



The City of Trotwood will be doing a brief survey. The survey will be included in our second quarter newsletter. The survey will also be found on our City's website and Facebook page. This survey will help the Newsletter team better determine the use and importance of the quarterly newsletter. Your participation in the survey is voluntary. We thank you in advance for your time.

Central State Extension and the City of Trotwood Partner Together Produce Incubator Farm Program

Central State Extension and the City of Trotwood are recruiting participants for their 2021 **PRODUCE INCUBATOR FARM PROGRAM** for aspiring farmers interested in starting their own farm business. Program participants will receive the following benefits at no charge:

1. Over 60 hours of hands-on training on all aspects (growing, planning, and business skills) of operating a market farm.
2. A small plot (roughly 1/10 acre in Year 1) on an incubator farm site for participants to apply skills they learned and grow produce.
3. Supplies for their first three seasons.
4. Marketing outlets for farmers to sell produce they grow.
5. Support in developing a business plan, accessing USDA grant programs, and finding land at the end of the program.



We are looking for individuals from socially disadvantaged backgrounds who can ideally commit to three years in the incubator program. The program will begin in March 2021.

Anyone interested in applying or learning more information, visit www.trotwood.org or contact Central State Ext. Agent Marc Amante mamante@centralstate.edu .org

Trotwood Fire to Conduct Hydrant Testing

To assure an adequate water supply for fighting fires and to help maintain the lowest insurance ratings possible, Trotwood Fire & Rescue personnel will be checking all fire hydrants for operation and flow. Trotwood Fire & Rescue will conduct fire hydrant checks **beginning May 1, 2021, through May 31, 2021**. We recommend that you check your tap water for clarity before doing any laundry during these dates.

Trotwood Fire & Rescue personnel makes every attempt not to disturb the rust in the waterlines. Trotwood Fire & Rescue and the Montgomery County Water Department no longer offer rust-removing detergents. Should you get rust on your clothing, please follow these steps:

- Do not permit the clothing to dry.
- Purchase a detergent with rust removing agents.
- Follow cleaning instructions on package.



City Parks & Recreation Events

♦ **Virtual Entrepreneur Summit**
Saturday, March 20th from 11am-2pm

♦ **Honoring Black History Month**
The Parks & Recreation Department has created a four -week Video Spotlight- James H. McGee, Major General Marcelite Harris, Bessie Coleman, and Quincy E. Pope Sr.
Videos are located on **The City of Trotwood YouTube channel.**

For current information regarding events, please check the website and Facebook page.

NO RENTALS
of City Parks and Facilities

Trotwood Information Notification System

The City of Trotwood is asking every citizen to sign up for the free alert system. The city will use this tool to share emergency alerts, informational notices, events, and other items of interest. Participation is free and sign up is easy by

- **Texting "alerts" to 937-563-4666**
- **Signing up at <http://hyper-reach.com/ohrotwoodsignup.html>**

For more information contact:
Ciara Lewis 937-854-7228

Cheryl Wheeler 937-854-7215

Powered by:
Hyper-Reach
Reach Beyond Technology

COMMUNITY CONNECTION SPRING 2021

City of TROTWOOD

PHONE 937-837-7771
FAX 937-854-0574

TROTWOOD.ORG



3035 OLIVE ROAD
Trotwood, OH 45426



Message From the Mayor, Mary A. McDonald

Hello, Trotwood Family.

I am excited to share with you that for the first time in the history of the City of Trotwood, the City received the "Ohio Auditor of State Award with Distinction" from Auditor of State Keith Faber. This award comes after a recent financial audit returned a clean audit report. It is presented to local governments and school districts who meet the following criteria of a "clean"

audit report:

- The entity must file financial reports with the Auditor of State's office by the statutory due date, without extension, via the Hinkle System, on a Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) accounting basis and prepare a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR);
- The audit report does not contain any findings for recovery, material citations, material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, Uniform Guidance (Single Audit) findings or questioned costs.
- The entity's management letter contains no comments related to:
 - 1) Ethics referrals
 - 2) Questioned costs less than the threshold per the Uniform Guidance
 - 3) Lack of timely report submission
 - 4) Bank reconciliation issues
 - 5) Failure to obtain a timely Single Audit in accordance with Uniform Guidance
 - 6) Findings for recovery less than \$500
 - 7) Public meetings or public records issues
 - 8) The entity has no other financial or other concerns.



This award recognizes the excellent record keeping of our staff and the leadership of our city administration. Please join me and the Trotwood City Council as we congratulate Finance Director Chris Peoples, City Manager Quincy Pope, and the entire Finance Department for this outstanding accomplishment. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the Trotwood community.

Mayor Mary McDonald

Trotwood, Ohio

2021 City Council Meetings

City Council meetings are held on the **FIRST** Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Due to COVID-19, meetings are held virtually; therefore, please check the City's website each month to register and join through the City's LIVE STREAMING PLATFORM **GoToWebinar®**



Message From the City Manager Quincy E. Pope

Although our daily lives have been drastically altered by COVID-19, our community is resilient and strong. Even though City offices and lobbies remain closed, I want you to know that our city council, administration, public works/services staff, and first responders are working diligently to ensure the needs of our residents and businesses are met. Trotwood City Council unanimously approved an overall budget of \$25,753,976 which maintains a balanced general fund for fiscal year 2021. This reflects a healthy financial position in light of challenges posed by COVID-19, and the City will continue a conservative approach in budgeting to help ensure long-term financial sustainability for our community.

The Trotwood Community Improvement Corporation (TCIC), the City's economic development arm, is ensuring growth and keeping momentum going with scheduled projects like our new Western Division Municipal Court and the Goodwill Easter Seal facility slated to break ground this year on East Main Street.

Our engineers are working on design concepts for the new amphitheater scheduled to be built in John Wolf Park.

D.R. Horton continues to build new housing in the Wolf Run subdivision. We are excited about the new rooftops. Rooftops bring increased population and is an economic development engine that drives community growth.

Public Works continues to make infrastructure improvements throughout the City. We encourage residents to contact our offices to report water main breaks, potholes, and damaged storm grates. To report such complaints, please call the Public Works Department at (937) 854-7287.

The City of Trotwood is filled with unique and charming neighborhoods, from inner city to picturesque surroundings, making Trotwood a desirable place to live, play, and worship. The City strives to maintain these neighborhoods by utilizing our Code Enforcement and Inspection Program. This program ensures compliance with property maintenance and zoning ordinances as well as building code regulations by residential and business property owners and works to investigate, address, and resolve properties that have been identified as: blighted, un-kept, hazardous, and unsafe.

Please take a minute to inspect your neighborhood. If you notice property maintenance violations such as: nuisance or abandoned properties, junk vehicles, recreational vehicles and high grass; please report your concerns immediately by calling (937) 854-7222. As a reminder, please visit the City's website and Facebook for continuous City event updates. Finally, thank you for your continued support.

Stay strong and safe,

**Quincy E. Pope Sr., M.P.A.,
C.P.M., ICMA-CM, CLEE
Trotwood City Manager**



Trotwood Police Chief, Erik Wilson Parity Inc., Top Ten African American Men

Trotwood Police Chief Erik L. Wilson was honored as one of Parity Inc.'s Top Ten African American Men in Montgomery County, Ohio. The award celebrates African American men and their achievements, focusing on family response, community involvement, leadership, and platform of influence. This prestigious award reflects positively on our Trotwood community and calls attention to the dedication towards excellence by our employees'.

City of Trotwood Income Tax Deadline April 15, 2021

The City of Trotwood has a MANDATORY filing requirement. The income tax rate of 2.25% applies to ALL who live, work, operate a business within, or do business within the City of Trotwood. Income tax returns are required for: ALL residents (regardless of income), businesses (including nonresident businesses and self-employed individuals who work in Trotwood), owners of rental property, and any other person required to file and pay the municipal tax as determined by the Income Tax Ordinance. The City of Trotwood's Income Tax office is located at **4 Strader Drive, Trotwood, Ohio, 45426.**

Due to COVID-19, the income tax lobby is closed; however, a new service window has been installed for safety and convenience. Service window hours are **Monday thru Friday, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm;** appointments are recommended. Please call **937-837-3415** for appointment requests and questions. Residents and businesses are encouraged to utilize the City's online tax tool for filing their city income taxes by going to the City's web page, click on *services*, then select *income tax*, then *tax tool*. Residents and businesses can also use the Income Tax Drop-Box and a staff member will complete the return then follow up with an appointment. Extended hours and Saturday appointments will be available in April.

Trotwood Police Warn Residents of Tax Preparer Scam

It is once again that time of year where we are filing our taxes and scammers are targeting people expecting returns. With COVID-19 causing so much upheaval this past year, it is even more important to be especially particular when choosing a tax preparer this tax season. The vast majority of them are professional and do their job honestly and with integrity; however, every year, unscrupulous preparers appear that could place you in harm's way.

One such unscrupulous preparers you should watch for are those that the IRS calls "Ghost" preparers. Ghost preparers never sign the tax returns that they prepare. They may also print the return and have you sign and mail it to the IRS. They do the same with e-filed returns. The Ghost preparer will not sign as the paid preparer because they will not have a Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN).

Remember to **NEVER** give out your personal information, credit card numbers, or bank information to anyone you do not know or trust. Trust your instincts. If it sounds too good to be true, it most likely is. **For more information regarding other types of scams, please visit the IRS website at <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom>.**

Trotwood Welcomes New Planning and Development Director



Deborah McDonnell is a native of Columbus, Ohio, graduating from The Ohio State University with a degree in Business/Human Resources. She worked in the private sector for many years as a chief financial officer and process improvement specialist. She also served as a counselor for small business start-ups, helping them organize their business, find a location, and mentor them through start-up challenges. Debbie started her career in Government as the Community and Economic Development Director for a small village in the Adirondack Mountains after serving a short term as an elected official. During her ten-year tenure, she led the redevelopment and revitalization of this waterfront community into a thriving central business district and recreational hub by creating and implementing master plans to capture the communities competitive advantage for growth. She worked on housing improvements, code enforcement, business façade program and earned the community over \$15 million in grants for infrastructure upgrades, parkland expansion, and housing improvements. She returned to Ohio to become the City Manager for Fairborn, Ohio, where she worked with elected officials and a strong departmental team to create and implement an economic development strategy to bring housing development, retail creation, and expansion, and elevate the quality of life for all. Debbie says she is excited to bring her knowledge of planning, permitting, and economic development to an exceptional Trotwood team committed to growth and redevelopment.