



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 02/22/26 to 02/28/26, the Hermantown PD had 163 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 February 22nd just prior to 0233 hours, a patrol officer traveling along miller trunk highway observed a vehicle traveling southbound that caught their attention due to improper driving conduct. The passenger vehicle had weaved within its lane several times before slowly correcting, and fail to property use their signal during a turn. With concern that the drive may be impaired, the officer conducted a traffic stop. The officer announced themselves, advising the reason for the stop, and asked for identification and insurance. The male driver handed a card to the officer, which was discovered to be a credit card. The man appeared to notice his mistake, and began searching his wallet for his ID. When asked if there was a reason for his driving conduct, the man mentioned he had been at a "baby party" for a family member. With further conversation, the man admitted he had been drinking that night, but advised the officer that he tended to stick to beer if he was going to be driving. The officer observed the male had bloodshot, watery eyes, slurred speech, and an odor or alcohol emitting from his person. The man agreed to perform field sobriety testing. While awaiting the breath test to finalize, the male said aloud "let me be legal". With a PBT result of .15BrAC, the 36-year-old man was placed under arrest for suspicion of DWI.

On February 27th at approximately 2342 hours a patrol officer traveling southbound on Stebner Road observed a vehicle approaching at a higher rate of speed. With use of a radar device, it was confirmed to be traveling 12mph over the posted speed limit, and did not slow as they passed the marked squad. The officer performed a U-turn to follow the vehicle, and determined their speed had not decreased. A traffic stop was conducted, and the vehicle was found to be occupied by a female driver, and two male passengers. The driver was identified, and informed the officer the group was headed back from the casino. A query of the woman's driving record showed that she had a suspended driving status in the state of Minnesota. After detecting an odor of alcohol coming from the vehicle, the drier was asked if any of the occupants were sober. The driver said she was sober, and said she had consumed a few alcoholic beverages earlier in the night. She explained that she did not drink much, because she knew she had to drive. The officer noted additional signs of impairment during their interaction, and requested the driver perform field sobriety testing. The observations from testing were consistent with alcohol impairment, and a PBT result came back with a result of .105 BrAC. The 46-year-old woman was arrested on charges related to the stop. The officer noted in their report that two open containers of beer were located inside the vehicle, with one being in the driver's side cup holder.

On February 28th just after 2000 hours, patrol officers observed a vehicle stopped halfway in the intersection at Hermantown Road and Lavaque Road. The vehicle crossed over the white fog line



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while making a turn onto Morris Thomas Road. They continued westbound, and began traveling at speeds of 30mph in a posted 55mph zone. Officers continued to follow and monitor driving conduct, and soon observed the vehicle travel on Highway 2 at 38mph in a posted 60 mph zone. The officer noted this as suspicious as the roads were clear, and it was not snowing. A traffic stop was conducted, and the officer immediately detected a strong odor of alcohol coming from the vehicle as they spoke. The man was observed to have watery eyes, a flushed, red face, and slurred speech. The man denied having anything to drink, and later admitted he had one beer with his dinner. The male failed field sobriety testing, and the PBT showed a result of .21 BrAC. The 40-year-old male was arrested, and charged with driving under the influence.

Scam / Fraud

On February 24th officers were dispatched to a fraud call at 1931 hours. The reporting party had arrived at the police department with a friend, hoping to speak to an officer. The individual was on the phone with someone identifying themselves as a "Lieutenant", and claiming they had a federal arrest warrant. The scammer was demanding the individual withdraw money, and bring the money orders to the court house. The phone was handed over to a responding officer who identified themselves as law enforcement. The scam caller immediately disconnected the call, and there was no monetary loss to the individual. The officer explained that this is a common tactic used by scammers, and assured them that legitimate warrants would not be handled in this manner.

On February 26th officers received reports of individuals and businesses being contacted by callers falsely representing themselves as the power company. The scam callers were threatening immediate disconnection of power service if payments weren't submitted within 60 minutes.

When one resident informed the scammer they had made a payment online, they became irate, and said the payment needed to be cash or a company debit card. The resident then contacted their power company who advised this was indeed a scam attempt, and advised they report it to law enforcement.



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