

# Nemaha County



WHETHER YOU LIKE TO PLAY GOLF or prefer to shop and just look around there's plenty of things to do and see in Seneca. There's plenty of places to eat and to play for both visitors and residents.

## Lots of activities available to visitors in Seneca, county

Nestled in the Nemaha River Valley along U.S. 36 in Nemaha County, Seneca can be reached from the north or south on K-63 or by heading west a short distance from the U.S. 75 and U.S. 36 junction.

Whether you are senior citizens traveling as a couple, a family with young children, or a single person, Seneca offers a wide variety of activities for all to enjoy. Golfing, fishing, hunting, history and shopping – you'll find it all when you come to Seneca.

Relive a part of the Old West with a trip to the Pony Express Museum; get a glimpse into early American fire-fighting by touring the Fire House Museum, complete with a refurbished 1922 Stutz Fire Engine; or learn about the history of Nemaha County and the Seneca area by touring the Nemaha County Historical Museum.

Special attractions include a 1950s-style marquee at Seneca Twin Theaters, where contemporary movies are shown nightly; a hand-dug well in the city park; St. Mary's Catholic Church at St. Benedict, listed on both the Kan-

sas and National historical registers; and a modern public library, complete with an extensive genealogy department, attached to a stone Universalist church built by pioneers in 1867.

If shopping is your thing, then Seneca is perfect for you. Boasting one of the strongest Main Streets still in existence, the community offers a wide range of retail stores, service providers and professional offices.

For fishing and boating enthusiasts, Seneca is between Centralia City Lake and Pony Creek Lake at Sabetha. Just south of Seneca on K-63 is the Old Lake Nemaha Conservation Area. Hunters will be glad to know that Seneca is surrounded by 14,000 acres of walk-in hunting ground where pheasant, quail and dove abound.

Golfers will be challenged by our 18-hole link-style public course. At Spring Creek Golf Course, you'll enjoy all the amenities of a professional-grade par 71 course. The course encourages outings and tournaments of all sizes and features nine-hole and 18-hole games, motorized cart rentals, a practice green, driving range and snack shop.

## Schedule

- April – Quilt show in the library
- June 1-2 – City-wide Garage Sales
- July 27-30 – Nemaha County Fair
- July 28 – 1950s-style 'Cruise Main Street' night
- July 29 – Seneca Car Show, held in Seneca City Park
- Sept. 14-16 – Second annual "Great U.S. 36

Highway Treasure Hunt"

- Oct. 6-7 – Annual Heritage Days Historical Festival

For information on lodging, attractions, and events, contact the Chamber of Commerce by phone, (785) 336-2294; email, [seneca\\_chamber@yahoo.com](mailto:seneca_chamber@yahoo.com); or visit [www.travelks.com/s/index.cfm](http://www.travelks.com/s/index.cfm).

## National Historic Register sites in Marshall County

### PONY EXPRESS HOME STATION

The stone barn in the heart of downtown Marysville was ready for the first run of the Pony Express on April 4, 1860.

The barn, at 106 S. Eighth, has been a museum since 1967, and in 1991 it was restored, complete with stables and a forge. A matching native stone addition on the east houses the Pony Express Museum.

### KOESTER HOUSE MUSEUM

The Charles F. Koester family developed a significant part of Marysville's downtown. The family home and an entire block are on the National Register. The Koester House Museum, 10th and Broadway, an 1870s Victorian house surrounded by a brick wall with gates flanked by sculptures of lions and dogs, is furnished with family heirlooms.

The grounds, with summer kitchen, ice house, a collection of 12 white bronze statues and historic gardens, date to the late 1800s.

### HISTORIC COURTHOUSE

The red brick structure at 13th and Broadway, built in 1891, was the county courthouse until 1979. It is headquarters of the Marshall County Historical Society and houses the society's genealogy research library and Marshall County Museum.

### PUSCH-RANDELL HOUSE

The Pusch-Randell House at 1000 Elm, Marysville, was built after the turn of the century for German-born cigar manufacturer Charles F. Pusch and his family. It is a Queen Anne Victorian home distinguished by an octagonal tower, projecting gables and metal ornamentation.

It was later owned by Marysville surgeon J.W. Randell and remains the property of his

heirs, who give tours occasionally.

### HUTCHINSON HOUSE

The Perry Hutchinson House, of French Renaissance architecture, is along U.S. 77 northwest of Marysville. It was built in 1872. Today it is a private residence.

### BLUE RAPIDS LIBRARY

The Blue Rapids Public Library, built in 1875 and placed on the National Register in 1972, has existed in one location longer than any other library in Kansas. Women of the Blue Rapids Library Association operated the library until 1941, when it became a city library.

### WEAVER HOTEL

The Weaver Hotel, built on the corner of Kansas and Railroad avenues in Waterville in the heyday of rail travel, was placed on the National Register in 1975. It is undergoing restoration and is the site each year during a weekend in late April of an elegant Victorian Tea.

### POWELL HOUSE

William Fitzgerald, a master craftsman credited with building 85 percent of Waterville's houses before 1935, built the two-story, 10-room Samuel Powell House at 108 W. Commercial. It is considered the queen of Waterville's many Victorian homes. It is the home of Ward Allen Minge.

### FRANKFORT GRADE SCHOOL

Frankfort's native limestone grade school, 400 N. Locust, was closed and sold to a private owner in 1997. The structure, built in 1902-03 and placed on the National Register in 1972, has been termed an excellent example of turn-of-the-century school architecture in Kansas.

### FRANKFORT JAIL

When it was in use, the Frankfort City Jail was more a cooling-off chamber for Saturday night

imbibers, chicken thieves and bootleggers than a lock-up for hardened criminals. In later years, the small stone building at the corner of Locust and Railway was an overnight lodging for vagrants, then a city storage place.

### BARRETT SCHOOLHOUSE

The native limestone Barrett schoolhouse four miles southwest of Frankfort is representative of rural school architecture in the 1880s. The building is on private property owned by Fern Jones, Frankfort.

### OKETO MUSEUM

The Oketo Community Museum was once the Z.H. Moore Store, built in 1884 of magnesium limestone from an Oketo quarry. It was placed on the National Register in 1974. It features a display of relics from Oketo history and a collection of Indian artifacts and photographs of earthen lodges on the Otoe Reservation. The

museum is open in the summer by appointment by calling Kent Obermeyer, (785) 744-3497.

### ST. BRIDGET'S CHURCH, AXTELL

St. Bridget's Church north of Axtell, a 90-year-old red brick building, is described as one of the oldest Gothic structures remaining in northeast Kansas. The Roman Catholic parish closed in 1967, and in 1970 the St. Bridget Historical Society was formed. Efforts to preserve the structure continue.

### ROBIDOUX CREEK TRUSS BRIDGE

Latest of the county's historic sites is the Robidoux Creek Bridge about 1.5 miles northwest of Frankfort on Sunflower Road. The bridge was nominated as an example of a Pratt steel truss bridge with pin-connected construction. It was built by the King Bridge Co., Cleveland, Ohio. This was the most common bridge type of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

"Seneca's Finest Where Friendliness Comes First"

## Starlite Motel

U.S. Highway 36  
Seneca, Kansas 66538

(785) 336-2191

Galen and Lynette Stuke

