

**Mason County Sheriff's Office
Deputy John Mendham and K-9 Rex**

On 7-2-08 at approximately 2219 hrs, R/O was contacted at home and advised that Sgt Cole was requesting K-9 to assist with a vehicle search at the West Coast Car Wash on US-31 near US-10 in Ludington. Upon arrival, Sgt Cole advised that he had stopped the suspect vehicle for a traffic violation and had subsequently arrested the driver for OWI. Sgt Cole advised that he had obtained information weeks prior that this subject was bringing crack cocaine into the area and selling it out of a local motel on the weekends. Sgt Cole advised that they had done a hand search, but found nothing.

R/O brought K-9 Rex up to the vehicle and began an exterior search. R/O started Rex at the front of the vehicle, moved down the driver's side, across the back, and up the passenger side. As K-9 Rex came up the passenger side, he gave an indication on the front fender with a strong breathing pattern change and a head snap. K-9 Rex worked the fender until he came to the seam between the fender and the passenger headlight where he began scratching. R/O rewarded Rex and finished the suspect vehicle. R/O began looking in the area where Rex indicated but could not locate anything. R/O and Sgt Hartley continued to search the engine compartment when Sgt Hartley pulled back the insulation on the underside of the hood and found a hidden compartment. After opening the hidden compartment 33 grams of crack cocaine, 74 Methadone pills, and a small amount of cash were discovered. The suspect was lodged in the Mason County Jail for OWI and possession with the intent to deliver crack cocaine.

A criminal history was run on the suspect showing that he had several drug convictions. Because of K-9 Rex, the suspect is now looking at a long and happy stay with the Michigan Department of Corrections. The suspect has been charged with possession with the intent to deliver cocaine and habitual offender.

Respectfully submitted,
Deputy John Mendham