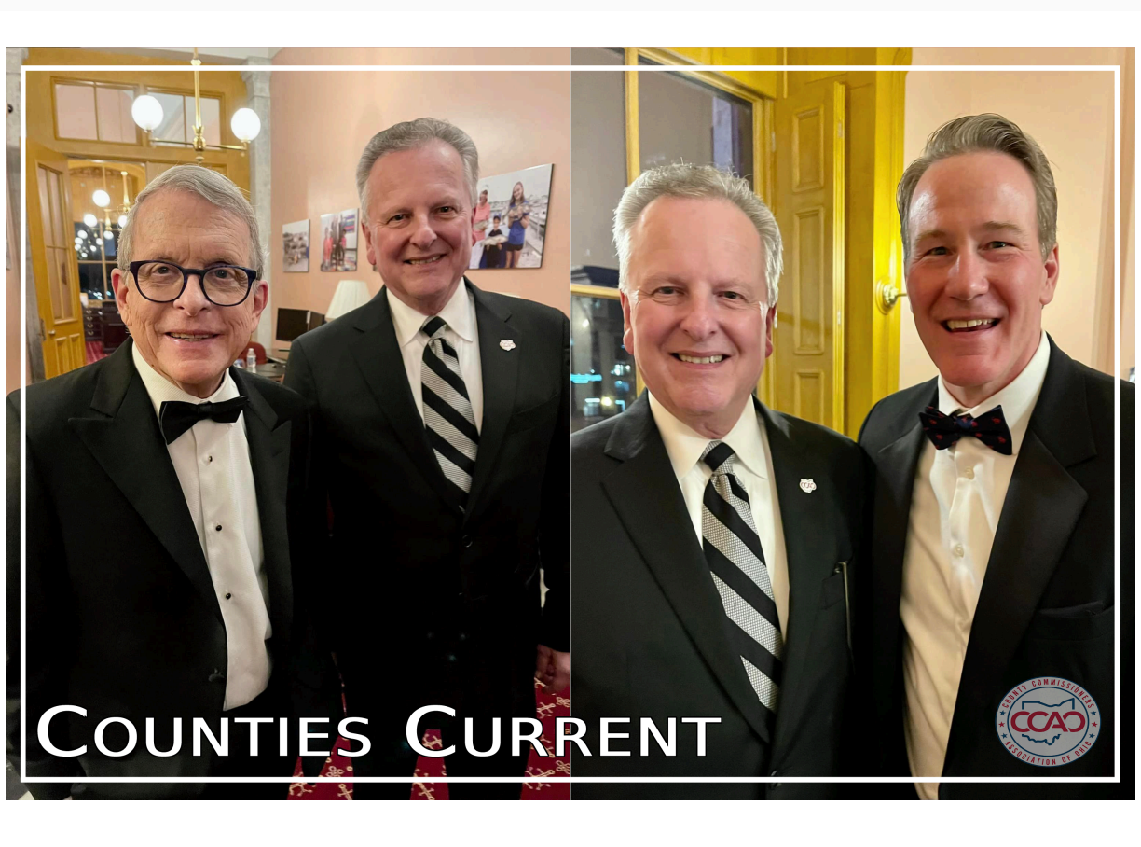

January 9, 2023

CCAO President and Henry County Commissioner Glenn Miller spent time with Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted at the DeWine-Husted Inaugural Gala. CCAO congratulates Governor DeWine and Lt. Governor Husted on winning second terms and is excited to continue the strong state-county partnership over the next four years.

If you are having issues viewing Counties Current in your email, click [View this email in your browser] at the top of the email.

Association and Member News | State and Federal News | Education and Grants | ARPA and BIF Resources | County News | Did You Know? | Job Postings

Statehouse Report and Counties Current Archive | Print Version | Dates to Remember

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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Lisa McClure appointed to open Paulding County Commissioner position

On Thursday, the Paulding County Republican Central Committee appointed Lisa McClure to the open Paulding County Commissioner position. The seat became open when former commissioner Roy Klopfenstein won his election to the House of Representatives.

McClure has served as the executive director of the Paulding County Area Foundation, a body that awards grants and gifts to community efforts. She has also served on the Wayne Trace Board of Education, the Ohio 4-H Foundation Board, the Paulding Chamber of Commerce, and other community boards.

After she is sworn in, McClure will serve the remainder of the seat's unexpired term (December 2024).

Save the Date! New Member Training to be held February 27 - March 1

As a reminder, New Member Training is coming February 27, 28 and March 1 at the DoubleTree in Columbus.

Hotel reservations, registration and agenda will be coming out later this week at CCAO.org and in subsequent issues of *Counties Current*.

We encourage all members, new and experienced to attend! If you have questions, contact Robin Garrett at rgarrett@ccao.org.

URGENT: Last week to review broadband maps; BroadbandOhio to host virtual Q&A sessions in January

The Federal Communications Commission recently released new broadband maps that **will be used to determine the amount of funding Ohio will receive to expand broadband access throughout the state**. To improve the maps and ensure Ohio receives as much support as possible, we need your help!

You can view the current map through the link above or directly at BroadbandMap.fcc.gov.

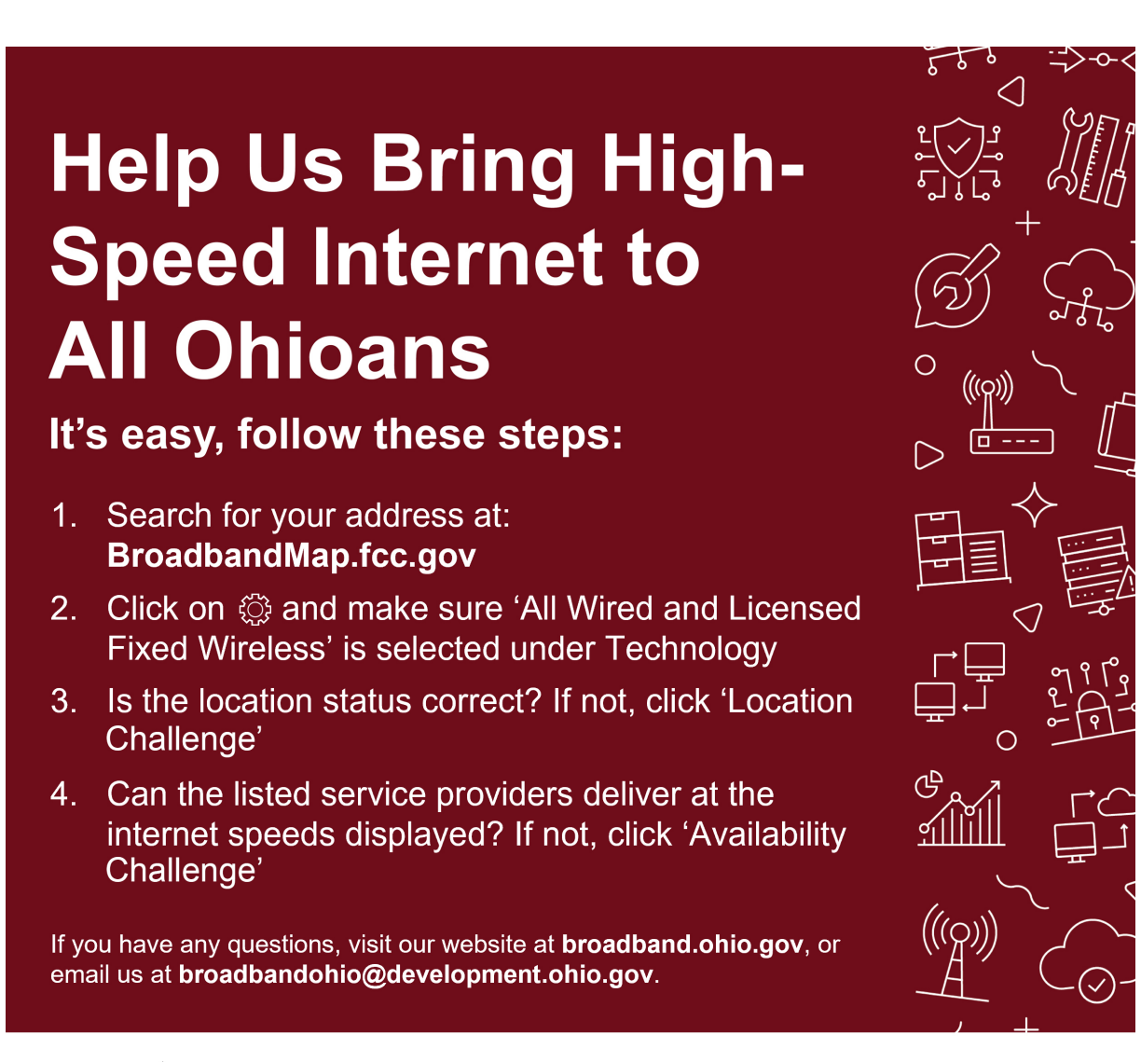
By Jan. 13, 2023, we need as many Ohioans as possible to check the federal maps, and if there is an inconsistency, submit supporting information. The FCC has released both an FAQ and the poster displayed below.

BroadbandOhio will additionally be hosting a virtual Q&A session to assist Ohioans on the process. You can access the sessions at the link below.

- January 10, 10 a.m.

BroadbandOhio is urging Ohioans to do the following, in addition to reviewing the maps for their area:

1. Share the email below with all listservs that reach your community, as well as your broader network in Ohio.
2. Share the attached poster on social media, in your office building, and in commonly used spaces in your community.
3. Talk to as many people as you can. The more people who know, the better!


Help Us Bring High-Speed Internet to All Ohioans
It's easy, follow these steps:
1. Search for your address at: BroadbandMap.fcc.gov
2. Click on ⚙ and make sure 'All Wired and Licensed Fixed Wireless' is selected under Technology
3. Is the location status correct? If not, click 'Location Challenge'
4. Can the listed service providers deliver at the internet speeds displayed? If not, click 'Availability Challenge'
If you have any questions, visit our website at broadband.ohio.gov, or email us at broadbandohio@development.ohio.gov.
Ohio Department of Development
BroadbandOhio

Reimbursement for psychotropic drug reimbursement must be submitted by February 15

The Psychotropic Drug Reimbursement Program for County Jails will continue in SFY 2023 (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023). OhioMHAS will provide reimbursement to counties for the cost of certain drugs dispensed to inmates of county jails in Ohio. Reimbursement for SFY 2023 shall be submitted by the county sheriff's office for the following periods identified below. Failure to submit reimbursement requests by the identified dates will result in the request being denied.

- July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022 – submitted by February 15, 2023

The total reimbursement amount available for SFY 2023 is $3 million. Of the total amount, $1,500,000 is available for each reporting period. A county jail will receive reimbursement based on their jail's percentage of the total amount of reimbursement requested across all jails participating in the program. For example, if a county jail accounts for 1% of the total amount requested for the reporting period, the jail would receive $15,000.00.

Attached is the Guidelines and Assurances and the Entry Form. Both documents must be submitted to jailreimbursement@mha.ohio.gov by the deadline to be eligible for reimbursement. More information about the Psychotropic Drug Reimbursement Program can be found on the OhioMHAS website.

OhioMHAS will upload payment amounts for each jail in the Grants and Funding Management System. Once processed, the ADAMH Board will receive the funds. For jails that are in multiple ADAMH Board counties, the payment upload will be processed to the Board in the county where the jail is located.

Please reach out to Chris Nicastro, Chief of the Bureau of Criminal Justice Services in the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, with questions. You can contact him at 614-466-9969 or christopher.nicastro@mha.ohio.gov.

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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Behavioral health coalition releases statement on funding in House Bill 45

On Friday, ADAMH Board executive directors and other Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) stakeholders received a statement from the directors of OhioMHAS, the Ohio Department of Medicaid, RecoveryOhio, and the Chancellor of Higher Education regarding Governor Mike DeWine's signature on House Bill 45 (read more regarding the bill in the most recent edition of *Statehouse Report*).

Among the bill's appropriations is $85 million to support the recruitment and retention of behavioral health professionals. Medicaid, Higher Education, OhioMHAS, and RecoveryOhio have partnered to boost the behavioral health workforce by building and sustaining a pipeline from institutions of higher education to the frontlines of behavioral health.

The coalition had been planning next steps in advance of the governor's signature to help speed the implementation of the programs. The letter indicates that additional information regarding guidance and applications for grants will be available in the near future.

You can read the full letter here. CCAO will keep our members informed as more information becomes available.

NACo is accepting applications for 2023 Achievement Awards

On December 19, NACo officially put out the call for applications for NACo Achievement Awards. The award program, entering its 53rd year, celebrates outstanding county government programs and services.

Achievement Award winners will be featured in County News, NACo's primary newsletter, and will be honored at NACo's Annual Conference. The recognition is also useful for highlighting important projects to your local community.

The awards cover 18 program categories, such as Children and Youth, Criminal Justice and Public Safety, Health, Human Services, Planning, Transportation, and more.

In 2022, Ohio counties received 28 Achievement Awards. You can view a full list of NACo Achievement Award winners dating back to 2009 at NACo's award database.

The deadline to submit applications is April 7, 2023, with applications received before March 3 receiving $25 off the application fee.

EDUCATION AND GRANTS

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Visit the Grants and Funding Opportunities page on the CCAO website for a detailed listing of open grant programs.

CCAO to host human resources best practices webinar

This Wednesday at 9:30, CCAO will host a webinar will discuss that will discuss best practices of human resources for Ohio counties. In honor of playoffs and bowl games, we will reinforce "the best defense is a good offense" to avoid litigation. This includes being knowledgeable and making sure county policies and practices are current on remote work, position descriptions (including classified and unclassified designations), medical leaves (ADA), and understanding retaliation claims.

The webinar will be presented by Tommie Jo Brode, J.D., a former Portage County Commissioner and former member of the CCAO Board of Directors. She received her Juris Doctorate from Capital University in Columbus, Ohio and her Bachelor of Arts from Youngstown State University. Tommie Jo is licensed to practice law in Ohio and has served employers in many locations throughout the eastern United States. Her professional experience includes practicing employment law, multi-state toxic tort litigation, managing corporate workers' compensation programs, risk management, diversity and inclusion, collective bargaining, EEOC, ADA, FMLA, and occupational health and disability.

You can register for the webinar here.

PNC Bank to host economic forecasting webinar

On January 12, PNC Bank will be hosting a webinar entitled, "Forecasting Ohio's Economic and Political Climate." The webinar will focus on Ohio's economy, the work of the State Treasurer's office, and upcoming legislative changes that may affect the state's economic landscape.

The webinar will be hosted by Robert E. Dailey, the Executive VP and Managing Director of PNC Public Finance and will feature as speakers Robert Sprague, the Ohio Treasurer of State, kurt Rankin, a senior economist for PNC, and Brian Hicks, the President and CEO of Hicks Partners, LLC.

Registration for the webinar is free and can be completed here.

CCAO recommends counties register staff for the webinar to hear from experts on what the state can expect in the new year.

Public water system equipment grant program accepting applications

The H2Ohio Public Water System Equipment Grant is now accepting applications. The program is open only to community public water systems and is intended to assist these water systems with purchasing vital equipment.

Equipment the funds may be used for include valve exercising equipment, pressure loggers, metal pipe locators, listening devices to detect leaks, and clamp-on flow meters to ensure the meters are accurate. Training costs for the above equipment is also an eligible expense.

Other equipment may be requested and may be approved on a case-by-case basis.

Applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. January 25. Award determinations will be issued by the Ohio EPA within 90 days of the close date. If you have questions regarding the program, please contact DDAGW.Grants@epa.ohio.gov.

SAM.gov, federal grant portal, walkthrough available

Last month, the US General Services Administration hosted an online forum to help walk state and local officials through how to use SAM.gov. The website is the primary portal for intergovernmental assistance from the federal government to state and local governments.

The Administration has made the presentation slide deck and the recording of the session available for download, as well as a one-page guide.

ARPA and BIL RESOURCES

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This section of Counties Current will be a permanent fixture for the foreseeable future to help counties with the ins and outs of the American Rescue Plan Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. These two laws provide a once-in-a-generation investment.

Resources for ARPA Reporting and Compliance

The most recent version of the US Treasury Reporting Guidance was published September 20, 2022. Counties and other local governments with populations greater than 250,000 or ARPA distributions greater than $10 million are required to file Project and Expenditure Reports no later than 30 days after the end of each quarter throughout the grant period. Other recipients will file Project and Expenditure Reports annually by April 30.

Members are urged to consult resources from US Treasury, NACo, and the Ohio Office of Budget and Management for more information about reporting and how to use ARPA funds. CCAO maintains a list of ARPA links and resources, including a comparison of state and federal procurement laws, at the ARPA Resources page.

Ohio Ethics Commission issues statement regarding stimulus funds

Last week the Ohio Ethics Commission released a statement ensuring that public officials are aware that stimulus funds, such as those received under the federal American Rescue Plan Act and the funds that communities will receive under Governor Mike DeWine's Appalachian investment program, are public funds and that conflict of interest laws must be observed.

To that effect, the Commission also recirculated its Advisory Opinion No. 2009-006, issued in 2009 regarding stimulus funds made available to governments under the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. It provides a more in-depth examination of potential conflicts of interest with stimulus funds, including a discussing regarding vendors.

CCAO encourages members refamiliarize themselves with this Advisory Opinion and conflict of interest laws to ensure good stewardship of ARPA and Appalachia funds.

Guidance and overview of available BIL funding available from NACo and the Ohio Department of Transportation

NACo and ODOT each host a resource page providing information to counties about the Bipartican Infrastructure Law. The pages are rich with information including multiple tables providing overviews and links to funding opportunities, a timeline of upcoming grant programs, and much more.

The NACo website can be found here and the ODOT website can be found here.

CCAO strongly encourages counties to frequently visit the sites and apply for funding through the myriad of programs to bring valuable federal funds to Ohio communities.

COUNTY NEWS

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Each week Counties Current highlights the happenings in our counties in the words of their local media. One county from each of the CCAO's five districts is highlighted.

Northwest District

Proposed Hicksville solar farm crops up at county commissioners' session

Crescent-News, January 6, 2023

Defiance County commissioners met here Thursday with representatives of a solar development company proposing a renewable energy project across two counties.

The discussions with David Gulden and Aaerin Garczyk of the firm Geenex Solar were part of county commissioners' regular monthly session in the Hicksville Village Council chambers.

The project is not only planned in the southwest part of Defiance County — in Hicksville Township, just south of the village — but also in Paulding's Carryall Township. The affected areas are on both sides of Ohio 49.

Geenex is exploring the possibility of a 1,400-acre facility capable of producing 140 megaWatts of power, with property rental efforts well underway. Solar companies typically lease land for decades to provide space for panels that generate power placed on the electric grid, provided an electrical substation is nearby.

Northeast District

Medina County Courthouse Ribbon Cutting

Cleveland.com, January 2, 2023

City and County officials came together on December 20, 2022, to hold a ribbon cutting and celebrate the opening of the new courthouse on the square.

"The ribbon cutting was a culmination of about five years of work by a whole team of people," said County Commissioner Bill Hutson.

Mayor Dennis Hanwell said that this was an exciting event as discussions of a new courthouse began even before he began serving as mayor. Hutson shared that, when he began working as a commissioner, he assembled a team of people to look at and assess county facilities. The team identified the courthouse as a priority.

Central District

Commissioners sign off on Prospect Township solar, wind restrictions

Marion Star, January 3, 2022

Add Prospect Township to the growing list of Marion County townships that are placing restrictions on the development of solar and wind energy facilities.

The Marion County Board of Commissioners voted 3-0 last Thursday during their final meeting of 2022 to approve a resolution that was submitted by the Prospect Township Trustees. The resolution "designates all unincorporated areas of Prospect Township to be a restricted area prohibiting the construction of an 'economically significantwind farm,' a 'large wind farm,' or a 'large solar facility,' as those terms are defined in the Ohio Revised Code."

Per Section 4 of Ohio Senate Bill 52, which went into effect on Oct. 11, 2021, the restrictions "shall not apply to any application for a certificate, or material amendment to an existing certificate, from the (Ohio) power siting board." Senate Bill 52 allows county commissioners "to prevent Ohio Power Siting Board certification of certain wind and solar facilities by adopting a resolution designating all or part of the unincorporated area of the county as a restricted area."

Southwest District

Butler County officials dealing with big issues this year

Journal-News, January 6, 2023

The Butler County commissioners have agreed to finance a number of large projects countywide, and 2023 will be the year some of these projects, such as ramped up roadwork and new educational opportunities, will get underway.

The commissioners received $74.4 million in COVID-19 pandemic relief funds from the federal government and decided to share the wealth with other entities and jurisdictions. So far, they have authorized 23 projects totaling $68.4 million. A couple large allocations where countywide endeavors like providing high speed internet to all areas and $5 million more to help repave county and township roads.

President Joe Biden signed the $1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) into law March 11, 2021 and it allocated $350 billion to help local governments with struggles spurred by the coronavirus pandemic. When the commissioners learned of the windfall last year, they invited other governments and entities to pitch projects, the requests totaled in excess of $200 million.

Southeast District

Commissioners approve temporary Athens County budget for 2023

Athens Messenger, January 4, 2023

Athens County Commissioners recently passed a temporary budget after cutting $465,754.98 in requested funds — $300,000 of which was employee salaries.

The emergency session was held Dec. 29 in the conference room, located on the second floor of the courthouse annex. Commissioners Charlie Adkins and Chris Chmiel attended the meeting, while Lenny Eliason was on vacation.

In dealing with the cuts, Chmiel noted the numbers are placeholders until a final budget can be processed.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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JANUARY 11
CCAO WEBINAR:
HUMAN RESOURCES: BEST PRACTICES FOR COUNTIES

JANUARY 16
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR DAY

JANAURY 20
CCAO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 1
NEW MEMBER TRANINING

DID YOU KNOW?

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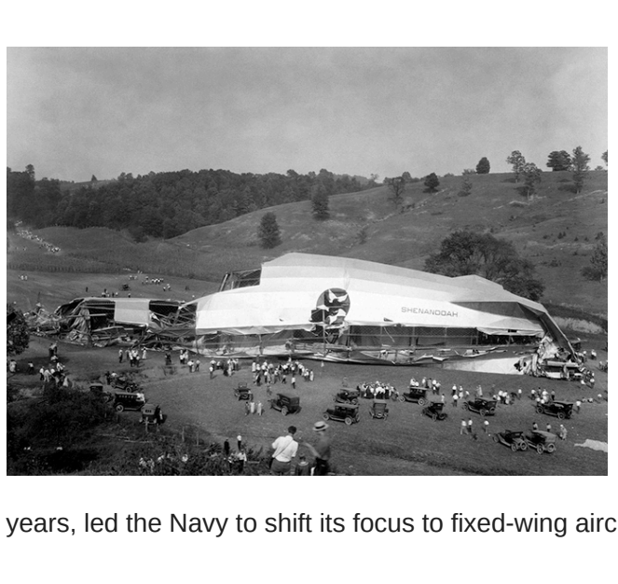
Noble County

In 1925, Noble County was the site of an aviation disaster which was one step to the end of the US Navy's rigid airship program.

The *USS Shenandoah* was a zeppelin constructed following designs of zeppelins used by Germany in World War One. The "height climber" design was used late in the war to avoid fighter planes and anti-air artillery. As a result, the weight and structure of the zeppelins were reduced to allow for greater altitude.

The *Shenandoah* made its first flight in 1923 and made a number of demonstration flights, including a 19-day transcontinental flight in October 1924.

On September 3, 1925, the *Shenandoah* was flying over Ohio when it was caught in a storm. Due in part to its "height climber" design with a weaker hull, the storm tore the ship apart. Fourteen of the 43 crewmen died in the crash.



The ship crashed in three main sites in Noble County: Buffalo Township, Noble Township, and Sharon Township. The wreckage that landed in Sharon Township caused a fire that burnt down a farm owned by Noble County family.

The crash of the *Shenandoah*, along with other zeppelin crashes in the following years, led the Navy to shift its focus to fixed-wing aircraft for high-altitude bombers.

Above: one of the three crash sites of the USS Shenandoah in Noble County.

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