



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 03/01/26 to 03/07/26, the Hermantown PD had 152 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

Traffic Stop

On March 1st a patrol officer observed a vehicle traveling along Loberg Avenue displaying illegal window tint to both front passenger windows and windshield. A traffic stop was conducted, and a query of the license plate showed the registered owner to have a revoked driving status. The driver was confirmed to be the registered owner. The male admitted to knowing his license was revoked, but said he had been out to go grocery shopping. The male was issued a citation for driving after revocation, and given a warning for the window tint. The passenger was found to have a valid driver's license, and took over driving.

On March 6th at approximately 1559 hours an officer was patrolling in the 3900 block of southbound Lavaque Road when they observed a vehicle traveling northbound at a speed that appeared much greater than the 40mph limit. With use of a radar device, the vehicle was found to be traveling at 62mph, and soon began hard braking. The officer turned to catch up to the vehicle, and activated their emergency lights to conduct an enforcement stop. The female driver was identified by her driver's license, and provided an insurance policy number. The woman was asked to show the vehicle on the policy, and admitted she did not have insurance for it. The officer noted the policy had just been cancelled four days prior to the stop. The driver was given a warning for no insurance, and advised the vehicle would be towed if she was stopped again with no insurance. She was issued a citation for speeding.

On March 7th around 1832 a patrol officer conducted a traffic stop along Loberg Avenue after observing a vehicle with no license plate displayed in the front or rear. When the officer spoke to the driver, they said they had just purchased the vehicle from a friend, and advised they did not yet have insurance on the vehicle. A query of the driver showed an interlock restriction on his license, but no interlock present in the vehicle. The two passengers in the vehicle were observed to not be wearing their seatbelts, and denied having any form of identification on them. The passengers verbally provided their identification, and the officer attempted to run a search based on the information given. The male passenger's identification was confirmed, but the name provided by the female appeared to be false. The officer confronted the woman with this, and she continued to insist that was her name. She was then advised she would be under arrest for providing a false name to law enforcement. At that point, the woman provided her real name, and informed the officer she knew there was a warrant for her arrest. The woman's true identity was confirmed, and she was observed to have two active warrants. The female was searched incident to arrest, and found to have a baggie containing several prescription narcotic pills, as well as THC, and open marijuana products in her possession. The male driver was placed under arrest for the ignition interlock offense, and he was found to have a bag of suspected methamphetamine in his pocket. Numerous items of drug paraphernalia were located within the



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vehicle. The male driver and female passenger were both transported to St. Louis County Jail. The second male passenger was allowed to leave from the stop.

Shoplifting

On March 2nd around 1812 hours officers were dispatched to active shoplifters at Fleet Farm. The reporting party had observed the male and female suspects concealing merchandise in their jacket and tote bag. The suspects were stopped as they exited the store after making no attempt to pay for the items. The male was found to several knives, and a pellet pistol concealed on his person. Officers also located a crowbar in his pocket. The female was found to have concealed a pair of walkie talkies, a knife, and a flashlight. When discussing the theft, the male party told officers he knew people who “wanted some stuff”, but that the items taken weren’t originally part of the plan. He explained that he wanted to “make a couple extra bucks” by selling the merchandise. The two were cited for shoplifting, and trespassed from the store.

On March 4th officers were dispatched to a shoplifter at Walmart. The reporting party had observed the woman “skip scanning” items and obscuring unpaid merchandise in the cart at the self-checkout lanes. The woman was taken to the loss prevention office where she met with officers. While the staff attempted to return the items that were paid for, the woman became frustrated due to the length of time it was taking. The woman initially stated she intended to leave without the paid items. After some discussion on her personal phone call, she elected to wait, saying she “could probably make a few bucks”. The 38-year-old woman was cited for shoplifting, and given a trespass order.

Suspicious Activity

On March 5th around 2052 hours, dispatch advised of a suspicious activity call in the 5500 block of Miller Trunk Highway. The caller reported a vehicle parked behind a closed business with its lights on. The caller said they hadn’t been expecting anyone there, and mentioned a history of things going missing from the property in the past. A squad arrived on scene and located the vehicle parked with the lights on as described. Upon approach, the officer observed movement in the back seat of the passenger vehicle. A few moments later, two teenagers emerged from the vehicle, and identified themselves. The couple was advised to go home, and not park behind closed businesses.



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