

# 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 3/17/24 to 3/23/24, the Hermantown PD had 192 calls.  
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

## DWI

On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 at 2256 hours, Hermantown squads were approaching the four way stop sign at Lavaque Road and Hermantown Road. The officer observed a vehicle drive up and over the curb while making the righthand turn. The squad began to follow the vehicle and saw that the driver was unable to maintain their lane and crossed over the solid white line three times in the short time the officer was behind them. The vehicle appeared to be traveling more than 10 miles over the posted 40 mph speed limit.

Officers conducted a stop and spoke with the 30-year-old male driver. While speaking with the man, officers smelled a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage emitting from the vehicle. They also noticed the man had slurred speech while he was speaking. The man told officers that he had a tall beer while at his friend's house. He then admitted to actually being at a local bar.

Officers had the man run through standard field sobriety testing, and noted that when he stepped out of his vehicle he had a difficult time keeping his balance. He told the officers that he didn't want to perform any tests or answer any questions. He also refused to do a breath test and said that he would only do a blood test as he did not trust the calibration on the breath machines. He kept asking for a blood draw which officers explained wasn't an option over the breath test.

Ultimately, the man was arrested for 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Refusal and 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree DWI.

## Shoplifting

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 at 2019 hours, Hermantown officers were dispatched to a report of a shoplifter at Walmart. Employees reported a female suspect had concealed merchandise into a reusable Walmart shopping bag. The caller advised the suspect left the store without paying for the items and did not stop and speak with staff when confronted. The woman denied stealing and walked out of the store. She was seen walking away from the area with a male party.

Officers soon located the 32-year-old suspect near Market Street and Haines Road. The suspect refused to speak with the officers about what occurred at the store. There were numerous items in the woman's backpack that appeared to be stolen. Officers also located a hypodermic needle loaded with blood in the backpack which they disposed of.

Once back at the store, the woman admitted to officers that she stole a purse, wallet, cup and batteries from Walmart. The woman stated that she was planning on selling the items to purchase drugs and that she went to Walmart with the intention of shoplifting.

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The value for the recovered stolen items was \$76.80. The woman was ultimately charged with shoplifting.

## Unwanted Person

On March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 around 0712 hours, officers received a call from a man who claimed to have found a vehicle on his property near the Sundby Road and that the man appeared to be sleeping. The caller told dispatch that he felt the best thing to do was to block in the vehicle so the party wasn't able to leave. He requested that law enforcement "deal with it". The caller was then uncooperative and hung up on dispatch.

Officers responded to the area and found a 59-year-old man sleeping in a parking lot. The caller wanted officers to tell the man he was not trespassing, but to never come back to the property. The man was notified and went on his way.

## Suspicious Activity

On March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 around 1209 hours, officers were alerted by dispatch that the caller believed she heard a prowler outside her house near the 4900<sup>th</sup> block of Maple Grove Road around 0600 hours. She said that she heard glass breaking but did not look out.

The 74-year-old woman stated before dawn that morning, she heard something moving around outside her house. She explained that she was unsure what it was and thought it may have been an animal. Later in the morning, she went out to inspect the outside of her home and found two footprints in the dusting of snow outside one of her windows. The woman said she did not observe any damage to her property, didn't discover anything stolen and found no signs anyone attempting entry to the home or garage.

Officers told the woman that officers would document the incident and, in the future, to call while something like this is happening so they can respond right away.

On March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 0945 hours, officers were alerted of a suspicious activity call near the Walmart parking lot. The caller stated that they observed a woman looking in to car windows. Officers were able to locate the 37-year-old woman, who told officers that she was looking around the lot for her earrings that she had lost the day before.

Officers questioned if the woman was looking in to vehicles as well, which the woman admitted to doing. She said that she was just checking some out, but did not do anything that was illegal.

## Traffic Stop

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 1529 hours, officers on routine patrol near the Maple Grove and Haines Road observed a vehicle with an expired plate from 2022, registering to a different vehicle type.

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Officers made contact with the 47-year-old driver who stated he did not have a valid license, and he was unable to provide proof of insurance. The man stated that he was test driving the vehicle for his wife, who was the owner of the vehicle the plate registered to. He further explained that he believed there was an issue registering the vehicles out of state, and that was why it showing a different vehicle make and model.

Officers learned that the driver was revoked in the state of Minnesota, and he had an active local warrant for non-support. The man was told he would be lodged on his warrants and was taken in to custody. After the booking process, officers searched the prisoner compartment of the squad car and located a small plastic baggie underneath the seat. The baggie contained what appeared to be residual methamphetamine. The baggie was confiscated.

