

Sheriff posts warrants on Web site

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The Johnson County Sheriff's Office has begun posting arrest warrants on its Web site.

According to Tom Erickson, public information officer for the sheriff's office, the new service has been so popular that it caused the sheriff's Web site to crash during the first week.

"We've more than quadrupled the traffic to our site since we started (posting warrants online)," he said. "It's a little tough on our servers here."

The Web site features a database of active arrest warrants searchable by city or by name.

Erickson said the program was written by a retired deputy and is "seamlessly" updated when warrant information is entered into a computer.

He said the new feature is the latest effort to make the

See **SHERIFF**, page 8

GARDNER NEWS 05/18/08

warrants online

SHERIFF, from page 1
sheriff's Web site more interactive.

Erickson said the most popular features of the Web site have been the booking and release reports and the most wanted list. Posting warrants online seemed like the next logical step.

Erickson said the initiative has already resulted in arrests.

"We've started getting e-mails and phone calls from people who've seen people on there — neighbors, friends, family," Erickson said. "Our warrants division has always had success with people turn-

ing in other people and people turning themselves in when they find out they have a warrant. Sometimes they don't even know."

Erickson said if persons find themselves on the list, they can make the booking process easier by turning themselves in as opposed to being arrested.

"In Johnson County, if you have a warrant we are going to take to you jail," he said. "You can run or you can hide. Then when we catch you you're going to jail on our terms. Or people can turn themselves in. They still have to go through the process of

getting the warrant served and fingerprinted. But they can have the bond ready. It's quicker."

Erickson said the sheriff's office plans to continue enhancing its Web site to make more information available to the public.

He said he expects the next improvement to be a more interactive blotter.

"Its public information," he said. "Let's make it easy to get it rather than make people jump through hoops. You can look at it at your leisure."

The sheriff's office's Web site is www.jocosherriff.org.