

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 2/25/24 to 3/2/24, the Hermantown PD had 164 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

Shoplifting

On February 27th, 2024 at approximately 1441 hours, officers were notified by dispatch of a theft from the DQ Grill and Chill in Hermantown. Dispatch stated that female suspect left on foot after taking a pack of dilly bars without paying for them.

Officers nearby in the Walmart parking lot observed an individual matching the description and the female was eating a dilly bar. The 28-year-old woman stated that she had just left Dairy Queen and she said "I just grabbed it and walked out" as she was holding a half-eaten Dairy Queen dilly bar in her left hand.

Employees explained that they saw the woman enter the store and walk up to the freezer and put at least one six pack box of dilly bars in her bag and then left the store without paying. The value of the dilly bars taken was \$13.49. The woman told officers that she threw the box of dilly bars in the garbage at the bus stop next to Walmart. The woman was cited for shoplifting and trespassed from Dairy Queen.

On February 25th, 2024 at approximately 1331 hours, Hermantown officers were dispatched to Walmart for the report of two males shoplifting. Officers were updated that both suspects appeared to be walking southbound on Loberg Avenue toward the bus stop.

Responding officers noticed two males matching the description of the shoplifting suspects walking next to the entrance of the Econo Lodge. The men were carrying matching backpacks to the ones Walmart described as stolen.

Officers made contact and both males claimed that they didn't have identification on them. One of the suspects, a 33-year-old man, came back as having a warrant out for their arrest, and was placed under arrest at this time. The total stolen merchandise by this man had a value of \$77.86.

The other suspect, a 19-year-old male, immediately confessed to the theft. The man explained that he stole the items because he had no money and he wanted to sell them for cash to buy "weed." The total of the stolen merchandise by this male was \$98.80.

The men were both trespassed from all Walmart and Sam's Club stores for a period of one year. Both were cited for shoplifting. The 33-year-old man was also charged with giving a false name to officers.

Three Vehicle Accident

On March, 1st, 2024 at approximately 1633 hours, Officers were notified by dispatch of a three-vehicle accident with no injuries at the intersection of Haines and Maple Grove Road in Hermantown.

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Driver 1, a 16-year-old woman, stated that she was traveling south bound on Haines approaching the Maple Grove intersection and she did not see the vehicles in front of her coming to a stop as they were stopping for the red light. The woman estimated her speed when she struck the car in front of her to be just under the 40MPH speed limit.

Driver 1 struck the vehicle in front of hers, driven by a 27-year-old man, stated that he was at a complete stop waiting for the red light to change at the intersection when he was struck from the rear causing significant damage to the rear of his vehicle. When he was struck, it caused his vehicle to strike the vehicle in front of him.

The third vehicle, driven by a 30-year-old woman, stated that she was at a complete stop at the intersection when she was struck by the party behind her. Her vehicle was found to have a significant dent on the rear door.

Driver 1 was ultimately issued a citation for inattentive driving.

Grass Fire

On February 26th, 2024, officers were alerted of a grass fire that appeared to be 60 x 100 feet near the 5300th block of Hermantown Road. It was reported that it was blowing towards the house and was within 60 feet from it and that it was also approaching the woods.

Officers spoke with the caller who stated that the grass fire had started when he was burning some grass. Luckily, the fire was put out and no further damages were reported.

Hit & Run

On February 26th, 2024 at 1517 hours, a caller was requesting police assistance in a possible hit and run that occurred in the Sam's Club parking lot.

Officers met with the caller, a 75-year-old woman, who stated she believed her vehicle had been struck by another vehicle while she was in the store. There was a foot-long scratch and dent on the driver's side next to the rear wheel. Officers then spoke with store employees who were able to review the footage showing the accident occur.

The video revealed that a car hit the woman's vehicle and then moved to a different spot in the parking lot. The store was able to locate the owner of the vehicle and officers went to the 37-year-old woman's address. The woman claimed that she believed she had hit a yellow pole that was on the other side of the parking spot and not the car.

The woman showed officers the damage to her car, which was consistent with the damage seen on the other vehicle. Officers explained to the woman that she needed to attempt to contact the

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driver of the vehicle or is it considered a hit and run. She was warned for a hit and run and was advised not to drive due to her revoked status.

