



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 03/15/26 to 03/21/26, 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
Kane Kostiuik

K-9 Officers
Bruno
Kylo

Records
Samantha Knapp
Ashley Johnson
Anna Johnson

Traffic Stop

On March 15th around 2135 hours, a patrol officer observed a vehicle traveling in front of them displaying expired registration. After running a query of the plate and confirming it was expired, a traffic stop was initiated along Lavaque Road. After pulling over, the driver was observed shuffling and making fidgety movements, and digging around near the center console. The driver told the officer he was borrowing his roommate's vehicle. When asked for his driver's license and insurance, the man explained that he didn't have a valid license, and was not able to provide proof of insurance.

The man was confirmed to have a driving status of canceled- inimical to public safety in the state of Minnesota. The man was advised he was under arrest, for this offense, and asked to exit the vehicle. Upon search incident to arrest, a small bag containing a clear, crystal-like substance was located. The male initially denied knowledge of the substance, but later confirmed he sometimes uses methamphetamine because it gives him "a little extra boost".

Traffic Accident

On March 17th just after 1000 hours, officers were dispatched to a two-vehicle accident near the intersection of Midway Road and Hermantown Road. Squads quickly arrived on scene, and confirmed that there were no injuries sustained in the crash. Driver 1 explained that he was driving southbound on Midway Road when Driver 2 entered into the roadway from Hermantown Road without stopping at the stop sign. Driver 2 explained she had been driving westbound on Hermantown Road, but was unable to stop, even though she was braking. A visual inspection of the vehicle's brakes showed that the rotors were thin from extreme wear, and found to have cracks and holes in areas. Driver two was cited for failure to yield when entering/crossing a roadway, and operating with unsafe equipment.

Traffic Stop

On March 17th around 1600 hours, a patrol officer observed a vehicle traveling in front of them with the rear driver's side tire wobbling heavily. With concern that the tire may fall off, a traffic stop was conducted. The driver said he did not have a valid driver's license, and said he was aware of the tire issue. The male was issued a citation for driving after revocation, and given a verbal warning for illegal tint, and equipment issue.



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Arrest

On March 18th just after 1700 hours, a patrol officer observed an individual known to law enforcement entering the Fleet Farm store. After confirming the male had active warrants, officers entered the store, and located the male near the firearm section of the store. The male was found to be carrying a crossbody style bag, and officers became concerned he may be armed. They called out to the individual, who denied being the wanted male. The officer informed the male he was under arrest, and he immediately began resisting, and reaching toward the front of his body where the bag was located. The male continued to physically resist, and the officer discovered the male's crossbody bag contained a heavy, hard object. During this time, the suspect was calling out to a friend saying "get my bag", and attempting to pull his arms away. The suspect then threw the bag to the floor where it was secured, and he was placed into handcuffs. Upon search, an identification card was located on his person, further confirming his identity. The male's crossbody bag was opened, and found to contain a Glock-style handgun with no serial number, two handgun magazines, and a total of 32 rounds of 9mm ammunition. The suspect denied any knowledge of the handgun, and told the officer he had been holding the bag for a friend. The 20-year-old male was transported to St. Louis County Jail to be held on the warrants. Additional charges were submitted in relation to the incident, including obstruction, and possession of a pistol without a permit.

Hit & Run

On March 21st officers were dispatched to a property damage hit and run crash that had occurred in the Sam's Club parking lot. Officers arrived on scene and observed a large dent in the front bumper of the victim's vehicle. A witness to the incident had provided information regarding the suspect vehicle. Officers responded to the address of the registered owner, and located the vehicle described parked at the residence. There was damage on the vehicle that appeared fresh, and was consistent with the incident. Officers spoke to the driver to discuss the incident in the parking lot. The woman admitted she had heard something as she was leaving the lot, but thought something must have fallen out of her car. She said she had gotten out and checked, but did not notice anything. Officers reviewed surveillance footage of the incident, and the woman was ultimately issued a citation for Hit and Run – fail to report collision with an unattended motor vehicle.

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