

## Holiday treat for the birds!

Don't throw your tree away after the holidays; extend its life by placing it outside for the birds. Decorate the tree with strings of popcorn, cranberries and raisins. Hang pine cones covered with peanut butter and rolled in bird seed or chunks of suet on the tree. They will chirp with glee!



## Where can I recycle Propane Tanks?

Rusk County Farm Supply takes 20 gallon and above for free. They do NOT take one gallon tanks. Call them at 715-532-2829 for more information.

Lakes Gas charges \$2 for one gallon tanks and \$7 for 20 gallon tanks. Call them at 715-532-5593 for more information

Please do NOT throw them in your scrap metal as most scrap dealers do not want these.



## WINTER COMPOSTING



Just because it's winter, it doesn't mean we have to stop composting. You can continue to build a pile you've already started or store your food scrap in buckets outside. Compost needs both green items and brown items in order to work. In the winter you will have mainly food waste for green items and brown items will be harder to find. To learn more visit:

<http://www.ruskcounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Winter-Composting-Tips.pdf>

**Make Recycling a New Year's Resolution!**

## Recycling after Christmas

### Wrapping Paper – Reuse only!

Wrapping paper is NOT acceptable in your recycle bin due to having too many inks and metallics that cause problems with the pulping process. You can reuse it for craft projects or use as fill when you send packages.

### Christmas cards

All those lovely cards that your friends and family have sent this Christmas don't have to be thrown away, there are lots of eco-friendly alternatives:

- Put your cards out with your local recycling collection
- Reuse your cards as gift tags for presents, make into new cards, or decorative paper chains.

### Unwanted presents

Every Christmas we all receive something we really don't want or occasionally get the same present twice! But what do you with them? Here are some great ideas for making sure your unwanted gifts find a loving home:

#### Donate to charity shops

Take your gifts to your local charity and not only will they go to a good home, they will raise money for the charity too. If you have something especially nice, give it to a charity for an upcoming silent auction.

#### Regift

There's always a slight worry with re-gifting that you will give said unwanted present back to the person who gave it to you in the first place! But what might not be right for you could be perfect for someone else – you just need to rewrap it! Make sure the present is still intact and still has its labels.

#### Give away

Websites such as [freecycle.org](http://freecycle.org) make it easy to unburden those no longer wanted items. Just post it on the site and interested members will come and pick it up. Or put your items in the break room at work with FREE on it.

#### Sell it

If you're feeling the pinch in January, why not sell or auction presents online? There are lots of sites to choose from, including [ebay](http://ebay.com), [Craig's List](http://craigslist.org) and [Amazon](http://amazon.com).

### Decorations

Each year there is a Christmas decoration/tree swap during the Pics with Santa the last weekend of November. When you are putting your decorations away, sort out those that you no longer want and then they are ready to bring next year.

**Did you know that popcorn, candy, cocoa tins are recyclable?**