

AROUND TOWN



Chief
Jim Crace

Commanders
Mark Gunderson
Jon Esterbrooks

Sergeants
Griffin Pfeiffer - K9
Jon Pernu - K9

Detective Bureau
Jeff Dwyer
Jake Williams

Officers
Jason Salo
Tim Battaglia
Jon Enright
Erika Johnson - SRO
Olivia Gottschald
Andrew Leibel
Alex Prouse
Rebecca Towner

Clerical
Dana Ross
Samantha Knapp
Ashley Johnson

K-9
Tuuko
Jack



During the week of 2/18/24 to 2/24/24, the Hermantown PD had 174 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

Swear In Ceremony

On February 21st, 2024, Hermantown Public Safety was honored to welcome three new officers into their police department. Rebecca Towner, Devin Kleive and Lucas Hedin were all sworn in with their family and friends present. The Hermantown Police Department has been short staffed for more than a year, so this addition to the team was very well received by staff and the community. We look forward to the dedicated service they will bring to our city!

Unwanted Person

On February 24th, 2024 at 2131 hours, officers received a call from the Holiday Inn Express and Suites in Hermantown. Staff was requesting officer assistance with getting an unwanted guest out of the hotel. Employees explained that a male guest had exposed themselves in the pool area when children were present.

Officers learned that a 45-year-old male had checked into the hotel today and went down to the pool where his towel fell off and revealed that he was naked. Officers responded and found the male intoxicated in his room. The man explained to officers that he went down to the pool to do a "Polar Plunge". He then asked officers for a ride to Lake Superior so he could do the "Polar Plunge" in the lake.

He asked to be taken to detox, then changed his mind and asked to be taken to another hotel. With officer's present, the man was allowed to attempt to ride his bicycle to the Econo Lodge, as it was in close proximity. The man almost rode in to a cement wall in this short journey, so officers instead placed him in the squad for the ride to the Econo Lodge. At this point, officers learned that the man was banned earlier in the day from the Econo Lodge due to public urination.

At this time, officers took the man to detox as he could not care for himself. He performed a breath test which resulted in a .22 result. He was ultimately trespassed from the Hermantown Holiday Inn Express location for one year.

Shoplifting

On February 24th, 2024, officers were dispatched to Walmart after store employees witnessed a female suspect removing tags from store merchandise and changing packaging.

Responding officers attempted to speak with the woman who did not want to talk to officers. The woman told officers her name, but dispatch was not able to find her in the system. She continued to confirm her name and spelling as given to officers.

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Officers questioned the woman again, who claimed to have never obtained any sort of government ID or have any other cards that may have her name on it. The female started to get defensive, accusing officers of treating her like a child. Officers were able to get a last name out of the suspect, and a search of that name flagged an active warrant for Escape from Custody.

The total dollar amount for the stolen items came to \$943.20.

During a search of the suspects pockets before going to jail, officers found two small baggies of drugs which was tested and found to be methamphetamine. The woman also had a bottle of vodka that the jail could not accept into property. Officers advised the woman that she would not be able to keep the alcohol, and she told officers to 'just drink it'. The contents of the bottle were poured out and the bottle discarded at the Hermantown Police Department.

The woman was ultimately charged with 5th Degree Possession of Controlled Substance, Theft-Shoplifting and False Name to a Police Officer.

Disturbance

On February 22nd, 2024, Officers were alerted of a disturbance at the Econo Lodge in Hermantown. Employees reported to dispatch that a guest was screaming and threatening an employee. The caller stated that two men started to push each other and one male had a pocket knife in his hand.

Officers arrived and witnessed two males screaming at each other in the lobby area of the hotel. Officers separated the men and spoke with the guest, a 39-year-old man, who continued to yell and threaten the employee.

Officers stated that there was a smell of alcohol and the man was swaying back and forth as he was standing. It was also noted that he needed to hold onto a railing in order to not fall down. The man kept speaking over officers, changing the subject and slurring his speech. He would not answer the officer's questions and listened to his rants. He also told officers that he had a warrant and that they should arrest him.

Officers were able to confirm that the man did have an active warrant. He was transported to jail.

Traffic Accident with Injuries

On February 23rd, 2024 at approximately 0738 hours, officers were dispatched to the intersection of Midway Road and St. Louis River Road for the report of a two-vehicle accident with injuries. One vehicle was blocking the railroad tracks and there was a power pole down.

Driver 1, a 35-year-old male, said he was driving southbound on Midway Road when Driver 2 slid through the intersection of Midway Road and St. Louis River Road. The man said he tried to avoid hitting the vehicle, but collided with it in the middle of the intersection causing his car to spin out and hit an electric pole. The man had an injury to his hand, but did not want to go to the hospital.

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Driver 2, a 17-year-old woman, said she was driving eastbound on St. Louis River Road coming to the intersection at Midway Road where she attempted to stop, but slid into the intersection resulting in a collision between Driver 1 and her vehicle. Road conditions were icy and it was snowing at the time of the accident. She was given a verbal warning for driving at a speed greater than reasonable for the road conditions. Officers learned that she had an injury to the back of her neck and was checked by paramedics and later was driven to the hospital to get checked over.

