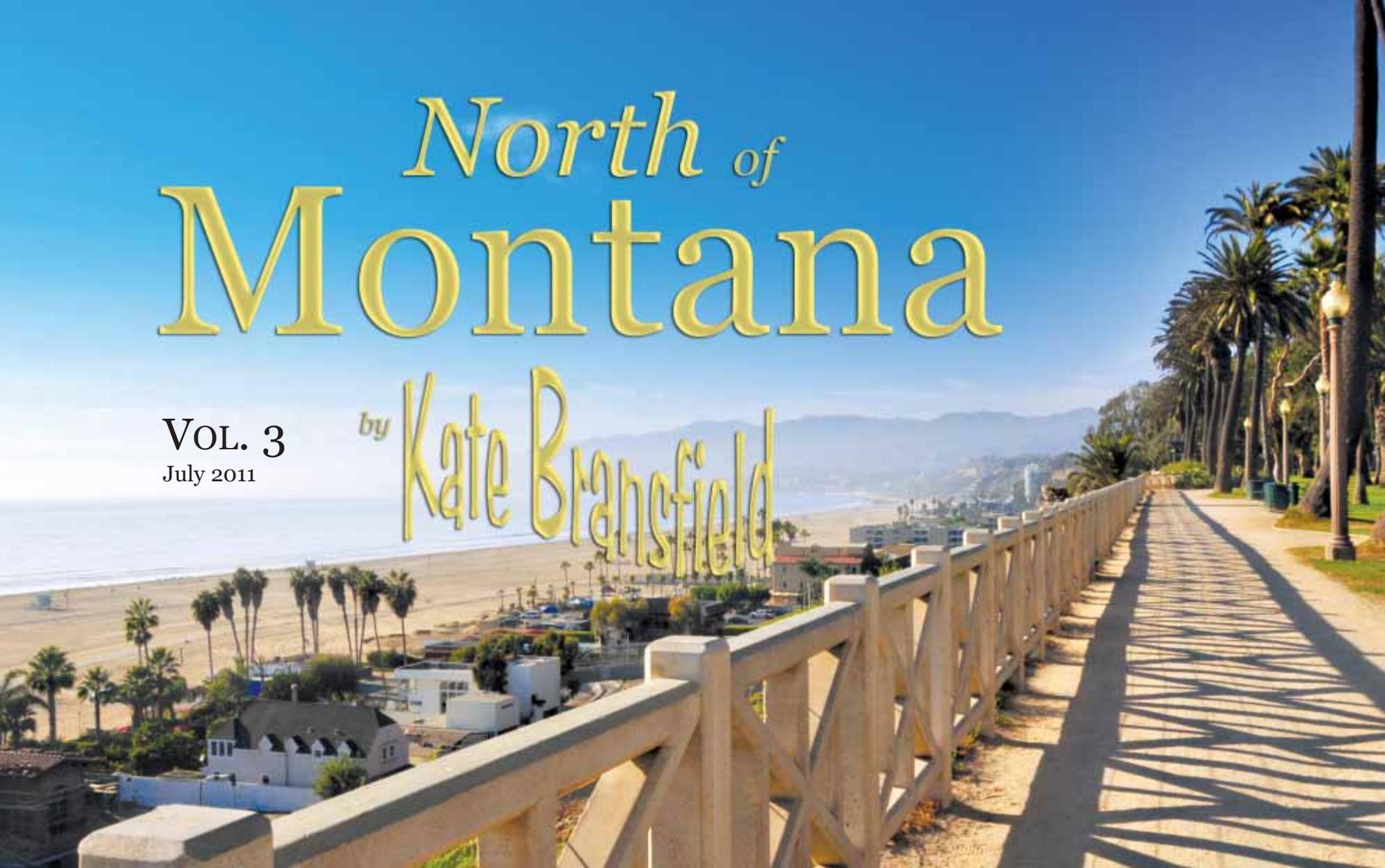


North of Montana

VOL. 3
July 2011

by **Kate Bransfield**



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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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Be safe during summer vacation

Simple steps can help keep your home secure while you're away

Leaving for a much-deserved summer vacation is a great way to relieve a little stress, but it can also be a time when our homes are most vulnerable.

Residential burglars know when we let our guard down when it comes to home security measures. In many cases, no force is used to gain entry during a break-in because the intruder enters through an unlocked window or door. This does not have to be the case — most residential burglaries are preventable.

There are also some physical improvements you can make to help strengthen your home security against common burglaries. Most of the supplies needed may be purchased at any local hardware store, and installations are relatively simple. Learning to use good quality locks and other hardware in the right places, can significantly improve the security of your residence when you're away.

Lighting

One key to burglary prevention while you're away on summer vacation is adequate interior and exterior lighting. For the interior of the home, timers on the lights are recommended. For the exterior, each outside doorway should be lighted with a minimum of a 60-watt light over the entrances. For homes with wide or deep yards or parking areas, a high-pressure sodium security light with a light sensor (photo-electric cell) may be considered.

Exterior electrical boxes

Place a padlock on exterior electrical boxes to prevent someone from turning off the power to the residence. Note: keep the key readily available in case of emergency.

Gates

Gates should be equipped with a hasp latch or slide bolt made of hardened metal. These must be installed with carriage bolts through the door or gate. Use large washers on the inside. After the nuts are secured, deface the threads of the bold ends to keep the nuts from being removed. Use a good padlock to secure the door or gate.

Shrubbery

Overgrown landscaping provides concealment for burglars. Always keep it trimmed, away from doors, windows, and yard lighting.

Source: Santa Monica Police Department

Kate recommends

Brentwood Pet Sit

Claudia Brentwood
310.899.9796
BrentwoodPetSit@yahoo.com
Serving Santa Monica, Brentwood & Pacific Palisades

I've known Claudia for over 12 years and she has been my "go-to" person for pet-sitting, house-sitting and hostess-ing of my parties and events. Over the years, I've recommended Claudia to many friends and clients, all of whom have been delighted with her.

Protection One

800.438.4357
system@securesend.org
www.protectionone.com

I have personally used Protection One for several years and I'm very happy with them. They specialize in home security systems.



Quick tips

- For long trips, be sure to have someone you trust collect, on a daily basis, mail, newspapers, or anything else that might be delivered or left on your property.
- Always lock your doors and windows.
- Never leave a house key under a doormat, in a flower pot, or on the ledge of a door.

- Make sure the entire perimeter of your home is well-lit, especially front and back door areas.
- Use timers so that the lights, radio, and TV go on and off throughout the residence to indicate that someone may be home.
- If you come home and should find a jimmied door or a broken window, do not go in. Confronting a burglar can be dangerous. Instead, call the police immediately.

A passion for North of Montana

By **Kate Bransfield**

I have always felt an affinity with North of Montana. Through my 14-plus years of experience in the area, I have learned that I fill a need that is missing in so many professional services these days.

Whether it's a slow market or a frenzied



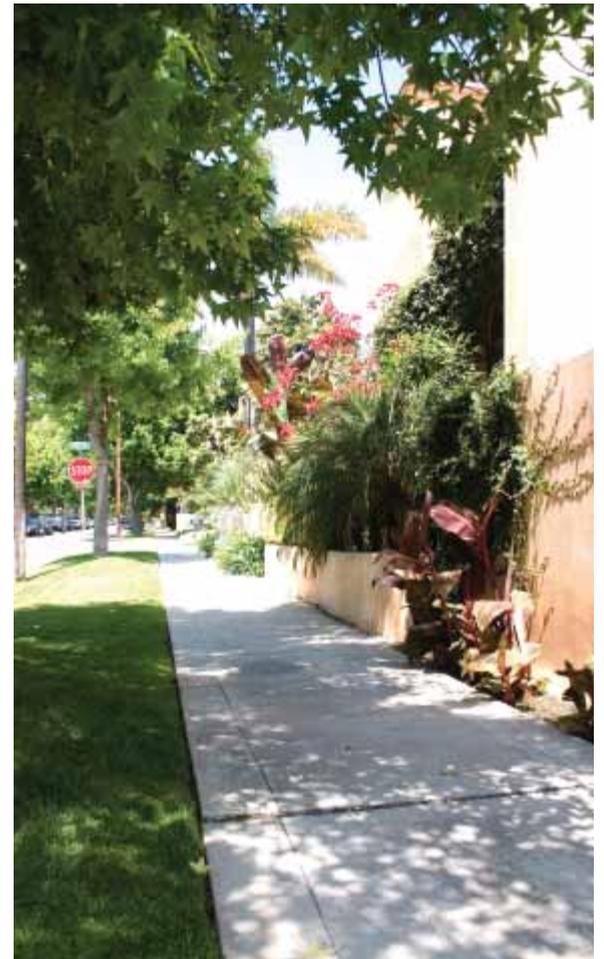
one, there are some fundamentals of my job that just don't change. I take great pride in the attention I give to the personal, human elements required to help people sell and select their homes. Understanding the history of the people who lived in the home can be just as important as the street address and zip code.

Kids or kids on the way? I am in tune to the changing needs of families, and how important the schools, access to parks and even traffic on the street can affect quality of life.

I have the unique skill of connecting my clients' interests and priorities to the subtle personalities of the homes North of Montana. I pay close attention to this from the beginning, making my transactions much less complicated as we approach the close of escrow!

Experience counts. I have been through thousands of transactions in the area, making my clients feel that I am uniquely qualified to understand where to price, where negotiations can be reached, and how to get the deal done.

Most of all, because I share their interests and live in the area, my clients become lifelong friends, partners and references. This is, in part, why I am so honored to have the opportunity to live, work and be a part of this special community.



Receive daily updates of all new and reduced listings from ALL agents in ALL companies! Please do not hesitate to contact me for more information. I'm located at:
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North of Montana

Single Family Homes Sold June 2010 Compared to Sold June 2011
From ALL agents in ALL companies

	June 2010	June 2011
Number of Listings	7	4
Average Days on the Market	37	22
Low Price	\$2,026,000	\$1,747,050
Median Price	\$3,195,000	\$3,132,625
High Price	\$4,190,000	\$3,999,388
Average Price Per Square Foot	\$732	\$934



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Montana Library events

The Montana Branch Library is so much more than just a place with books. 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 July and August:

July 19 Summer Reading Program: What's so funny?

2:30 p.m. — 3:15 p.m.

Laugh at funny stories from around the world and then do a craft. Ages 3 and up.

July 20 Baby Time

10:15 a.m. — 10:35 a.m.

Six week story time for babies up to 18 months old. The series ends on July 20. There will be a second edition of this event at 11:15 a.m.

July 21 In Case You Missed It Summer Film Series: 'Winter's Bone'

6:30 p.m.

Screening of "Winter's Bone," a stark, Oscar-nominated drama in which a teenager must track down her good-for-nothing father in order to save her rural home.

July 23 Snap It! Teen Photography Workshop

10 a.m. — 1 p.m.

Learn the basics of photography and take a mini photo excursion around the neighborhood to practice techniques! Teens are encouraged to bring their own digital camera. Space is limited for this workshop. Grades 5 through 12.

July 27 Sticks & Strings Yarn Club

4 p.m.

Take a break and join us with your knitting or crochet projects. Grades 5 through 12.

July 28 In Case You Missed It Summer Film Series: 'Kids Are All Right'

6:30 p.m.

Screening of "Kids Are All Right," in which a lesbian couple's children get in touch with their biological father, starring Annette Bening and Julianne Moore.

July 30 Paws to Read

2 p.m. — 3 p.m.

Practice your reading skills by reading to a trained therapy dog from Paws 4 Healing. For ages 5-10.

Aug. 3 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.

Aug. 9 Party!

2:30 p.m. — 3:15 p.m.

Come for stories and treats. All ages welcome.

Aug. 11 Paws to Read

2 p.m. — 3 p.m.

Practice your reading skills by reading to a trained therapy dog from Paws 4 Healing. For ages 5-10.



Annenberg Community Beach House

The Annenberg Community Beach House was the first public beach house in the nation when it opened in 2009. It's home to a pool, outdoor volleyball courts and even a viewing deck. The Beach House also plays host to a variety of cultural events.

Upcoming schedule July 19

Kátia Moraes and Guests — Samba Night!
6:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

Hearken (yes this is how it's spelled, I looked it up :)) back to a Marion Davies-era costume ball with this Latin dance party featuring L.A.'s favorite Brazilian songstress. Come prepared to get a groove on — extra points for beads and feathers worn! Samba lessons given before and during the show.

July 26

George Gershwin — From Broadway to Catfish Row
6:30 p.m. — 8 p.m.

Experience treasures from the Gershwin songbook, including selections from "Porgy and Bess," with pianists and commentators Victoria Kirsch and Alan Chapman and vocalists Karen Benjamin, Shana Blake Hill, Cedric Berry and Haqumai Sharpe.

415 Pacific Coast Highway
annenbergbeachhouse.com

Twilight Dance Series

The Santa Monica Pier produces what is considered one of the most popular free outdoor concert series on the West Coast.

Upcoming schedule

• **July 21, Australia Rocks the Pier:** (presented by the Australian Consulate and Cotton On): Missy Higgins, Kim Churchill, and Andy Clockwise

• **July 28, Reggae/Ska:** Slackers and Star Pool (plus the finalists of Rusty's Surf Ranch emerging artist competition)

• **Aug. 4, Cirque Du Soleil Presents Rock of the Bay:** In Support of a Cleaner Ocean Nelson Marquez & the Moderators, and Tutu Sweeney & The Brothers Band The Twilight Dance Series partners with Heal the Bay

• **Aug. 11, La Monica Ballroom Then & Now:** Royal Crown Revue, Orgone, plus Ameera featuring Antonio 'Big Daddy' Fargas (featuring a dance floor)

• **Aug. 18, Making Waves: A Night of Surf Guitar** The Duo-Tones, Slacktone, and The Eliminators

• **Aug. 25, Tango on the Timbers:** Milongatron (tango lessons start at 6 p.m.)

• **Sept. 1, New Americana:** Dawes and Sonny & the Sunsets (plus the winner of Rusty's Surf Ranch emerging artist competition)

• **Sept. 8, A Night In Treme:** (presented by Bloomingdale's): Jon Cleary's Philthy Phew, Donald Harrison Electric Band, and Wanda Rouzan



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