



## Events:

Veterans Day November 11  
Thanksgiving November 24

## In This Issue:

Traffic Enforcement & Education  
[Page 2](#)

Fallen Heroes Remembered  
[Page 3](#)

Community Engagement  
[Page 4](#)

Jewelry Theft Awareness  
[Page 5](#)

Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving  
[Page 6](#)

Recruitment  
[Page 7](#)

Fentanyl Awareness  
[Page 8](#)

Burbank Police Department  
200 N. Third St., Burbank, CA 91502  
Non-emergency: (818) 238-3000  
For emergencies, dial 911  
[www.BurbankPD.org](http://www.BurbankPD.org)

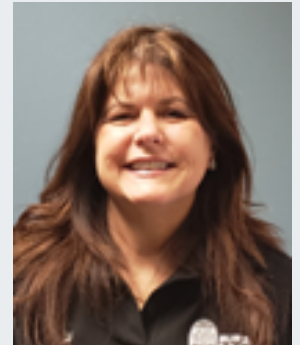


# BURBANK POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Community Newsletter | November 2022

## New Police Communications Manager

After a highly competitive selection process, Cheryl Mendez was selected as the Police Communications Manager for the Department.

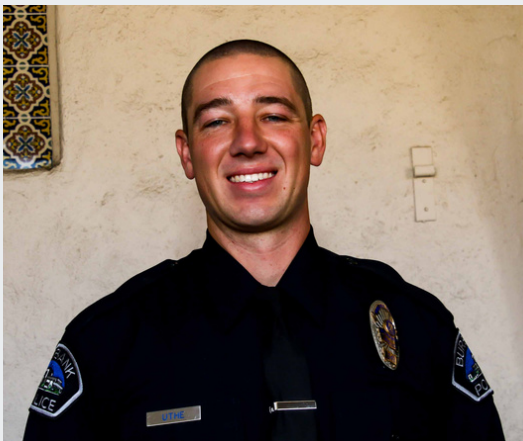


Cheryl brings to the Department over 30 years of experience in the field, having worked for Glendale Police Department, Verdugo Fire Communications, and now the Burbank Police Department.

## Newest Burbank Police Officer

On October 5, the Burbank Police Department welcomed Police Officer Drake Uthe, who graduated from Rio Hondo Police Academy, Class #213.

Officer Uthe has begun the training program within the Patrol Division.



# Traffic Enforcement & Education

The Burbank Police Department is committed to ensuring the safety of the citizens in our community. Impairment, speeding, street racing, and other dangerous driving behaviors jeopardize the safety of other people on the road. We continue to enforce traffic laws with the goal of reducing collisions, educating the citizens in our community, and keeping our community safe. This is achieved through the establishment of preventative patrols to manage specific categories of unlawful driving behavior.



Traffic enforcement strategies are based on collision data, enforcement activity records, traffic volume, and traffic conditions. Several methods contribute to our overall goal:

arrests, citations, warnings, and education. Through these methods and efforts, we strive to educate our community on the importance of safe driving and we aim to keep our community safe.

## Traffic Enforcement Stats: September 2022

DUI Arrests

23

Citations

676

Documented Collisions

78



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**JOINBPD.org**  
**APPLY NOW**



# Fallen Heroes Remembered

## Officer Matthew Pavelka & Deputy City Marshal Luther Colson

As a Burbank Police Officers' Association tradition, two wreaths will be placed at The Guardians statue to honor our fallen heroes. The laying of the wreaths will be presented by the Burbank Police Department Honor Guard.

November 15 will mark the anniversary of BPD Fallen Officer Matthew Pavelka (pictured), End of Watch, November 15, 2003. Matthew Pavelka was appointed as an officer for the City of Burbank on August 5, 2002.

The BPD had not lost an officer in the line of duty by gunfire for more than eighty-three years. On the evening of November 15, 2003, Officer Gregory Campbell had stopped a vehicle, without license plates, containing two males. The area where the stop was made was well known for drug trafficking and other criminal activity, so Campbell wisely called for backup.



(Officer Matthew Pavelka)

The first officer to respond was 26-year-old Mathew Pavelka, who had been in the field as a police officer for just ten months. When Campbell and Pavelka approached the suspect's vehicle and ordered the two male subjects to exit, they both exited firing their weapons. Both Campbell and Pavelka were wounded several times, but in the ensuing exchange of gunfire, the officers mortally wounded one of the gunmen. The other suspect escaped on foot.

Both of the wounded officers were transported to a local hospital, where Officer Pavelka succumbed to his injuries and Officer Campbell was treated and remained in critical but stable condition.

On Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 2003, the suspect who fled was taken into custody.

November 16 will mark the anniversary of BPD Fallen Deputy City Marshal Luther Colson, End of Watch, November 16, 1914. Luther Colson was appointed as a City Marshal for the City of Burbank on February 21, 1914.

Colson was on duty November 16, 1914, at about 7:00 p.m., when he was walking the tracks in the area of Lake Street and Victory Boulevard when a few suspects started shooting at him from the brush. One bullet struck him in the stomach. Colson returned their fire from his own weapon, and after several shots, the suspects fled into the darkness.

Colson started to return to town but collapsed, and some citizens transported him to Burbank Hospital for treatment.

The Marshal of Tropico (a small community located at Los Feliz and San Fernando Boulevard, now part of Glendale), with twenty-five deputies, immediately started a manhunt. On November 18, 1914, three suspects were apprehended. One suspect had a weapon on him which was the same caliber that was used in wounding Marshal Colson. After a lengthy interrogation, all the suspects confessed to the shooting.

We will always honor our heroes for their service and ultimate sacrifice they made to secure our safety.



# Community Engagement

## Burbank Police Participate in National Coffee With a Cop Day

This year, the Burbank Police Department hosted National Coffee With a Cop event at Noah's Bagels, which was held on October 5.

Over the course of two hours, community members stopped by to chat with Burbank Police Officers and members of the Burbank Police Command Staff, all while enjoying a bagel and cup of coffee.

Attendees also had the opportunity to see this year's pink-wrapped Burbank Police cruiser, which was donated by Wrapix Imaging of Burbank for the purpose of raising awareness during Breast Cancer Awareness Month.





# Jewelry Theft Awareness

There has been an increase in jewelry distraction thefts primarily affecting the older adult community across Los Angeles County. The Burbank Police Department has investigated several incidents of jewelry being stolen from unsuspecting victims under the guise of a friendly and unassuming encounter in public.

In many cases, victims have been approached by suspects who ask for directions or initiate a casual conversation. Suspects often engage in some form of physical contact with their victims, like giving them a hug. During the encounter, perpetrators have been able to remove valuable jewelry worn by victims and replace it with fake or costume jewelry. Quite often, victims do not immediately realize they've been deceived.

This sleight-of-hand deception scheme is often performed by a group of suspects who work together to distract victims in public. Perpetrators are usually in a vehicle and either call victims to their car or approach them on a sidewalk or in a public parking lot. Seniors have been especially susceptible to this crime trend as the distraction tactic can easily disrupt one's attentiveness to what is occurring.

To help safeguard yourself from this type of theft, the Burbank Police Department recommends the following:

- Always be aware of your surroundings
- Limit the amount of expensive or valuable jewelry worn in public or while running errands
- If you are wearing valuable jewelry, try to keep it hidden or concealed while in public
- Do not engage in conversation with anyone you don't know or trust
- Never engage in any physical contact with a stranger
- If you happen to fall victim to this type of crime, notify the police immediately and obtain as much information as you can about the suspect(s) and any vehicle that may be involved

The Burbank Police Department reminds you to always report suspicious activity on our non-emergency, 24-hour number, at 818-238-3000. For emergencies, dial 9-1-1.



# Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving

This Thanksgiving holiday, the Burbank Police Department wants to make sure you make it to the Thanksgiving table by celebrating responsibly. With the holiday season kicking off, it's essential to take some time to remember that Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving. If your plans to celebrate include alcohol, plan for a sober driver.

Drunk-driving-related crashes spike during the Thanksgiving holiday season. Tragically, from 2016-2020, 821 people died in alcohol-impaired crashes during the entire Thanksgiving holiday period.

Drunk driving is a real threat to our community, and that threat increases during holidays like Thanksgiving. Driving drunk is not only illegal, but it's also deadly, and no one should ever take that risk.

The Burbank Police Department would like to remind the community to enjoy and celebrate the holiday responsibly by enlisting the help of a sober driver. Plan your sober ride home before the gatherings begin. With so many options available for getting home safely, there is no excuse for getting behind the wheel when you are impaired.

The Burbank Police Department wishes you a safe holiday season and we remain committed to ensuring the safety of everyone on our roadways.

If you see a suspected drunk driver on the road, call 9-1-1.



# BURBANK POLICE DEPARTMENT NOW HIRING



## POLICE OFFICER

**\$89,114 - \$111,291 ANNUALLY**

**APPLY ONLINE**

[JoinBPD.org](http://JoinBPD.org)



# Join Our Team. Wear Our Badge.

## BENEFITS

- Medical, Dental and Vision insurance
- 104 to 184 hours of vacation time awarded annually, based on years of service
- Ten (10) paid holidays per year, plus two additional "floating" holidays earned annually
- PEPRCA CalPERS retirement pension of 2.7% at age 57
- Lateral candidates who are classic CalPERS members retain 3% @ 50

## ADDITIONAL INCENTIVES

- Monthly education pay for Associate, Bachelor, and Master Degrees
- Bilingual pay of \$1,200 annually
- Up to 75% tuition reimbursement
- Annual uniform allowance
- P.O.S.T. Certificate incentives
- 3/12 patrol schedule
- Longevity pay

## OPPORTUNITIES

### SPECIALTY ASSIGNMENTS:

- Field Training Officer
- Air Support
- S.W.A.T.
- K-9 Unit
- Investigations
- Traffic/Motors
- Community Resource Officer
- School Resource Officer
- Gang Enforcement
- Bicycle Patrol
- Mental Health Evaluation Team

CITY OF  
BURBANK



**POLICE  
DEPARTMENT**

Respect ◆ Integrity ◆ Excellence



# Fentanyl Awareness

The Burbank Police Department is committed to educating our community on the dangers of fentanyl.

Fentanyl is a highly lethal synthetic opioid, that is 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine. The drug is intended and approved for prescription use in the U.S. to treat severe pain, especially after surgery or for advanced stages of cancer. Law enforcement, paramedics, and medical professionals across the country have seen an uptick in fentanyl-related overdoses and death because of misuse, abuse, and illegally possessed forms of the drug. Just two milligrams, or the amount that could fit on the tip of a pencil, can be deadly.

Fentanyl has been seen in a variety of bright colors, shapes, and sizes, as well as made to look like prescription pills such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, and alprazolam. These fake pills are pressed with markings that replicate real prescription opioid medication. They have also been found in packaging made to look like candy wrappers; however, this is typically done for the purpose of concealing the drug and is a tactic used to prevent detection by law enforcement and United States Customs officials.

In July of this year, Burbank police officers stopped two men in the early morning hours as they drove through town. A search of their vehicle resulted in the recovery of over 100,000 fake oxycodone pills, which later tested positive for fentanyl. This arrest, just three months ago, brings the realization that fentanyl exists in our community, and we need to be aware of the dangers.

The Burbank Police Department is partnering with the Burbank Unified School District to educate staff and students on the dangers of fentanyl and the use of naloxone, a prescription medication meant to rapidly reverse an opioid overdose. [Click here](#) for more information on naloxone, provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Please remember the only safe medications are ones that come from licensed and accredited medical professionals. The Burbank Police Department reminds the community that pills purchased outside of a licensed pharmacy are illegal, dangerous, and potentially deadly.



100,000 fake oxycodone pills seized  
in July of 2022 in Burbank



Fake pills colored to resemble candy