



## **NEWS RELEASE**

Contact: Valerie Lough

P: 937.324.7300

E: [vlough@springfieldohio.gov](mailto:vlough@springfieldohio.gov)

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **City Warning Residents of Walnut Tree Thefts**

SPRINGFIELD, OH (Jan. 3, 2019) — Springfield City Service Center is advising residents to be on the lookout for a person or persons who is marking and stealing walnut trees in the city.

The City has received complaints from residents who report that their walnut trees have been cut down and taken, said Chris Moore, Springfield City Service Director.

Trees should only be removed by licensed professionals, and residents are urged to report the thefts to police.

“The City is not conducting these removals,” said Moore. “We need citizens’ help in bringing this matter to Springfield Police so the person or persons can be apprehended.”

The person or persons cutting the walnut trees is marking some of them ahead of time, then returning to remove the logs, leaving the brush behind. The thefts are occurring on vacant, or what the perpetrators believe to be vacant, lots or properties with abandoned houses throughout the city. The individual(s) is only cutting down walnut trees.

On the rare occasions that the City removes trees from private property, the property owner is given multiple notifications by the City Code Enforcement Division to remove the tree themselves.

Anyone who has had a tree cut or who witnesses a theft is urged to call Springfield Police Division at (937) 324-7716.