

## Unserved warrants

*The Capital* periodically publishes lists of names of people with unserved Anne Arundel county warrants in the hopes of "taking criminals off the streets," as the paper says. You encourage readers knowing the whereabouts of the listed people to call the sheriff's office with information.

I commend *The Capital* for its public service efforts to make our communities safer places by aiding the law enforcement agencies.

Regarding the lists, this is the Internet age, and people are much easier to locate now than in years past. I took about 15 minutes and did some Internet name searches of a small sample of the list you published

on Jan. 22. I was very surprised that a large percentage of the names in my small sample resulted in published Maryland addresses and telephone numbers.

My search consisted of a sample of 30 names, selecting names that were more uncommon, avoiding the more common names such as John Jones. I used the [www.whitepages.com](http://www.whitepages.com) Web site, searching Maryland statewide.

Out of the 30 names, my search identified 12 criminals, or 40 percent with published addresses and telephone numbers in Maryland, nine of which are listed in Anne Arundel County, and three in other Maryland locations. Two additional names fell in the questionable category because the searches resulted in persons with only an initial rather than a full first name.

I suggest that the sheriff's office begin searching for the criminals by using easily available Internet sources such as [whitepages.com](http://whitepages.com). Furthermore, the sheriff's office obviously has access to many more public and government-only databases than I do and can do a much more comprehensive search for the criminals, emphasizing searches for those criminals with the more serious crimes. The overall result should be bringing many criminals to justice.

FREDERICK MATOS  
Annapolis

CAPITAL  
27 FEB  
2009

## Warrants reduced

In reference to the letter "Unserved warrants" by Frederick Matos (*The Capital*, Feb. 27), I think it's important to inform the author and your readers that the Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office researches numerous databases, which are far more accurate than [whitepages.com](http://whitepages.com) when attempting to locate a wanted person.

Not only do we attempt service at the address provided on the warrant, but my investigators research several databases available to the general public and those restricted to just law enforcement. In addition, our deputies use other unconventional sources, such as informants, to locate wanted subjects.

I regularly applaud *The Capital/Gazette* newspapers for assisting our agency's efforts by posting the names of people wanted for crimes. My

agency receives approximately 800-1,000 new warrants each month and this medium is one part of our multi-layered approach in reducing warrants. Since Team Bateman has been in place we have reduced the overall warrants by 31 percent, thanks also in part to our aggressive arrest sweeps, our innovative warrant stings, the Anne Arundel's Most Wanted Program, the citizens of this county, State's Attorney, Frank Weathersbee and the outstanding partnerships we have with our brothers and sisters in the Anne Arundel County Police, the Annapolis City Police and the Maryland State Police.

It is citizens like Mr. Matos who take a sincere interest in community issues that help improve our quality of life. If you know the whereabouts of any wanted person call 410-222-1490 or 911. Let's keep our county safe.

SHERIFF RON BATEMAN  
Annapolis

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5 MARCH  
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