



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 03/22/26 to 03/28/26, the Hermantown PD had 146 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

Shoplifting

On March 22nd around 2033 hours, officers were notified of a shoplifting suspect inside Walmart. The loss prevention staff reported that a transaction had occurred that was much lower than expected for the items that should have been scanned. They investigated the incident and observed a male enter the hardware section of the store for a short time before walking toward the vacuum cleaners. The male then went to the self-checkout lanes and paid for items in his cart, with the transaction totaling just over \$12.00. The vacuum cleaner was valued at \$278.00, but was found to be scanned as tool from the hardware section that was \$3.48.

Shoplifting

On March 25th at 1448 hours, officers were dispatched to a shoplifter inside the Fleet Farm Store. As officers were arriving on scene, they learned the suspect had just fled the property with merchandise in her purse. The female suspect was located nearby, and immediately informed the officer they had given the merchandise back when confronted in the store. The suspect denied having any additional items, but did eventually produce a Yeti mug from her purse that had been shoplifted.

The woman was advised she was under arrest, and placed into handcuffs. The suspect was searched incident to arrest, and additional stolen items were found inside her purse. Officers learned the sweatshirt that the female was wearing had also been taken from the store.

Traffic Stop

On March 27th at 1949 hours, patrol officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle with a headlight out traveling along Market Street. The male driver was identified, and found to have an expired license with restrictions. One of the license restrictions was requirement of ignition interlock, which was not present in the vehicle. The man stated that he had recently bought the vehicle, and had not gotten insurance, or the ignition interlock installed.

A query of the man's driving record showed six previous ignition interlock violations. It was determined the man would be arrested for the interlock offense, and the vehicle was towed.



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Found Property

On March 27th just after 1400 hours, officers were dispatched to Walmart for a report of a handgun found on the sidewalk outside of the entrance doors. The caller stated that a customer had found the gun, and they were not sure if it was real, or who it belonged to.

Squads quickly arrived, and located a small pistol on the sidewalk outside the exit doors. The firearm was confirmed to be a real handgun, and found to have two rounds inside. The gun was unloaded and secured in the squad, and officers met with staff to review surveillance footage. The video showed an older male walking out the doors carrying bags when the gun fell from his person. The man continued walking a short distance to his vehicle, and did not appear to notice it had fallen. The live feed videos showed that the male's vehicle was still parked in the same spot.

Officers exited the store, and found the male sitting in his vehicle. When he was asked if he lost a gun, he looked panicked, and noticed his leather holster on his belt was empty. The man was advised that the gun was recovered after being found on the ground. The male was thankful to have it returned, and explained that he had recently purchased the gun and holster.

After confirming the male had a valid permit to carry, and everything was in order, the man's unloaded gun was returned to him. He was advised to be sure his gun is properly secured if he plans to carry it public in the future.

DWI

On March 28th at approximately 2134 hours, a patrol officer observed a male driving while looking at an illuminated cellphone in his hand. The officer activated their emergency lights to initiate a traffic stop, and the vehicle pulled over just south of the Stebner Road and Whitetail Drive Intersection. The officer approached the lone male, and advised him for the reason to the stop. While speaking to the man about the handsfree laws in Minnesota, a strong odor of alcoholic beverage coming from his person. When the officer asked how much the man had drank that day, he responded "two, that's it".

A DWI investigation was conducted, and the man was ultimately transported to St. Louis County Jail and held on charges for DWI.