

St. Francis boasts three bed and breakfast businesses

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As the summer months begin, visitors from across the country roll into town to see what Saint Francis has to offer. Alumni, fair, vacation and reunions all bring family members and friends to town, and now when they come there are some charming, peaceful accommodation choices. The Spencer House, The Jackson Suite, and McCumbers B&B are three bed and breakfasts that guests can choose from. Each boasts its own unique comforts and accommodations.

The Spencer House

The Spencer House is a large, three bedroom bed and breakfast located on Spencer Street just south of the Main street in St. Francis. The owners of the Spencer House, Carl and Kate, met in high school, fell in love, and have been married for 40 years.

Once the two retired, they decided to buy 110 E. Spencer in 2005. The home became their retirement project. Kate has always enjoyed interior decorating, cooking, baking and entertaining. A bed and breakfast was right up Kate's alley. Carl enjoys yard work and remodeling projects. The two make a good team, and whatever Kate dreams up, Carl makes happen!

After they bought the home, they set to work on decorating and making the Spencer House a home. The house has a long, rich history of over 100 years. Many St. Francis residents remember playing in the house as children, and the two wanted to keep the doors of the house open so good memories and experiences could continue.

When you walk into the Spencer House, the unmistakable feeling of nostalgia and warmth washes over you. Kate and Carl have done a wonderful job making the bed and breakfast feel like a home away from home.

The living area and two dining areas are on the main floor. In the living room, there is a fireplace, several couches and piano. One of the previous owners, a woman who lived there as a young lady, walked down the staircase to be married in front of that very fireplace that guests now sit and enjoy coffee in front of.

The formal dining room is decorated with rich colors and formal dining wear. Tea place settings are on the table. Recessed in the columns and in the wall, china closets hold dishes and more tea sets. The room gives a feeling of comfort and warmth.

Around the corner from the fireplace is the "Compass Room." With a streets-of-London feel, this room has several small tables, and could make a guest feel like they were enjoying a glass of wine after a long day of sightseeing.

Upstairs the guests have three rooms to choose from, the "Garden Room," the "Summer Set Room," and the "Boudoir Room." Each room has its own personality, and all have comforts.

The Garden Room is filled with light, has subtle greens, flowers and birds complementing its country style. The Summer Set Room has a more masculine feel, with dark cherry furnishings and a large workspace table. The Boudoir Room is fun and whimsical, with black and white zebra stripe, splashes of red, and Marilyn Monroe. It also opens onto the balcony so the guests can enjoy the outdoors.

In addition to the rooms inside, the Spencer House also has a beautiful patio area outside for their guests to enjoy.

Each morning Kate wakes up and prepares a culinary treat for her guests. She makes a breakfast from scratch that her guests are sure to enjoy.

To make a reservation at The Spencer House, please call 785-332-2513.

The Jackson Suite

On the north side of Main street, The Jackson Suite is the bed and breakfast that was the choice of Senator Bob Dole when he came to town in May.



LESLIE HOOK, who with her husband, Eric, are the owners of The Jackson Suite. Above, Leslie fluffs the pillows on the king-size bed.
Herald staff photos by Amanda Miller

The reason—The Jackson Suite is the most handicap-friendly bed and breakfast in St. Francis. There are no stairs to climb for the guests to reach their bedrooms, and it is all on one level. It is also the only bed and breakfast that is a single home with two bedrooms, so it provides the guests with a lot of privacy.

Leslie and Eric Hook are the owners of this house, which can be rented for the evening or week.

The Hooks have been in the rental business for many years. They have been married for 34 years, and spent a large portion of that time renting homes to people in St. Francis. Only recently, the couple decided to step outside the rental property business and start a more intimate atmosphere with a bed and breakfast.

Leslie said she enjoys getting to meet all the different people that come through town, and hear their stories. She has had a film maker from Amsterdam stay the night, Senator Bob Dole recently, just to name a few.

She said her and Eric spent the last five years gutting, and completely remodeling the home that is now The Jackson Suite. After spending that much time and putting that much love and effort into something, she likes to see people appreciate it.

Leslie and Eric live right next door to the bed and breakfast, which is a nice convenience when the guests need assistance with anything.

The Jackson Suite is a fully furnished home, with two bedrooms. When you walk in, there is a living area with satellite television for the family to relax. Wifi is also available.

There are two separate bedrooms, one with a queen bed and one with a king. A full kitchen is available with a refrigerator and stove, so if a family is staying for an extended period of time they can stock and cook meals themselves. The Hooks do provide a continental breakfast with juices if the guests would like one, as well.

To make a reservation at The Jackson Suite, please call 785-332-5001.

McCumbers B&B

If guests would like a place to come stay that feels like they are at their grandparent's home, then they need to look no further than the McCumber's bed and breakfast. Nancy and Neil McCumber have provided rooms for guests in St. Francis for almost 10 years, the longest running bed and breakfast in St. Francis.

Located on Spencer Street, just south of the grade school, the McCumbers have a charming two story white home on the corner with a sign that says "Nancy's B&B." When you walk in, the couple greets you along with their two dogs, and look forward to hearing your story. They make you feel at home right away.

Neil explained some history of the home – The Lewis family owned the home for a long time before the McCumbers bought it. The Lewis family owned the



NANCY AND NEIL McCUMBER, owners of McCumbers B&B, show the living area of their rental.

Dairy King, and Roger was also a teacher. The wife, Dottie, requested the addition that Neil and Nancy now primarily live in. He said that members of the Lewis family have stayed there a couple times over the years.

The McCumbers have a small apartment style room they rent downstairs with two beds and a small kitchenette. The staircase downstairs has its own entrance separate from the rear entrance the McCumbers use, which provides the guest with privacy.

The front of the home has a fireplace and living area with an entrance to the front porch. There is a staircase that leads up to two bedrooms and a bathroom. One bedroom has a queen bed, and a walk in closet for the guest. Across the hall is a bedroom with a twin bed. There is also a bathroom upstairs.

There are two French doors that shut off the living space from the dining area to the McCumber's portion of the home, giving the guest privacy that chooses to stay in the front portion of the bed and breakfast.

The McCumbers do not cook breakfast unless guests request them to. As they explained, many guests have obligations that include breakfast where they are going. If a guest would like breakfast, Neil said they make a casserole that guests enjoy for a small price.

With all the options, visitors to St. Francis are sure to find accommodations that will fit their needs. Each bed and breakfast has something different to offer!

UPCOMING EVENTS in Kansas

Brought to you in part by Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism
Washunga Days
June 20-22, Council Grove
Kaw Inter-tribal Pow Wow at the Kaw Mission Historic Site.
Helicopter Rides, Parade, 5K Run, Arts & Crafts Show, Flea Market, Classic-Car Show and live entertainment. washunga.com

SEK Art Fest
June 20-October 11, Pittsburg
Celebrate the area's football heritage with 24 larger than life footballs that will be decorated by local artists and on display in Downtown Pittsburg before being auctioned off in October. sekartfest.com

Astra Arts Festival
July 3-13, Independence
A showcase of visual arts, music, theatre, literature & performing arts. Performances, workshops, exhibitions & concerts. Concerts by Jim Brickman, Larry Gatlin & The Gatlin Brothers and more! astrafest.org

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CARL AND KATE JENKINS, owners of Spencer House, set the table as they get ready for their next guests.

Public Notices

Petition filed in court to determine descent

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NOTICE OF THE LAPSE OF MINERAL INTERESTS

TO: Peggy J. Towne and Carolyn A. McDonald

You are hereby notified that pursuant to K.S.A. 55-1601, et seq, the mineral interests have lapsed on the following real estate in Cheyenne County, Kansas, more particularly described as the Southwest Quarter of Northeast Quarter (SW 1/4 NE 1/4), the South Half of the Northwest Quarter (S 1/2 NW 1/4) and about 10 acres of the South Half of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (S 1/2 NW 1/4 NW 1/4), lying South of the Republican River, all in Section Twenty (20), Township Two (2) South, Range Thirty-nine (39) West of the 6th P.M.

This notice is given by the undersigned, who is the surface owner of the above described property.

3 R Farms, a Partnership
Marla J. Ross, Partner

APPROVED BY:

JAMES M. MILLIKEN, CHARTERED
Kari M. Gilliland
Supreme Court No. 17386
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Jeff Bhend, Facility Manager/(800) 356-1130 / jbhend@scoular.com

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