

# North of Montana

by  
Kate Bransfield

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**Kate Bransfield** | Coldwell Banker

1608 Montana Avenue  
Santa Monica, CA 90403

**310.395.1133**

[Kate@SantaMonicaListings.com](mailto:Kate@SantaMonicaListings.com)

[www.SantaMonicaListings.com](http://www.SantaMonicaListings.com)

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# About this publication

This publication was produced by local Realtor Kate Bransfield to keep the North of Montana neighborhood up to date on some of the more interesting happenings in this unique corner of Santa Monica. As a Santa Monican for over 22 years, Kate takes pride in being a part of this vibrant community.

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## Believe it or not, it's peak beach season

By KATE BRANSFIELD

Once the throngs of beach-goers and tourists head home after Labor Day, it's high time for Santa Monicans to enjoy their most cherished resource — the beach.

In Santa Monica, early autumn means warmer waters, empty beaches and plenty of opportunities for a little fun in the sun.

There's the Annenberg Community Beach House and its lavish pool and cultural events, Santa Monica Beach with its surfing and recreation and of course the Santa Monica Pier, the crown jewel of our local coastline.

It's these attractions that make us lucky to live in one of the most beautiful places in California, if not the planet.

Here are some of the many things you can find to amuse yourself right here in the city by the sea:

### Beach Activities

#### Annenberg Community Beach

**House:** This restored landmark serves as a visitor's center with cultural and interpretive programming year-round. The Beach House features an upgraded beach cafe, new concession stands as well as beach recreation equipment rentals such as umbrellas and beach chairs.

**Biking:** The South Bay Bicycle Trail runs along Santa Monica Beach. The Trail stretches 22 miles (35 km) — north toward Malibu and south to Torrance — and is the longest beach path of its kind in the world.

**Fishing:** No fishing license is required, and rods and bait are available for rent at the ocean end of the Santa Monica Pier.

**Surfing:** Permitted year-round depending on the level of beach activity. Surfing is allowed only between lifeguard towers 18 and 20 (Pico Boulevard and Bay Street), and between 28 and 29 (Ashland Avenue and Pier Street). Always check with lifeguards before surfing.

**Swimming:** Santa Monica's mild surf makes it a prime beach for swimming, bodysurfing or boogie boarding.

**Volleyball:** Sandy beach volleyball courts south of the Pier are always available to the public and free of charge. Join pickup games or grab a place on the bleacher-style seating to watch others play.

### Parking at Santa Monica Beach

There are eight beach parking lots north of the Santa Monica Pier along Pacific Coast Highway. In addition to the Pier Parking Deck, five beach lots are nearby (two north, three south), and two beach lots are located farther south at Bicknell and at Ocean Park Boulevard.

There are also several short-term parking lots along the beach. Metered parking rates are approximately \$1 per hour. In the beach parking lots, visitors deposit money in a central kiosk according to the parking space number. The kiosk then

produces a stub that should be placed visibly on the dashboard of the car. Always read and obey any applicable signs and always carefully read the meter instructions. Different restrictions and regulations may apply in different areas. In order to avoid a ticket, do not park in restricted areas.

### Beach Access

Several options offer easy pedestrian access to Santa Monica Beach. At the end of Colorado Avenue, a ramp leads to the Pier, and steps descend to the beach. North of the Pier, four pedestrian bridges arch over the Pacific Coast Highway (PCH), connecting Palisades Park to the beach, at Montana, Idaho, and Arizona avenues as well as Broadway.

— Courtesy Santa Monica Convention and Visitors Bureau



## North of Montana Single Family Homes Sold Year To Date - 2010 Compared To 2011 From ALL agents in ALL companies

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	TOTAL	Average
<b>2010</b>										
Number of Listings	4	2	3	10	7	7	7	7	47	6
Average Days on the Market	90	13	69	27	43	37	33	53	365	45
Low Price	\$1,452,000	\$1,815,000	\$930,000	\$1,749,000	\$1,920,000	\$2,026,000	\$1,800,000	\$1,689,000	\$13,381,000	\$1,670,286
Median Price	\$1,917,500	\$2,056,500	\$2,340,000	\$2,662,500	\$2,556,000	\$3,195,000	\$2,300,000	\$2,667,500	\$19,695,000	\$2,432,500
High Price	\$2,795,000	\$2,298,000	\$2,675,000	\$4,000,000	\$3,517,000	\$4,190,000	\$2,700,000	\$3,650,000	\$25,825,000	\$3,167,857
Average Price Per Square Foot	\$814	\$762	\$742	\$716	\$780	\$732	\$859	\$792	\$6,197	\$772
<b>2011</b>										
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	TOTAL	Average
Number of Listings	4	2	8	4	3	4	10	8	43	5
Average Days on the Market	70	114	57	176	87	22	19	71	616	78
Low Price	\$1,925,000	\$2,825,000	\$1,100,000	\$1,493,000	\$1,278,000	\$1,747,050	\$1,650,000	\$1,865,000	\$13,883,050	\$1,716,864
Median Price	\$2,704,654	\$4,152,500	\$2,635,000	\$2,780,000	\$1,555,000	\$3,132,625	\$2,640,000	\$2,432,750	\$22,032,529	\$2,799,968
High Price	\$3,243,000	\$5,480,000	\$4,030,650	\$4,445,000	\$2,050,000	\$3,999,388	\$4,984,000	\$3,335,000	\$31,567,038	\$4,033,148
Average Price Per Square Foot	\$682	\$959	\$772	\$691	\$986	\$934	\$748	\$768	\$6,540	\$825

\*To prevent skewing of the numbers, these stats do not include the sale of a property on Adelaide for \$11,650,000

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Kate Bransfield

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# Montana Library events

The Montana Branch Library is so much more than just a library. It offers free Internet access and is a meeting place for the North of Montana neighborhood. The library is located at 1704 Montana Ave., Santa Monica, Ca., 90403. For more information, call (310) 458-8682.



*Below are some of the more interesting happenings going on at the library in September and October:*

**Sept. 21  
Playwriting Workshop**

1 p.m. — 3 p.m.  
This eight-week workshop focuses on the basic elements of playwriting. Learn dramatic structure and engage in the creative process with instructor Anna Stramese. Please contact the branch to enroll, (310) 458-8682.

**Sept. 22  
Preschool Story Time**

11:15 a.m. — 11:45 a.m.  
Stories for kids ages 3-5 every Thursday morning.

**Oct. 4  
Writing Your College Essay**

6:30 p.m. — 9:15 p.m.  
Start early and get tips on writing the college essay that will set you apart. The class is intended for high school juniors and seniors and their parents.

**Oct. 5  
Baby Time**

10:15 a.m. — 10:35 a.m.  
Story time for babies up to 18 months old. There will be a second edition of this event at 11:15 a.m.

**Oct. 6  
Read for the Record:  
'Llama Llama Red Pajama'**

11:15 a.m. — 11:45 a.m.  
Join library staff as they celebrate "Llama Llama Red Pajama" by Anna Dewdney. You will be part of a record-setting event as children and adults across America enjoy the story together. Ages 3 and up.

**Oct. 10  
Library closed**

All Santa Monica libraries will be closed.

**Oct. 13  
In Case You Missed It Film Series: 'Red Riding Hood'**

2 p.m. — 3:45 p.m.  
In this modern retelling of the classic fairy tale, a young woman is planning to run away with her love when her older sister is killed by a werewolf.

## School calendar for North of Montana

**Lincoln Middle School**

1501 California Ave.  
Santa Monica, CA. 90403-4305  
(310) 393-9227  
www.lincoln.smmusd.org

**Sept. 21  
School Site Council Meeting**

3:15 p.m.  
Get involved with your child's school.

**Sept. 24  
Bike Skills Workshop**

Call for time  
This helpful event will take place on the blacktop on campus.

**Sept. 27  
School Photos**

Remember to dress nice for pictures.

**Sept. 29  
No school**

**Oct. 5  
Bike It/Walk It Day**

Remember to ditch the car and get to school the old fashioned way.

**Roosevelt Elementary School**

801 Montana Ave.  
Santa Monica, CA. 90403-1591  
(310) 395-1472  
www.roosevelt.smmusd.org

**Sept. 20  
Picture Day**

Remember to look sharp for your school pictures.

**Sept. 21  
Back to School Night**

6:30 p.m.  
Take advantage of this opportunity to meet and greet with your child's teachers. Parents only.

**Sept. 22  
PTA Executive Board Meeting**

8:35 a.m.  
A great chance to get involved.

**Sept. 23  
Book Fair**

School hours  
See what's new in books.

**Sept. 27  
Back to School Picnic**

4:30 p.m. — 6:30 p.m.  
In-N-Out burgers will be served during this tasty event.

**Franklin Elementary School**

2400 Montana Ave.  
Santa Monica, CA. 90403-2199  
(310) 828-2814  
www.franklin.smmusd.org

**Sept. 22  
New Parent Party**

Call for time  
Get acquainted with your new campus, parents.

**Sept. 29  
No school**

**Oct. 4  
Picture Day**

Remember to look your best for fall school portraits.

**Oct. 5  
Bike It/Walk It Day**

Remember to ditch the car and get to school the old fashioned way.

**Oct. 6  
PTA Meeting**

8:30 a.m.  
Find out what's happening on campus.



**Kate Bransfield**

Estates Director  
Society of Excellence  
Previews Properties Specialist  
**310.395.1133**



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**Roosevelt Elementary School**

801 Montana Avenue, Santa Monica, CA 90403  
(310) 395-1472 (310) 827-1188 FAX



**FRANKLIN Elementary School**

www.SantaMonicaListings.com