



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 03/08/26 to 03/14/26, the Hermantown PD had 159 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
Kane Kostiuik

K-9 Officers

Bruno
Kyro

Records

Samantha Knapp
Ashley Johnson
Anna Johnson

Stolen Vehicle

On March 8th officers received a call back request regarding a vehicle that was missing. The caller told dispatch they hadn't seen their vehicle in about a week, and were not sure where it may be, or who had it.

Officers spoke to the reporting party and began initiating a stolen vehicle report. As they were discussing potential suspect information, the male admitted it had not actually been stolen. He explained that he had sold it to an individual who knew only by their first name. The buyer had not transferred the title, and had unpaid parking tickets with the car which were coming back to him as the registered owner. The male said he was told by a friend that the best course of action would be to report it as stolen, and get the vehicle back.

Officers informed him he could not report it as stolen as the sale was legitimate. The male was advised to reach out to the DMV and report the vehicle as sold.

Driving While Intoxicated

On March 11th at 1035 hours officers were dispatched to the 4100 block of Haines Road for a check welfare request. The caller reported a vehicle in the parking lot was occupied by two males that appeared to be napping or "passed out" in the front seats. It was noted that earlier in the day, at 0859 hours, officers were dispatched to a similar call near Menard Drive. That call referenced a male "passed out" in a similarly described vehicle, but was no longer in the area upon arrival of squads.

Officers arrived on scene at the Haines Road location and observed the vehicle in park, and running. There were two males inside that appeared to be asleep or unconscious in the front seats. The male in the driver's seat was leaned back with his eyes closed and mouth agape. In plain view on the man's lap, officers observed a burnt piece of tin foil next to a lighter. The passenger was noted to also have a burnt piece of tin foil on his lap.

With concern that the driver may be under the influence, officers knocked on the window to speak to the males. The driver said he was okay, and had just been taking a nap. The driver was asked about the tin foil in his lap, and he said he used it to smoke marijuana. He told officers that he had actually smoked the substance the night before, and the tin foil must have been stuck to his blanket.



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Officers performed standardized field sobriety testing on the driver. Based on their observations, they had reason to believe he may be under the influence of a substance, and he was placed under arrest. A vehicle search was conducted incident to arrest, and officers located numerous items of drug paraphernalia including drug pipes and additional tin foil pieces. One tightly folded piece of tin foil contained a white, powdery substance.

The 32-year-old male was found to have two prior DWI convictions in the state of Minnesota. He was lodged at St. Louis County Jail on DWI charges.

Check Welfare

On March 12th just after 1430 hours, officers were dispatched to a check welfare in the 4300 block of Menard Drive. The reporting party said there was a male running in the woods behind businesses, and hiding behind trees.

Officers located the man, and advised of the concern. The man was identified, and found to have a Sign and Release Warrant out from another County. The man was provided the paperwork for the warrant, and sent on his way.

Traffic Stop

On March 14th around 0917 hours, a patrol officer observed a vehicle traveling eastbound on Morris Thomas Road that appeared to be driving above the posted speed limit. With use of a radar device, the vehicle was confirmed to be traveling at 83mph in a posted 55mph zone. The officer turned and began following the vehicle with their emergency lights activated. The vehicle continued driving, and did not yield to the squad. The officer then activated their sirens, and the vehicle continued eastbound at 60mph while entering a 45mph zone. As they approached the four way stop with Lavaque, the driver stopped at the intersection.

The female driver was identified, and admitted to knowing she was driving too fast. The officer explained that she also failed to yield to the squad with emergency lights activated. The woman said she didn't stop because she didn't think she was being pulled over. The driver was advised that any vehicle traveling on the roadway must yield to emergency vehicles by pulling onto the shoulder. The-30-year-old female was issued a citation.