller said they had heard about a theft of pull tabs in a nearby jurisdiction, and thought it may be related.

Through investigation, officers were able to locate the owner of the boxes. They were also able to confirm there were no pull tabs stolen or missing. The owner of the discarded pull tab boxes told officers they had been thrown away in a dumpster in the days prior, and were meant to be garbage. The boxes were collected by the original owner, and taken for proper disposal.



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