

# WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *e-News* May 2026

This monthly newsletter is being distributed to Warren County Genealogical Society members and other interested parties. Feel free to share with others as you see fit. If you wish to be added or removed from our mailing list, contact us by phone at 513-695-1144 or email at [wcgsoh@gmail.com](mailto:wcgsoh@gmail.com). – Jo Roth, *e-News* Editor

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## CONTENTS:

- WCGS Resource Library Hours
- 2026 Program Schedule
- President’s Message
- He’s Done It Again!
- Save the Date! September 12 Combined Event with HCGS
- Support the Star! Update and Thank You
- OGS 2026 Annual Conference Recap and Dates for Next Year
- Member Perks on Our Website for WCGS Members
- Conferences and Seminars
- Genealogy Webinars
- Kroger Community Rewards
- Warren County Genealogical Society
- Thank You!
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## WCGS RESOURCE LIBRARY HOURS

The Resource Library will be **closed Monday, May 25, 2026**, in observance of **Memorial Day**.

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## 2026 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Our programs are FREE and open to the public. All are welcome!

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**\*WCGS 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Awards Banquet!\*** Wednesday, May 20, 2026 – In-Person – Doors Open at 5:30 PM  
Special Program on **“Early Settlers of the Northwest Territory”** presented by Dana Palmer!  
We hope you can join us! Payment for your meal will also serve as your reservation for this special evening.  
<https://www.wcgsohio.org/product-page/wcgs-45th-anniversary-and-awards-banquet>



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July 2026 Virtual Program **“Finding Your Patriot! Revolutionary War Research”** presented by **Jean Muetzel**  
**Wednesday, July 8, 2026, 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM EDT – Zoom Program**

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August 2026 Virtual Program **“Is There a Tartan in Your Tree? Exploring Scottish Roots”** presented by **Debbie Large**  
**Wednesday, August 12, 2026, 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM EDT – Zoom Program**

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If you are on our email list, you will automatically receive a Zoom invitation to join us for our Virtual Chapter Meeting and Program. You can sign up for our email list at the bottom of any website page. <https://www.wcgsohio.org>

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Submitted by Jim Brokaw, WCGS President and Research Chair

### Happy 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary WCGS!

Welcome to the May edition of the WCGS *e-News* and thank you for being loyal members and supporters of our Society. This month will mark our 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society! We honor and celebrate our founding members, our past and current membership, and our wonderful volunteers, without whom we would not exist today. I am very grateful for and proud of the foresight of our founding members, who first met in Lebanon in January 1981, with the initial goal of forming a Genealogical Society and establishing a Library to help people research their ancestors who lived in Warren County. Within four months, this small group had become an OGS Chapter, and over the course of the past 45 years put together a wonderful Library that became our current Resource Library, authored, compiled, and published scores of books, created an extensive website, replaced that website with a better one, researched every cemetery in Warren County, created a Virtual Cemetery, collected thousands of obituaries, managed the digitization program for The Western Star (Ohio's oldest weekly newspaper), assisted innumerable folks with their family histories, and so much more!

Our [45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Awards Banquet](https://www.wcgsohio.org/product-page/wcgs-45th-anniversary-and-awards-banquet) will be held May 20 in the Phillippi Meeting Room at Otterbein Senior Life in Lebanon, Ohio, and will include a buffet dinner, a special presentation by Dana Palmer, and our annual awards ceremony. We hope to see you there! You can join us by signing up online, but do it soon! The deadline is TODAY! <https://www.wcgsohio.org/product-page/wcgs-45th-anniversary-and-awards-banquet>

Cheers to our volunteers and our membership. Long may the Warren County Genealogical Society continue to populate our spreadsheets, grow our library, research our county, photograph our cemeteries, and break down brick walls!

As always, our *e-News* is designed for you. Please let me know if you have recommendations or if you would like to contribute to a future edition. You can reach me at [president.wcgsoh@gmail.com](mailto:president.wcgsoh@gmail.com).

### Meeting To Discuss Genealogical Society

Persons interested in the formation of a Warren County Genealogical Society are invited to an organizational meeting at Berry Middle School, Lebanon, on Wednesday, Jan. 28.

One of the planners said the meeting "is to share an interest in genealogy and to learn more about it through monthly meetings." It starts at 7:30 p.m.

"Most counties in Ohio have an active group of genealogy buffs but Warren County never has had one," the planner added.

Those attending are asked to park at the rear of the school and meet in the cafeteria.

For more information, call Pat Johnson, 683-2954.

*The Western Star* (Lebanon, Ohio),  
Wednesday, January 21, 1981,  
Page 7-A, Column 5-6

### Society Forming

Bart Gibbons of committee, an opportunity for persons attending to apply for charter membership, submission of lists of family surnames those attending are interested in researching, and other organizational matters.

The meeting is open to the public. Any person who has resource material is asked to submit a list to assist in the new group starting research activities soon.

The agenda includes adoption of by-laws, a report of the nominating

*The Western Star* (Lebanon, Ohio),  
Wednesday, February 18, 1981,  
Page 10-A, Column 1-2

### Gibbons Leader Of New Society

The Warren County Genealogical Society elected Bart Gibbons of Springboro president at its organizational meeting Feb. 18 at Berry Middle School, Lebanon.

Others elected were Mrs. Leora Spindler, Lebanon, first vice president; Mrs. Nancy Burdge, Franklin, second vice president; Mrs. Pat Johnson, Maineville, recording secretary; Mrs. Miriam Worley, Lebanon, corresponding secretary; and Dan Ledbetter, Maineville, treasurer.

The nominating committee report was read by Marion Snyder, Lebanon, and also contained the nomination of Mrs. Mary Jane Matz of Lebanon for archivist. The nominating committee's report was accepted and the members named elected by acclamation.

Mrs. Julie Overton of Yellow Springs explained the membership setup and activities of the Ohio Genealogical Society based at Mansfield. The new county group hopes to affiliate with the state

body as soon as it can qualify. Plans were considered for completing the Society's organization and activity planning.

The next meeting will be at Berry Middle School, Lebanon, on March 18 at 7:30 p.m.

*The Western Star* (Lebanon, Ohio),  
Wednesday,  
February 25,  
1981, Page 10,  
Column 2-3

### HE'S DONE IT AGAIN!

Check out our new **Tax Records** website page and the NEWEST wonderful index covering 1826-1832 created by **Winston Cochrane**. These new indexes give an abundance of information about the people living, owning property, and paying taxes in Warren County during the years 1806-1825 and 1826-1832. Each is a combined index allowing you to track your research subject through the years. What a goldmine!

<https://www.wcgsohio.org/tax-records>

# SAVE THE DATE! SEPTEMBER 12 COMBINED EVENT WITH HCGS

Symmes Township Library Community Room  
11850 Enyart Road, Loveland, Ohio 45140  
Saturday, September 12, 2026, 1:00-5:00 p.m.

As many of you may know, the Symmes Township Library, a branch of the Cincinnati Public Library, opened its beautiful new building to the public on April 11, 2026. This location is known and used by many who live and work in Warren County, including some of our volunteers and members.

What a great opportunity to combine forces with the Hamilton County Genealogical Society! We are still working out the details, but tentative plans underway include:

- Exploring some “new” resources and indexes that will provide interesting tips for local nineteenth century, Irish, and immigrant research in Hamilton County.
- Program presented by Jeff Herbert.
- Extended Q&A session to learn about resources in Hamilton and Warren Counties, which are often closely aligned when researching Southwest Ohio.
- View the new building and its many patron-friendly resources, including a vinyl printer, computers with Adobe Creative Cloud, photo printer, laminator, button maker, and large format scanner.

Stay tuned for more information and plan to join WCGS and HCGS on September 12!

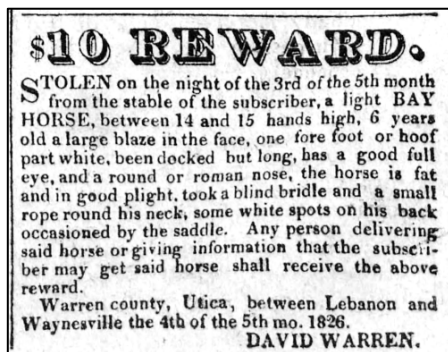
## SUPPORT THE STAR! UPDATE AND THANK YOU

*Submitted by Jo Roth, WCGS Treasurer and Webmaster*

Since the fall of 2018, our **Alleen Stephenson Digital Newspaper Project**, sponsored and maintained by the Warren County Genealogical Society, has provided free public access to digital images of *The Western Star* and associated newspapers on the [Ohio Memory Project](#). Issues are now available from 1807 through **2012!**

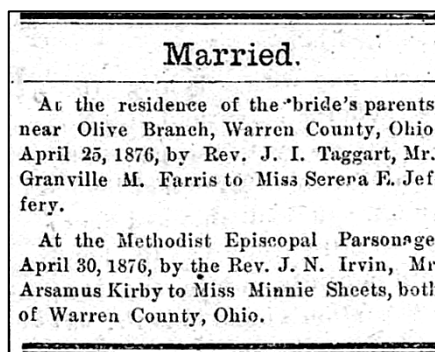
Our [Support the Star!](#) fundraising efforts continue, and we are grateful to again be the recipient of a recent grant from the [City of Lebanon’s Civic Donation Program](#) through the [Warren County Foundation](#). This grant will help enable us to continue to digitize and add even more pages and issues of this newspaper online.

In the news 200 Years Ago:



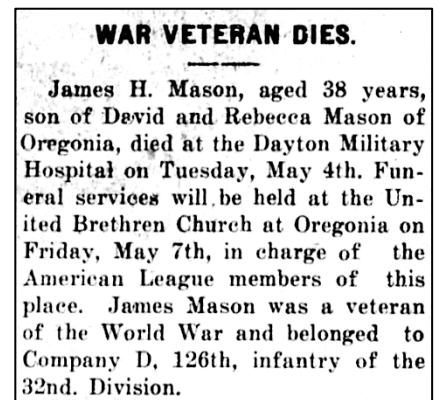
*The Western Star and Lebanon Gazette*  
(Lebanon, Ohio), Saturday, May 6, 1826,  
Page 3, Column 5

150 Years Ago:



*The Western Star* (Lebanon, Ohio),  
Wednesday, May 4, 1876,  
Page 3, Column 5

100 Years Ago:



*The Western Star* (Lebanon, Ohio),  
Thursday, May 6, 1926,  
Page 10, Column 3

## OGS 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE RECAP AND DATES FOR NEXT YEAR

Thank you to all who participated in the OGS Annual Conference this past weekend. Warren County was well-represented by both WCGS Volunteers and Members. If you were able to join us in person, I hope you learned a great deal and enjoyed the Exhibit Hall and all the vendors. If you were unable to be there in person, your support was still felt and appreciated!

It was fun to be there with two of our neighbors, Hamilton County Genealogical Society (HCGS) and Clermont County Genealogical Society (CCGS), along with some others from across the state and several vendors. The raffles had too many prizes to count, and we even had a few prize winners in our group.

Next year, the OGS Annual Conference will once again be held at the Sharonville Convention Center. “**Finding Your Family’s Heroes**” is the theme, so mark your calendars for **Wednesday, April 28, through Saturday, May 1, 2027**, and consider joining us for the weekend!



WCGS received their 45<sup>th</sup> Year Certificate from the Ohio Genealogical Society on Saturday, May 2, 2026. Pictured above from left to right: Julie Cowger, WCGS Volunteer; Jim Brokaw, WCGS President; Linda L. Eckert, WCGS Past President, and Penny Brown, WCGS Volunteer.

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## MEMBER PERKS ON OUR WEBSITE FOR WCGS MEMBERS

If you are a member of WCGS, when was the last time you logged in to the [Members Area](#) of our website? If you have not done this yet, you will need to complete the [Online Membership Application](#) to get your information into the system and then log in to view these pages.

- *Heir Lines* – ALL past issues have been digitized and are available, even the issues from 1981 when we started! While we have been without an Editor since 2022, the past issues are full of wonderful information. By the way, we are still seeking an Editor! Let me know if you are interested.  
<https://www.wcgsohio.org/heir-lines>
- WCGS Annual Financial Statements – Our Bylaws state we are to publish the Annual Financial Statements in the Spring issue of *Heir Lines*, and in the absence of being able to do that, we post them on our website.  
<https://www.wcgsohio.org/financial-statements>
- Videos – Recordings of our programs are made available as permitted by our speakers. It’s always nice to be able to watch them again; you never know what tidbit you might catch the second time around!  
<https://www.wcgsohio.org/wcgsvideos>
- WCGS Books for Members – New for 2026, we have started adding a few of our publications online that you can access online or download and save to your computer.  
<https://www.wcgsohio.org/wcgs-books-for-members>

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## CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

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### NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 128, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701-0128  
Telephone 703-525-0050 or 800-473-0060 <https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/>

#### **2027 Family History Conference**

Save the Dates! Thursday, May 20 –  
Saturday, May 22, 2027 - Madison, WI

### **2026 Family History Conference: “America at 250”**

Wednesday, May 27 – Saturday, May 30, 2026 - Fort Wayne, IN  
<https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

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### PALATINES TO AMERICA GERMAN GENEALOGY SOCIETY

P.O. Box 141260, Columbus, OH 43214  
<https://palam.org/>

### **2026 PAL AM National Conference – “Our German Ancestors: Building America”**

Thursday, June 18 – Saturday, June 20, 2026 – In-Person  
<https://pennpalam.org/>  
Double Tree Resort Hotel, 2400 Willow Street Pike, Lancaster, PA 17602

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### GRIP GENEALOGY INSTITUTE

<https://grip.ngsgenealogy.org/>  
Sunday, June 22 – Friday, June 26, 2026 – Virtual Courses  
Sunday, July 12 – Friday, July 17, 2026 – In-Person Courses  
University of Pittsburgh, 4200 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260-0001

Save the **2027** Dates!

Sunday, June 21 – Friday, June 25, 2027 – Virtual Courses  
Sunday, July 11 – Friday, July 16, 2027 – In-Person Courses

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### INSTITUTE OF GENEALOGY AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH (IGHR)

c/o Georgia Genealogical Society, Inc., P.O. Box 551247, Atlanta, Georgia 30355-2747  
Telephone 678-439-7503 <https://ighr.gagensociety.org/>

### **IGHR 2026 Virtual Institute**

Monday, July 27 – Friday, July 31, 2026 – Virtual

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### THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA

2100 Byberry Road, Suite 111, Philadelphia, PA 19116  
<https://genpa.org/>

### **2026 Pennsylvania Genealogy Event (PaGE) Conference**

Thursday, August 6 – Sunday, August 9, 2026 – Virtual  
Early Bird Pricing of \$175 through May 31!  
24 Speakers, 16 Gathering Sessions, 32 Live Q&A Sessions  
<https://events.genpa.org/>

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### **2026 KENTUCKY HISTORY AND GENEALOGY CONFERENCE**

Call for Speakers and Vendors!  
<https://www.lexpublib.org/historyconference>  
Friday, August 7 – Saturday, August 8, 2026  
Lexington Public Library – Central Library  
140 East Main Street, Lexington, KY 40507  
Registration opens Monday, June 1, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

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### **EAST COAST GENETIC GENEALOGY CONFERENCE (ECGGC) 2026 CONFERENCE**

#### **Fifth Annual Conference – In-Person and Virtual**

Friday, August 21 – Sunday, August 23, 2026  
Registration begins March 5; early bird pricing good through June 22, 2026.  
Embassy Suites at Boston Logan Airport, 207 Porter St., Boston, MA 02128  
<https://ecggc.org/>

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**ILLINOIS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 10195, Springfield, IL 62791-0195

<https://ilgensoc.org/index.php>

**2026 Fall Conference: “Illinois 250: History in the American Bottom”**

Saturday, October 24, 2026 – Hosted by the St. Clair County Genealogical Society  
Gateway Convention Center, 1 Gateway Dr., Collinsville, IL 62234

**OHIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

Samuel D. Isaly Library, 611 State Route 97 West, Bellville, OH 44813-8813

Telephone 419-886-1903 <https://www.ogs.org>

**2027 OGS Annual Conference: “Finding Your Family Heroes”**

Save the dates! Wednesday, April 28 – Saturday, May 1, 2027 – In-Person  
Sharonville Convention Center, 11355 Chester Road, Sharonville, OH 45246-4002

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**GENEALOGY WEBINARS**

Please visit the following sites for complete lists of webinars being presented.

[Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center](#)

[American Ancestors by New England Historic Genealogical Society](#)

[ConferenceKeeper](#)

[Florida State Genealogical Society](#)

[International Society for British Genealogy and Family History](#)

[Legacy Family Tree Webinars](#)

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**KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS**

Support WCGS each time you check out by participating in the Kroger Community Rewards Program.

- Visit <https://www.kroger.com> and sign into your Kroger account.
- Click the icon above your name to access “My Account” and look for Community Rewards on that page.
- Select Community Rewards and search by Organization Name or Number and enroll in the program:
  - Organization Name – Warren Co Chpr of the Ohio Genealogical Soc
  - Organization Number – SU662

Then, every time you shop and use your Kroger Plus card, Kroger will make a small donation to WCGS!

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**WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

WCGS has more than 160 Warren County Genealogical publications and a good number of Used Books available for purchase. Please visit the [Shop and Support](#) page of our website.

Membership is \$25 for membership or \$250 for a Life Membership. Please visit the [Join or Renew](#) page of our website.

Phone: 513-695-1144

Email: [wcgsoh@gmail.com](mailto:wcgsoh@gmail.com)

WCGS Website: <https://www.wcgsohio.org>

**RESOURCE LIBRARY HOURS:** Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**The WCGS Resource Library is open to the public. We are a FamilySearch Affiliate Library.**

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**THANK YOU!**

Thank you to the following people and organizations who have made a monetary or materials donation to WCGS recently. Our Society and Resource Library Catalog continues to expand because of your generosity.

- |                   |                              |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| ❖ John Bowdle     | ❖ Phyllis Raker              |
| ❖ Jim Brokaw      | ❖ Jo Roth                    |
| ❖ City of Lebanon | ❖ Jillorah (Herdman) Summers |
| ❖ Kristy Engle    |                              |



# Warren County Genealogical Society

406 Justice Drive, Lebanon, Ohio 45036  
513-695-1144

[wcgsoh@gmail.com](mailto:wcgsoh@gmail.com)



**WHEN: Wednesday, May 20, 2026**

**WHAT: 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Awards Banquet**

**WHERE: Phillippi Meeting Room**

Otterbein Senior Life, 585 OH-741, Lebanon, OH 45036

**TIME: 5:30 p.m. Doors Open**

**6:00 p.m. Beverages and Buffet Dinner (Cost is \$25.00 per person.)**

**Reservations and payments must be received by May 8, 2026.**

<https://www.wcgsohio.org/product-page/wcgs-45th-anniversary-and-awards-banquet>

**7:00 p.m. Recognition of Charter Members and Honored Guests**

**Lineage Society Inductions**

**7:30 p.m. Program by Dana Palmer**



## “Researching Early Settlers of the Northwest Territory”

Did your ancestors live in the Northwest Territory? Discover more about these early settlers and what records are available.

**Presented by Dana Palmer, CG®, CGL<sup>SM</sup>**

Dana Palmer has been a certified genealogist (CG) since 2009 and a certified genealogical lecturer (CGL) since 2019. She has been a genealogy instructor at Sinclair Community College since 2010. Dana has spoken at national, state, and local genealogy events and conferences including RootsTech, NGS, FGS, and frequently at OGS (Ohio). She specializes in lineage society applications, publishing family books, Midwestern research – specifically Ohio, but also has experience in Germany, Denmark, and the U.K. Dana is also employed by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants on their Silver book team. She has over 41 years of experience in family history work and has received numerous awards for her books and volunteer efforts. Dana joined her first lineage society at age 20 and belongs to several lineage societies, including the International Society Daughters of Utah Pioneers (ISDUP), National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR), National Society United States Daughters of 1812 (USD 1812), and Colonial Dames. In addition to her career in genealogy, Dana has a bachelor’s degree in math education to teach high school mathematics.



For more information about Dana, please visit her website: <http://www.treasuredlineage.com/>



Please join us for an evening of celebration and community!

You can make your reservation and pay for your meal(s) online on our website at: <https://www.wcgsohio.org>, or by dropping off cash or a check at our Resource Library, or mailing a check (please do not mail cash) to WCGS, 406 Justice Drive, Lebanon, OH 45036.

For more information, please contact WCGS at **513-695-1144** or [wcgsoh@gmail.com](mailto:wcgsoh@gmail.com).

## Phillippi Meeting Room

### Otterbein Senior Life

585 North State Route 741, Lebanon, Ohio 45036

#### Directions:

From the intersection of State Route 63 (OH-63) and State Route 741 (OH-741), head **NORTH** on **SR 741**.

Highlighted in **yellow**: Turn **LEFT** onto **WHEELER WAY**, **RIGHT** onto **ORCHARD LANE**, and **LEFT** onto **CIRCLE DRIVE**. Follow CIRCLE DRIVE all the way around to the stop sign.

◇ Go straight, continuing on CIRCLE DRIVE, until Otterbein is on your right. Keep going straight until the road curves to the right and you see a parking lot. Phillippi Hall and the Meeting Room will be on your right, almost all the way back to SR 741.

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If you missed the turn onto WHEELER WAY, don't panic!

Highlighted in **pink**: Keep driving on SR 741 and turn **LEFT** onto **KING STREET**. Follow it until you can turn **LEFT** onto **CIRCLE DRIVE**. Follow directions above after the "◇".

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Highlighted in **pink** and **yellow**: If you can't turn left onto KING STREET (it has been closed due to construction), keep driving on SR 741. Turn **LEFT** onto **LINKS WAY**, **RIGHT** onto **KING STREET**, and left onto **CIRCLE DRIVE**. Follow directions above after the "◇".

