



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

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 04/12/26 to 04/18/26, the Hermantown PD had 232 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 April 12th at approximately 1452 hours, officers were dispatched to three shoplifters reported to be fleeing from Fleet Farm. Dispatch also informed officers one of the suspects was believed to be carrying a knife. While in route to the call, a young male matching the description of one of the suspects was seen running nearby the store. The male then ran through tall grass and attempted to conceal himself from view. Officers exited their squads and made commands to the male. Once detained, he was found to have a knife in his pants pocket. The juvenile male initially refused to identify himself, but did later give his name, and guardian information. Officers returned to the loss prevention office who confirmed he was the suspect that had concealed the fishing reel with a listed price of \$289.99. While they were speaking to the suspect, the officers also located the other two juveniles, and learned they had assisted in removing the item from its packaging.

Driving While Intoxicated

On April 12th at 1627 hours, a patrol officer initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle after observing it swerve several times. While speaking to the male driver, a strong odor of alcohol was detected from his person. The man admitted to drinking alcohol earlier in the evening. After conducting field sobriety testing, the man was arrested for suspicion of driving while intoxicated. The 25-year-old was transported to St. Louis County Jail, and lodged for charges of driving under the influence, and open container, and centerline violation.

Trouble Juveniles

On April 12th at 1737 hours, officers were dispatched to a report of 4-5 children that were vandalizing an abandoned home located in the 4200 block of Lavaque Road. Officers arrived on scene and met with four juvenile males. The group admitted to throwing rocks at the chimney of the house, but denied throwing rocks at the windows. The parents of the juveniles were contacted, and advised of the situation. Officers spoke to the owner of the home who said the windows of the home had not been previously broken.

Animal Disturbance

On April 12th officers were dispatched to a wildlife disturbance reported along Alpine Drive. The caller told officers that a bear with an ear tag had been tearing up their yard, and it was the second time that week. The bear also took down bird feeders, and tipped over a recycling bin.



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The caller was advised it would be best to take the bird feeders down to discourage the bear from returning.

Driving While Intoxicated

On April 15th just prior to 2323 hours, a patrol officer observed a vehicle traveling slowly, and weaving within its lane multiple times. They continued to monitor driving conduct, and soon observed the vehicle cross the centerline before accelerating above the posted speed limit. A traffic stop was conducted in the 5100 block of Miller Trunk Highway. The vehicle was found to be operated by a lone juvenile female. While speaking with the female officers noted signs of impairment, but she denied having any alcoholic beverages. Officers ultimately conducted field sobriety testing, along with a PBT test which had a result of .008. The female then admitted she had consumed some alcohol about an hour prior. As the juvenile was driving with a small amount of alcohol in her system, she was issued a citation for underage drinking and driving, and transported to her guardian.

Trouble Customer

On April 16th around 1728 hours, officers were dispatched to the movie theater for a report of a male customer yelling and swearing in a theater for a movie that had just started. A witness mentioned that the male had been yelling during the previews, and began saying racial slurs. The guest reported that they left the theater as they felt uncomfortable, and the male made statements to them as they exited. Officers arrived to find the male intoxicated, and drinking an unknown beverage out of a large cup. A cab ride was arranged, and the male was sent on his way.