



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 02/15/26 to 02/21/26, the Hermantown PD had 188 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

Driving While Intoxicated

Just prior to 2000 hours on February 15th, patrol officers traveling along West Arrowhead Road observed a vehicle driving westbound in the eastbound lane of traffic. The vehicle quickly corrected, but was unable to maintain their lane as they continued. The vehicle came to a stop at the intersection with Miller Trunk Highway briefly before continuing through the intersection, failing to obey the traffic control device.

A traffic stop was conducted, and the vehicle was found to be occupied by a lone male, and his canine companion. The man was advised for the reason of the stop, and did not initially verbally respond. When asked why he ran through the red light, the man said he was trying to get home. With further conversation, officers detected signs of impairment, as well as an odor of alcoholic beverage emitting from the vehicle.

Based on the officer's observations, the man was asked if he would be willing to participate in field sobriety testing, as well as a PBT sample. The driver refused all testing, and did not wish to provide a breath sample. He was subsequently arrested on suspicion of DWI, and transported to the police department where he continued to decline further offers for testing. The man was arrested and lodged at St. Louis County jail for charges relating to the incident. Officers transported the man's dog back to his home.

Domestic

On February 17th at 1942 hours, officers were dispatched to the Econo Lodge to a report of a domestic. The caller described hearing a man and woman throwing things in an adjoining room, and the female half begging to go home.

When squads arrived, they could hear a male and female inside the room giggling. They knocked on the door and the male party answered the door, and apologized for being too loud. There were two females observed inside the room, one of which was laying on the floor. The male was noted to have glossy eyes, slurred speech, and a strong smell of alcohol emitting from his person.

One officer checked on the female on the floor, who said she was okay, but felt very sick. She mentioned that she and the male been drinking vodka, and apologized saying she knew it was illegal to drink alcohol under the age of 21. There was a partially emptied bottle of vodka on a table in the room.



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The male then walked into the bathroom, and began vomiting. The female on the floor also began vomiting, and was struggling to keep her eyes open. While waiting for medical to arrive to assess the female, officers spoke to the second female who was in the room. She said she had just stopped by to visit her friends, but had not had anything to drink.

Ultimately, the two intoxicated parties were issued a citation for liquor consumption by a person under the age of 21.

Unknown Trouble

On February 17th at 2237 hours dispatch advised of unknown trouble in the area of Starlite Loop. The caller reported seeing bright flashes outside several times in the previous 15 minutes, and thought it may be coming a power pole.

Officers on duty had also observed the flashes in the area which appeared to be lightning. It was noted that there was a heavy snowstorm occurring, along with a rare weather phenomenon known as thundersnow.

Driving While Intoxicated

On February 21st at 0923 hours officers were dispatched to a report of a single vehicle accident that was buried in a snowy median along Miller Trunk Highway. The caller was a passerby who did not witness the crash, but stopped to check on the occupant. They said the woman was unsteady on her feet, and appeared to be intoxicated. It was also noted that the driver asked the caller not to call the police, because she didn't want to get in trouble.

Squads arrived and confirmed that the woman was not harmed in the accident. The 19-year-old female admitted to drinking alcohol, and said that she had made a mistake, and wanted to go home. She identified herself and provided a photo ID, which was determined to be altered with a fictitious birth year.

After learning she would be going to jail for suspicion of driving while intoxicated, the woman physically and verbally aggressive toward officers.

The suspect was transported to St. Louis County Jail where several charges were requested including: threats of violence, DWI test refusal, driving while impaired, obstruction of legal process, failure to maintain lane, and display/possess fake or altered ID.



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