5th Annual Burbank Police Awards Luncheon Set for April 25, 2019

This year’s Burbank Police Awards Luncheon will take place on Thursday, April 25, 2019 at the Marriott Hotel in Burbank.

Hosted by the Burbank Police Foundation, the luncheon is held each year to recognize and honor the outstanding achievements and hard work of the men and women of the Burbank Police Department, as well as citizens in our community.

All members of the community are invited to attend this event and help support the Burbank Police Foundation’s mission to cultivate a solid partnership between the Burbank Police Department and the residents, businesses, and institutions it serves in order to enrich the community of Burbank and enhance police services.

There are several sponsorship options available, including opportunities to sponsor a Burbank Police Officer for lunch. For more information, please visit www.burbankpolicefoundation.org.
It saddens me to announce the passing of retired Burbank Police Chief Glen Bell. Chief Bell passed away peacefully on the evening of January 10, 2019.

George Glen Bell was born in Rugby, Texas on December 14, 1931. He was a longtime Burbank resident, having moved here in 1938. As a young man, Chief Bell earned the rank of Eagle Scout before graduating from Burbank High School in 1950. In 1951, Chief Bell enlisted in the United States Navy and served in the Korean War as a member of the U.S. Naval Submarine Service, Pacific Fleet. He was a graduate of the United States Naval Submarine Service Course in New London, Connecticut, and he received an honorable discharge in 1954. Chief Bell held a Master’s Degree in Government and Public Service from California State University, Los Angeles.

Chief Bell joined the Burbank Police Department on October 3, 1955 as a Patrol Officer. During his tenure, Chief Bell held assignments as a Motor Officer, Detective, and earned the ranks of Sergeant, Lieutenant and Captain, before being appointed as Chief of Police on December 1, 1982 following the passing of Chief James Schaffer.

Under Chief Bell’s command, the Burbank Police Department expanded to approximately 150 sworn officers and nearly 80 civilian employees. Chief Bell led the implementation of efficiencies such as computerized report writing, upgraded radio systems, and other technological advancements. The Golden Mall policing program was an operation developed during his tenure, and the initiation of the police helicopter program and gang detail occurred at this time as well.

Chief Bell was highly respected and received numerous accolades and commendations throughout his career. He was known for holding Burbank Police Officers to the highest levels of professional standards and was instrumental in the development of modern policing standards that still exist today. In 1985, Chief Bell was named Burbank’s Citizen of the Year by the Kiwanis Club.

Chief Bell served as Chief of Police until his retirement in 1990. He is survived by his wife, Marcia, and two adult children.

Burbank Police Chief Scott LaChasse
Suspect Identified, Arrested in Hiking Area Thefts

Over the past several months, Burbank Police saw an increase in the number of theft from motor vehicle and vehicle burglary reports near our local hiking trails and hillside recreation areas. The victims in these cases were people who left their vehicles unattended while hiking and using the trails, only to return and realize items had been stolen from inside their cars. In most cases, victims had either left their vehicles unlocked, or left personal property and valuables in plain view, making them more susceptible to theft.

As Burbank Police Detectives investigated the cases, they identified a suspect who was found to be using credit cards belonging to the victims.

In mid-December, detectives served a search warrant in connection with the thefts and arrested the suspect, who has been identified as a 39-year-old woman from Sherman Oaks. During the service of the search warrant, investigators found numerous items belonging to victims of the thefts and vehicle burglaries. The Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office has since filed charges of vehicle burglary, identity theft, and possession of stolen property against the suspect.

The Burbank Police Department reminds citizens to always LOCK their vehicles and HIDE valuables from plain view. Whenever possible, TAKE your valuables with you and avoid leaving wallets, purses, or similar items inside your vehicle.
KICKOFF SUPER BOWL SUNDAY WITH A DESIGNATED DRIVER

Kickoff on one of America’s favorite past times is around the corner. When it’s time for Super Bowl LIII, the Burbank Police Department is encouraging all football fans to celebrate responsibly by not driving impaired, or letting other fans get behind the wheel when they shouldn’t.

The Burbank Police Department supports the effort of the Office of Traffic Safety which aims to educate all drivers that “DUI Doesn’t Just Mean Booze.” If you take prescription drugs, particularly those with a driving or operating machinery warning label, you may be impaired enough to get a DUI. Marijuana can also be impairing and result in a DUI, especially in combination with alcohol or other drugs.

There are so many options available to get you home safely. There is no excuse for getting behind the wheel when you are impaired. To avoid a DUI and putting yourself and others at risk, the Burbank Police Department has the following reminders:

- Always designate a sober driver.
- Use public transportation or a ride sharing service to get home.
- Have a friend or family member who is about to drive buzzed or impaired? Take the keys away and make arrangements to get them home safely.
- If you’re hosting a party, be a team player and have plenty of non-alcoholic drinks available for designated sober drivers.
- Report drunk drivers - call 911.

Burbank Police remind the community to enjoy the Super Bowl responsibly by enlisting the help of a designated driver. Plan your sober ride home before the party begins on February 3.

www.BurbankPD.org