

Talkin' Trash

by Peter G. Gustafson



You will find the Lucketts Ruritan Club's Compactor and Recycling Service underway each and every Saturday morning at the Lucketts Elementary School from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon. This is a self-service operation. Ruritan Club members provide volunteer assistance as necessary. We request a minimum donation of \$6 to cover expenses. Please follow Covid-19 pandemic protocols: wear a mask and maintain a minimum of six feet of distance. For additional information, visit the Club's website at www.luckettsruritan.org.

Almost everyone in and around Lucketts is familiar with the Ruritan Club's Saturday morning "Trash" program at the Elementary School. Officially known as the Club's "Compactor and Recycling Service," this program is the Club's longest running and most significant source of funding. Patron donations help to provide for scholarships, grants, and support for Lucketts area students, schools, and non-profits.

The two-part service consists of a compactor truck for trash and two "roll-off" bins for recycling. Compactor service began 40 years ago in response to one of the community's most glaring problems at the time: dumping along our roadsides. In 1980, a charter member of the new Ruritan Club, Chet Martin, explored options to solve the dumping problem. A pilot program followed and a permanent service was soon up and running with the approval of the Club, Lucketts Elementary staff, the School Board, and County Supervisors.

In 1989, the Club added a recycling component, which required accepted items to be pre-sorted: aluminum cans; steel cans; bundled newspaper; and glass by color—clear, green, and brown. Over time, automation followed as off-site sorting facilities came online. The co-mingled recycling we know today is much faster and easier, but some simple rules still apply. The Recycling Guidelines below will help you to make your recycling efforts more efficient and cost effective.

Ruritan "Trash" was once 'the only game in town.' Other options were costly private rural collection or a 30-mile round trip to the landfill. The Club's new program proved to be cheap, convenient, and efficient, while also providing an opportunity to socialize with neighbors! Although today's Saturday morning Compactor and Recycling Service has competition from the curb-side pickup found in new subdivisions, our "Trash" service still maintains an advantage for the community—giving back.

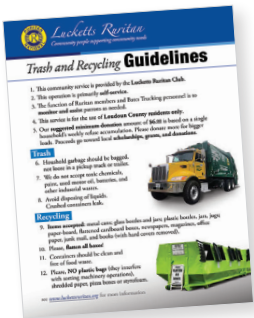


All photos by Peter Gustafson

Recycling Guidelines:

The quality of the co-mingled recyclables we collect is only as good as the quality of the materials you provide. Any unacceptable materials have to be removed from what we collect costing time and money. Please take a moment to study the list below and follow our guidelines closely. Thanks!!

If an item is not listed at right, assume it is not recyclable.



For more information about recycling and Guidelines go to – <https://luckettsruritan.org/compactor-recycling>

- ✓ Aluminum Cans
- ✓ Steel Cans
- ✓ Tin Cans
- ✓ Disposable Aluminum Pans
- ✓ Plastic Bottles, Jugs and Jars
- ✓ Newspapers, Magazines, Catalogs
- ✓ Office Paper
- ✓ Mail
- ✓ Paper Bags
- ✓ Books (remove and discard hard covers)
- ✓ Glass Bottles and Jars
- ✓ Flattened Cardboard
- ✓ Paper Boxes (i.e. cereal boxes)
- ✗ Plastic Bags of any type
- ✗ Any plastic that is not a bottle, jug, or jar
- ✗ Styrofoam
- ✗ Pesticide / Herbicide Containers
- ✗ Pool Chemical Containers
- ✗ Hazardous Material Containers
- ✗ Motor Oil / Antifreeze Containers
- ✗ Pressurized Tanks
- ✗ Batteries, Electronics, Light Bulbs
- ✗ Diapers, Clothing, Textiles
- ✗ Pizza Boxes, Napkins, Tissues, Paper Towels
- ✗ Paper Plates
- ✗ Shredded Paper
- ✗ Twine, String, Wire, Cables, Cords, Hoses
- ✗ Scrap Metal