



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 03/29/26 to 04/04/26, the Hermantown PD had 180 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

Driving While Intoxicated

On March 29th at approximately 0206 hours, patrol officers learned there was an attempt to locate on a vehicle that was confirmed with radar to be traveling over 100mph. A patrol officer on Midway Road observed a vehicle with a similar description near the intersection of Highway 2. They began monitoring driving conduct, and the vehicle soon accelerated to 81mph in a 55mph zone.

A traffic stop was initiated, and as the officer approached the driver's window, an overwhelming odor of alcoholic beverage was emitting from the passenger compartment. Officers spoke with the two male occupants, and detected several signs of impairment from the driver. After a DWI investigation was completed, the driver was transported to St. Louis County Jail for charges of DWI, open bottle possession, and Speeding.

Traffic Stop

On March 30th around 0119 hours, officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle traveling without tail lights activated during night hours. While the officer was speaking to the driver regarding the reason for the stop, they detected an odor of marijuana emitting from the inside of the vehicle. The driver was asked about this, and they said they hadn't smoked in the car that day. They continued by saying they did have some marijuana in the car, and handed a sandwich baggy with a small amount inside to the officer.

The officer explained that while marijuana is legal in Minnesota, it must remain in its original packaging. The driver stated understanding, and agreed to knowing about the packaging requirements. During a vehicle search, a second unsealed plastic bag with marijuana was located on the driver's seat, along with a partially burnt joint. A third unsealed bag was located inside the center console.

The driver was ultimately issued a citation for cannabis in an open package, and failure to carry proof of insurance.

Check Welfare

On March 31st, just after 1945 hours, officers were dispatched to a check welfare on a male and female potentially under the influence in the 4100 block of Haines Road. The caller said the two appeared to be nearly passing out, and unable to walk normally. Squads soon located the female stumbling nearby, and began medical response due to concern for her well-being. The



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female informed officers she eaten an entire bag of “gummies”, and had become separated from her male counterpart. The woman was evaluated by first responders, and ultimately declined any further medical services.

At 2139 hours, a second call came in from a nearby location regarding a female stumbling in the roadway. Squads located the female from the prior contact, and provided her a courtesy ride to a nearby hotel where she had been staying.

Hit & Run

On March 1st officers were called to the Sam’s Club parking lot regarding a hit & run with damage to a vehicle. After meeting with the reporting party, they observed a significant dent to the door of the vehicle, along with paint transfer.

Through investigation, the identity of the suspect vehicle was learned. Officers responded to the address of the registered owner, and met with the male who admitted that the wind had forced his door open, striking another vehicle. The suspect vehicle was viewed, and confirmed to have damage and paint cracking from the incident.

Traffic Stop

On April 4th at 1450 hours a patrol officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle with expired registration, and no front license plate displayed. The male driver was found to have a revoked driver’s license. A query of the man’s driving record showed that twenty-seven pending Driving After Revocation cases in the State of Minnesota.

The man was detained, and advised he was under arrest for the offense. The male was searched incident to arrest, and a small plastic container was found on his person with a white powder and razor blade inside. The man claimed it was “drink mix”, and not illegal drugs.

Upon subsequent search of the man’s vehicle, officers located several pieces of tinfoil, and a bag with numerous needles. The white powder residue was tested, and showed to be preliminary-positive for fentanyl.