

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
Jon Enright
Erika Johnson - SRO
Olivia Gottschald
Andrew Leibel
Alex Prouse
Rebecca Towner
Devin Kleive
Lucas Hedin

Clerical

Dana Ross
Samantha Knapp
Ashley Johnson

K-9

Tuuko
Jack



During the week of 3/10/24 to 3/16/24, the Hermantown PD had 171 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

Found Gun

On March 14th, 2024 at approximately 1200 hours, Hermantown officers were requested by office staff to meet with a male at the front desk regarding a found firearm.

Officers met with an 82-year-old man at the front desk who stated that he was walking in the area of the 3600th block of Midway Road when he observed a white grocery bag on the white fog line. He decided to look in to the bag and found that it contained a short-barreled shotgun. At this point, the man brought the gun to the Hermantown Police Department to turn it in.

The receiving officer noted that the gun appeared to be heavily modified with a sawed-off stock to replicate an eagle head style and had a hole with a "carabiner" style clip affixed to the end. The barrel was cut much shorter than normal and appeared to have a homemade fore grip that was close to the break action pivot point. The entire gun was black and the metal components were quite rusty.

There is nothing at this time to suggest that the gun was involved in a specific crime.

Hit & Run

On March 14th, 2024 at 2046 hours, Hermantown officers were dispatched to a hit-and-run call at 5800th block of Hermantown Road after the caller witnessed a party drive into his house. He also advised dispatch that he saw the vehicle drive eastbound from his house on Hermantown Road.

Officers spoke with the homeowner upon arrival. He stated he was home and heard a loud crash. He then looked out the window to see a vehicle has crashed into his house and was revving the engine. The vehicle drove out of his yard in reverse and continued crashing into his house while backing out, causing more damage. Eventually, the van got stuck while backing out in some stumps in the yard. The van then drove onto Hermantown Road and left, going eastbound.

Officers were concerned about the driver's safety and well-being because of how the homeowner described the hard impact on the house. Saint Louis County Deputies had reported that a vehicle matching the description of the suspect vehicle was discovered at an address near the 5300th block of Hermantown Road.

It was learned that the vehicle was parked in the garage at the address, and that the van at the residence had damage consistent with the damage reported.

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After sharing information about the severity of the impact on the house, squads were concerned about the suspect's welfare. Deputies and others knocked on both doors and flashed lights into the windows but did not get a response. Officers were able to make contact with the 42-year-old suspect.

Officers could smell a strong odor of alcohol coming from the suspect. They noted the man also had watery red eyes and slurred speech. The man told officers that "he had nothing to say" and "just take me to jail." The man was placed under arrest for felony-level damage to property and for leaving the scene of an accident.

Driving Under the Influence

On March 16th, 2024 at 0007 hours, patrol officers observed a vehicle running with its headlights on in the middle of the Menards parking lot after closing hours.

Officers contacted the 49-year-old male driver to ensure he was okay, knowing Menards was closed and he was not parked in a parking spot. While speaking with the driver, officers identified a beer can in plain view in between the driver and passenger seat.

Officers asked the male driver what he was doing in the parking lot after hours. He stated he was coming from a bar and did not know how to get back to his hotel at the Econo Lodge. The man was still slurring his words while speaking, had bloodshot and watery eyes and there was a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage emitting from the vehicle.

Officers asked the man how much alcohol he had to drink while he was at the bar and the man said he had "a lot" and admitted to drinking six beers. He also said numerous times that he had too much to drink to be driving.

Officers had the man complete standard field sobriety testing, in which the man provided a PBT sample of 0.186. Upon arrest, officers located an open container of Coors Light in plain view between the driver and multiple empty and full Coors Light cans.

At the Hermantown intox room, the male declined to give a breath test without an attorney present. He was arrested for suspicion of driving under the influence, test refusal and having an open container of alcohol in his vehicle.

Shoplifting

On March 15th, 2024 at 2123 hours, officers were dispatched to a report of a shoplifter at Walmart. Employees stated that a male and female suspect attempted to shoplift a cart full of merchandise. The suspects had attempted to exit the store but were stopped by store staff.

Officers spoke to a 33-year-old woman who denied shoplifting any merchandise from the store. Staff stated the male was in the store when the female suspect walked through the self-checkout area and did not attempt to scan any items that were in her cart. The female suspect walked past

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the last point of sale and out the front doors before employees made contact and that the male had paid for all his merchandise and did not shoplift.

The woman stated she did not wish to speak with law enforcement.

After reviewing surveillance footage, officers learned the woman was then seen concealing merchandise in reusable bags while inside the store. The woman appeared to be looking around to see if she was being watched. Once the woman had concealed the items into the reusable bags, she walked to the self-checkout area of the store and was seen exiting the store with the shopping cart full of unpaid items.

The stolen merchandise was valued at \$225.87. All of the merchandise was recovered by employees. The woman was charged with shoplifting.