The area now known as the City of Burbank is comprised of two separate land grants: a portion of *Rancho San Rafael* bestowed upon Jose Maria Verdugo by the Spanish government in 1798 as a reward for his military service; and *Rancho La Providencia*, a Mexican land grant of 4,600 acres.

**YEAR EVENT**

**1857** The Verdugo family sells a portion of their land to Jonathan R. Scott, the first American to own land in the Rancho San Rafael portion of Burbank.

**1867** Dr. David Burbank, a dentist from Los Angeles, purchases over 4,000 acres from Jonathan Scott and the 4,600 acres of Rancho La Providencia. This property supports a successful sheep ranch.

**1887** The Providencia Land, Water and Development Company purchases Dr. Burbank’s property. The place known as Burbank came into existence May 1, 1887. Several farms produce peaches, melons, grapes, and vegetables, along with approximately 30 residences, a hotel and a business district.

**1888** Burbank falls victim to land speculation resulting in a development standstill for the next two decades.

**1910** San Fernando Road is paved.

**1911** Voters approve incorporation by a vote of 81 to 51 on July 8. A Board of Trustees will govern the community which now numbers 500 residents. The first Pacific Electric streetcar rolls into town on Glenoaks Boulevard from neighboring Glendale.

**1916** Additional bonds are issued to build a city hall and electric light works, and to acquire fire apparatus.

**1927** The Board of Freeholders, a 15-member elected body, draws up the City Charter. Voters adopt the Charter in a Special Election, and it becomes effective January 13.

**1929** The stock market crash reaches Burbank, halting the economic boom and extending into the Depression through the mid-1930’s. Increased employment at Lockheed Aircraft and construction work created by the Metropolitan Water District helped improve economics.

**1943** Dedicated on Lincoln’s birthday to “freedom and justice”, City Hall is a tribute to the architecture of the time incorporating marble, wood, bronze and ornate decoration and carried out the theme of patriotism and the war effort. The new City hall replaced the existing building located across the street on the property formerly occupied by the Police station.
**WWII**  Lockheed produces over 19,000 planes for the nation’s war effort, employing 94,000 as the population reaches 53,899 by 1943.

**1950**  Burbank’s prosperity continues with new housing tracts resulting in a population of 78,577.

**1961**  The City celebrates its 50th anniversary, including the conclusion of a 10-year capital improvement program, resulting in many new municipal facilities.

**1967**  The San Fernando Golden Mall is dedicated in November to revitalize the business district.

**1968**  Voters approve a capital improvement program for upgrading park and library facilities, street beautification and street lighting.

**1969**  The Redevelopment Agency is formed with Burbank’s first redevelopment project area, the Golden State Redevelopment Project Area.

**1973**  Due to demographic changes in the community, the needs of senior citizens are recognized. The Joslyn Adult Center is completed, as is the Retired Senior Citizens Volunteer Program (RSVP), the Nutrition Program and Transportation Services.

**1974**  The Burbank Housing Authority is established.

**1977**  The impact of Proposition 13 is felt in Burbank as the state dealt with the ramifications of maintaining service levels expected by the community. Burbank opts to cut some services by implementing user fees for specialized services.

**1978**  After lengthy negotiations, Burbank enters into a Joint Powers Agreement with the cities of Glendale and Pasadena, purchasing the Airport from Lockheed.

**1982**  Burbank Recycle Center opens and kicks off a curbside recycling program, one of the first in the state.

**1985**  In collaboration with the Burbank Redevelopment Agency and local developer Vic Georgino, the AMC Theatre (AMC) project was approved in 1985. By its completion in 1987, the AMC development became the economic engine for Downtown Burbank. The sleepy and deteriorating Downtown transformed into a true destination location. After a mere ten years in operation, the AMC underwent another significant redevelopment due to customer demand, technology advances, and changes in the industry. It has since become one of the nation’s top-producing AMC locations. While the original project evolved, AMC’s presence and vital role in Downtown Burbank has only grown stronger. It was the catalyst for much of the reinvestment in Downtown, and it continues to be the “heartbeat” of Downtown Burbank’s popularity.
1987  The Public Information Office produces live, televised coverage of all City Council meetings via local public access channel. Since then, additional meetings and specialized programs have been produced to keep the community current on relevant issues.

1989  Voters adopt Measure One – a residential growth management ordinance and San Fernando Boulevard is reopened to allow through traffic in the downtown area.

1990  Lockheed announces closure of its Burbank facility.

1992  The Burbank Regional Intermodal Transportation Center, now renamed as Downtown Burbank Station (DBS), opens in October, serving as a Metrolink station and is the second busiest destination within a five-county Metrolink commuter rail system.

1996  The City Hall Building is placed on the National Register and the California Register of Historic Resources.

1998  A state-of-the-art Police/Fire facility opens in January, reflecting a continued commitment to provide the highest quality public safety services to the citizens of Burbank.

1999  In the spring of 1999, construction of the Media Village on the southwest corner of Magnolia Avenue and Third Street was completed. The project contains 147 senior housing units, and 55,000 square feet of ground floor retail.

2001  Stough Canyon Nature Center located in the Verdugo Mountains offers opportunities for the public to learn more about the wildlife, flora, fauna, and habitat in this area of Los Angeles County through planned activities, exhibits and nature hikes. The Nature Center offers seasonal nature day camp sessions for youth and an active docent program.

The Burbank Empire Center opens. Some of the restaurants and retailers include: Target, Lowe’s, Best Buy, Michael’s, Costco, Marshall’s, Olive Garden, Hometown Buffet, and Outback Steakhouse.
2002 Buena Vista Library opened in December. The Burbank Empire Center continues to grow with the Extended Stay America and the Marriott Courtyard.

2003 The construction of Phase I of the Burbank Entertainment Village (AMC) theater project is completed and opened in mid-June. In addition, the Burbank Civic Plaza project and Burbank Village Walk commenced construction.

The Chandler Accessway/Bikeway started construction in October 2003. The project involves the construction of a four-mile bikeway within the former Chandler Boulevard railroad right-of-way connecting Burbank with the North Hollywood Metro Red Line Station.

The City Councils of Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena approved the renaming of the Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport to Bob Hope Airport in honor of the legendary entertainer.

2004 Phase II of the Burbank Entertainment Village was in the planning stages and the preliminary proposal included 118 residential units, 47,000 square feet of retail/restaurant space, and additional parking. Chandler Bikeway is complete and celebrated its grand opening July 2004. A Tree Planting Ceremony was held in May 2004, honoring the generous residents of Burbank who donated money for the trees that were installed along the bikeway.

The first phase of the Peyton-Grismer housing rehabilitation project was completed with 70 rehabilitated units, an activity center, and the future administrative center of the Burbank Housing Corporation. It was modeled after the successful Elmwood Achievement Center. As part of the rehabilitation, several units were expanded to provide two and three-bedroom units to accommodate larger families. The Burbank Housing Corporation’s Children’s Center opened its doors in March 2004, with 92 spots (18 designated as affordable).

2005 The grand opening of the Senior Artists Colony was held in April 2005. This one-of-a-kind 141-unit senior housing facility was designed for seniors with interests in the arts. In addition, 45 of the 141 units were made available at affordable rents. Programs were coordinated utilizing such amenities as a 45-seat theatre, gallery space, and two studios. The pool, health club, library and grassy areas were used for outdoor activities such as tai chi. The activity and administrative center of the Burbank Housing Corporation began operations in September 2005. The activity center provides programs and activities for the community with an emphasis in building healthier families and connecting residents to the larger community.

Burbank Village Walk, a mixed-use residential and retail project was constructed. The retail component opened for business in Fall 2005 and includes Wokano, an Asian fusion restaurant, and NYPD Pizza and Deli. The residential component includes 140 homes with 14 affordable units. The final phase of the residential component was completed in late 2005.
Burbank Entertainment Village completed its first phase of development, the new AMC Theater, and began Phase II. The Burbank Civic Plaza celebrated its grand opening in July 2005. The development consists of 71,000 square feet of office space, and 12,000 square feet of retail front space comprised of Wells Fargo Bank and Kinko's/FedEx.

On June 2, Burbank Water and Power held its dedication ceremony to celebrate the completion of its Magnolia Power Project (MPP), a 310-megawatt state-of-the-art natural gas-fired power plant. Six local cities worked together to make this project a reality: Burbank, Anaheim, Cerritos, Colton, Glendale, and Pasadena.

The City started offering free Wi-Fi service in the downtown area.

2006 “The Collection,” an $80 million multi-use development in Downtown Burbank began construction in March 2006, with completion scheduled for the 2nd quarter of 2008. This project completes phase II of the AMC project, with 118 residential units, 40,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space, and 700 parking spaces.

In May 2006, the Council approved renaming the Buena Vista Child Care Facility and Family Resource Center to the Mary Alice O’Connor Family Center. This facility occupies the former Buena Vista Library lot.

The Charter Review Committee, formed March 22, 2005, held three Public Hearings: May 22, June 3, and June 5, 2006. The Committee presented their recommendations to Council in Fall 2006, which in turn submitted the proposed charter amendments to the Burbank voters for approval at the April 2007 election. Two notable changes were: (1) a simple majority vote instead of a 4/5 majority vote of Council for approving budget-related items; (2) and a change in how Council vacancies are filled in-between elections.

2007 Work for the Burbank Boulevard Beautification project started in July 2007 and was completed in March 2008. Also, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) began construction of a new freeway on-ramp from Alameda Avenue just east of Hollywood Way to the westbound Ventura Freeway (SR-134). This project continued from May 7 to mid-2011.

2008 The highly anticipated 3-story Community Services Building (CSB) was completed and ready for occupancy in July 2008. Its new occupants (Park, Recreation and Community Services, Public Works, Community Development, and the Public Information Office) moved in during July. The CSB features a One-Stop Permit Center, community room, traffic management center and features various art elements. The building aims to achieve a Silver Level Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating which encourages global adoption of sustainable green buildings.

In 2008, Burbank was awarded the prestigious 100 Best Communities for Young People designation by America’s Young Promise Alliance.
2009 On January 5, 2009, the newly renovated DeBell Golf Clubhouse was opened to the public. The Clubhouse offers 13,760 square feet of recreational area which includes an upper level bar and grill, patio dining, a community room, restroom facilities, lounge areas, a kitchen and administrative offices. The facility also maintains a welcoming pro shop, starter area and golf cart storage on the lower level. June 2009 marked the 50th anniversary of the DeBell Golf Course.

The Robert “Bud” Ovrom Park, named after Robert R. “Bud” Ovrom who served as Burbank’s City Manager from 1985 to 2003, was completed in April 2009. The one acre recreation facility provides a 7,000 square foot building with a community room, kitchen, two separate children’s play areas, a lighted basketball court, picnic/barbeque areas, a reception area and public restrooms. The park is part of an ongoing revitalization project of South San Fernando Boulevard which is the main corridor to Downtown Burbank and is.

2010 On January 22, 2010, the new Five Points Art Monument featuring Dr. David Burbank, the City’s founding father, was unveiled. The occasion also commemorated the interment of the City of Burbank’s 2009 time capsule. Funding for the art installation was provided by the Public Art Fund and the Burbank Redevelopment Agency. The monument is recognized as a gateway public art project.

Burbank was once again awarded the prestigious 100 Best Communities for Young People designation by America’s Young Promise Alliance.

2011 The City of Burbank launched its yearlong Centennial Celebration commemorating the 100th anniversary of its incorporation date on July 8, 2011. A variety of events and activities took place throughout the year, offering community members “100 Ways to Celebrate Burbank.” The celebration kicked off on New Year’s Eve 2010 with a Burbank Centennial-themed Rose Parade float honoring our past, present and future. Other highlights during the City’s centennial year include the publication of a Burbank centennial book; a Centennial Family Movie Night at the Starlight Bowl sponsored by the Walt Disney Company; the kick-off of the “Let’s Move!” Burbank initiative to promote healthy lifestyles for children; and a spectacular Incorporation Day celebration in Downtown Burbank on July 8, 2011, which featured an air parade, six stages with live music, and culminated with a stunning fireworks display behind City Hall.
In March 2011, construction began on the Keeler/Elliott Homeownership Development, an eight-unit affordable housing development built in partnership with the Burbank Redevelopment Agency, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles, and the Burbank Housing Corporation. The effort included construction of seven new townhouse units and rehabilitation of an existing single family home, which on December 17, 2011 was officially designated as “Centennial House” for the community-wide effort in its renovation. The development strengthens and revitalizes the Peyton-Grismer Focus Neighborhood.

On November 29, 2011, a sculpture sent by or Sister City of Incheon, Korea was unveiled in celebration of 50 years of friendship. The set of twin statues are installed in the front of the Northwest Branch Library.

On November 14, 2011, the Burbank BikeStop opened. As of 2013, the City has 75 registered users. The BikeStop is a high-capacity indoor bicycle parking facility located at the Downtown Burbank Metrolink Station. The facility is designed to meet the growing demand of commuters that bike to and from transit. The Burbank BikeStop helps the City promote a healthier, more sustainable Burbank.

On December 3, 2011 the Lake Alameda Greenway (Greenway), a quarter-mile walking corridor that runs along the Los Angeles County Flood Control Channel between West Alameda Avenue and South Victory Boulevard, opened to the Burbank community.

2012 On February 1, 2012, all redevelopment agencies in California were dissolved as part of AB1X 26, signed into law by Governor Brown. Much of the development in Burbank was spearheaded by the former Burbank Redevelopment Agency (RDA). Major RDA projects include: the Police/Fire Headquarter, the Mary Alice O’Connor Family Center, Colony Theater, Ovrom Park as well as many other infrastructure, streetscape and revitalization projects. RDA’s footprint can be seen all throughout the City of Burbank.

On March 27, 2012, the Police/Fire Headquarters Reconstruction Project was completed. Additionally, the City installed a new Centennial Walkway at the corner of Palm Avenue and Third Street that offers residents a quiet spot in the middle of downtown Burbank.

On September 25, 2012 the Burbank City Council adopted the Master Plan, Zone Text Amendment and Zone Map Amendment for North San Fernando Boulevard. A new zoning category was also adopted. The Plan will guide improvements along the North San Fernando corridor.
On December 7, 2012, the two-million-gallon Equalization Basin Project at the Water Reclamation Plant was selected as a Project of the Year by the American Public Works Association of Southern California. Completion of the project increased plant capacity from 9 to 12.5 million gallons of water per day, capturing peak daytime flows for treatment during nighttime low flow hours, providing more reclaimed water for irrigation and other reuse, thus decreasing the City’s dependence on imported water.

2013 The City Council adopted the Burbank2035 General Plan on February 19, 2013. The long range document outlines policies and programs to achieve economic growth balanced with conservation of residential neighborhoods.

The pool at the Verdugo Recreation Center officially reopened to the public on June 8, 2013. The facility features a 50-meter pool which can be configured for lap swimming or recreational use. One-meter and three-meter diving boards are available for use during recreational swim times.

As part of the construction, an activity pool was added to the aquatics center. The new area offers various water features and climbing surfaces for younger children and two water slides for older children and adults. Other renovations to the pool area include the pool deck surface, locker rooms and lifeguard offices. A new concession, mechanical facilities and 27 additional parking spaces were also added. Additionally the old irrigation system has been replaced.

Construction to seismically retrofit the Northwest Library was completed in June 2013. The nearly 41 year old library has been closed since August 1, 2012, while work crews completed extensive seismic renovations and improvements to make the building comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

New bookshelves were installed and bolted for seismic stability. Other key updates include new sealed, energy-efficient windows and doors, a new low-energy-absorption roof and new energy-efficient lighting.

Excavation of the Reservoir Number 1 reconstruction project was completed in FY 2012-13, and construction of replacement reservoirs with concrete placement for floor slabs and columns is well underway. This water utility project will replace a vintage 1928 obsolete and leaky reservoir near the intersection of Sunset Canyon and Magnolia Boulevard. It will provide greater storage capacity, have modern day construction standards, be less visible and fit into the same physical area as the old reservoir.
BURBANK FACTS

Population: 104,982

Housing: 42,094 households with a median sales price of $579,750

Location: 12 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles, 388 miles south of San Francisco, 106 miles north of San Diego - Accessible via the San Diego (405), Hollywood (101), Ventura (134) and Golden State (I-5) freeways

Altitude: 484 to 957 feet above sea level

Climate: Semi-arid with an average maximum summer temperature of 88 degrees and an average annual rainfall of 12.1 inches

Government: City Council-City Manager form of government

Demographics: African American 2.59%, American Indian/Alaska Native 0.46%, Asian Pacific 12.07%, Hispanic 24.35%*, White 72.61%, Other 12.27%

Income: Median household income $77,351 (Census data)

Local Workforce: over 85,000

Unemployment: 7.5%

Registered Voters: 60,623

Area: 17.155 square miles

Business Licenses: 10,978 business tax accounts and 955 regulatory business license and business permit accounts.

* As per the U.S. Census Bureau, the Hispanic population is calculated based on ethnicity and not a single-race class. The 24.35% listed is based on self-identified residents of Hispanic or Latin origin.
Libraries: One central library and two branch libraries with 531,253 books/print media and 82,415 audiovisual media.

Parks & Recreation: Forty one public parks and recreation facilities including DeBell Golf Course, Starlight Amphitheatre, Joslyn Adult Center, Stough Canyon Nature Center, two municipal swimming pools, 22 tennis courts, four community centers, three gymnasium facilities, a lighted soccer field, and a skate park. Recreation programs include special interest classes, youth and adult sports programs, and day camps.

Streets: Approximately 231 miles of streets, 49 miles of paved alleys, 366 miles of sidewalks, 198 signalized intersections and 10 intersections with flashing signals.

Transportation: The City’s BurbankBus transit services provide peak-period fixed-route transportation services to Burbank residents and employees, connecting the Downtown Burbank Metrolink Station and the North Hollywood Red Line / Orange Line Station to the city’s employment centers in the Media District and Airport areas. BurbankBus also offers a demand-responsive Senior and Disabled transit service that provides curb-to-curb transportation for trips made within the City by Burbank’s senior and disabled population.

Police/Fire Services: The Police/Fire headquarters is located at Third Street and Orange Grove and five fire stations are located throughout the City.