



By Katrina Williams — For the Capital

During a taping of "Anne Arundel's Most Wanted" yesterday, game show host Pat Sajak and Sheriff Ron Bateman pose by the "Wheel of Felons," a fun way to read off the names of people wanted by local police agencies. Mr. Sajak, who lives in Severna Park when he's not taping "Wheel of Fortune" in Los Angeles, said he was happy to help the show track down wanted people.

Sajak co-hosts county's 'Most Wanted' program

'Wheel of Felons' used in honor of guest host

By LISA BEISEL
Staff Writer

The wheel looked a little different, but Pat Sajak looked right at home in front of the cameras in Glen Burnie.

Mr. Sajak, who lives in Severna Park when he's not taping "Wheel of Fortune" in Los Angeles, popped into the county TV studio yesterday to co-host "Anne Arundel's Most Wanted," a show run by the county Sheriff's Department to help track down people wanted in connection with various crimes.

To make Mr. Sajak feel more at home, organizers constructed a wheel, called "Wheel of Felons," complete with colored triangles, and marked with the official symbols of the Annapolis Police Department, the Anne Arundel County Police Department, the county Sheriff's Department and the Maryland State Police Department.

It looked a lot like the wheel on the popular game show — maybe too much like it.

"I see the beginning of a lawsuit here," Mr. Sajak joked.

Don't worry, he said — he'll tell the show not to sue.

The county's show took on the feel of a game show as well, with

the game show host and Sheriff Ron Bateman joking around like they were old friends. Sheriff Bateman spun the wheel and pulled up a triangle that included the name of a person wanted by one of the departments.

Then Mr. Sajak read off the person's description, what he or she was wanted for and their last known address. The process repeated for each of the 12 suspects featured on the show.

Despite the banter, both hosts noted the serious nature of the show.

"We're playing a game, but it's not a game," Mr. Sajak said.

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SAJAK

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Names and faces viewers see on "Anne Arundel's Most Wanted" are of people who are wanted by law enforcement. Some have been charged with felony theft, some assault, some for failing to show up for a court date.

"Everyone in Anne Arundel County is going to be a winner if we catch these people," Sheriff Bateman said.

Mr. Sajak asked the sheriff questions about crimes, such as what is the definition of a felony theft (a theft in which more than \$500 is taken), and what does "CDS" stand for (controlled dangerous substance, or illegal drugs). He also asked what viewers should do if they see a felon from the show.

take the law into (their) own hands," Sheriff Bateman said.

Viewers who see the people featured on the show should call police with as much description as possible, he said.

"You know folks, your tips are paying off," he said.

But coming up with a good description might not be easy for everyone.

"I'm the world's worst witness ... I guess I need to start noticing things," Mr. Sajak said.

Sheriff Bateman, who's been known for aggressively targeting wanted people through the use of stings, said he hopes Mr. Sajak's appearance on the show boosts its viewership.

"More viewers leads to more tips, and more tips lead to more arrests," he said.

Mr. Sajak said he was happy to be on the show.

"We've been here a long time, and you try to be part of the

to be good citizens."

The Sheriff's Depart- ment honored Mr. Sajak at the of the taping by naming an honorary deputy sheriff honor came with a special pin, which Sheriff Bateman he hoped Mr. Sajak would on "Wheel of Fortune."

The show will begin air- ing or about Nov. 10, on Chan- nel on Comcast and Broadstrip Channel 38 on Verizon.

Anne Arundel County's Most Wanted airs at 8 a.m., 11:30 and 4:30 p.m. on Mondays; 9 a.m., 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays; 11 p.m. Friday and at 6:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. The show also can be viewed on at www.aacounty.org/SheriffMostWanted.cfm.