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SustainVU
Growing Responsibly

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Open Streets Nashville – June 27

Open Streets is coming to Nashville on June 27 from 11am-2pm. Hosted by the [Office of the Mayor](#) and [Walk Bike Nashville](#), the inaugural Open Streets Nashville will be on 11th Ave through the Gulch. The event will allow you to check out many [alternative transportation](#) options while enjoying a parade, puppet show, food trucks, live music, and mini-fitness classes. More details [here](#).

Engage Green: Tiny House, Big Impact – July 1

[Team Green Adventures](#) and [Urban Green Lab](#) will be touring Nashville's smallest home, the Music City Tiny House, on July 1 at 6pm. The workshop will feature a discussion on

Congratulations to the Vanderbilt Baseball team on making it all the way to the national championship finals! Even though they didn't win, we still love them here at SEMO! And they weren't the only ones burning up the field this week....summer is here in a big way and has brought scorching temperatures with it. Remember to moderate your thermostat to a little warmer office temperature (76°F-78°F), close blinds and curtains in the hottest part of the day, and turn off lights when you leave a room to help us minimize our stress on the grid. Summer also means delicious produce from local farmers markets, and there are a couple workshops this month about preserving foods so you can enjoy your summer produce all year long! SEMO was excited to be a part of the group who donated bicycles to Edgehill Bike Club last month which you can read more about below. We also congratulate the winners of recent VU TIPs grant awards, including the projects focused on sustainability! Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the [SustainVU website](#) and [Facebook](#) page. Remember to stay cool and energy efficient this July and have a happy Independence Day!

tiny homes and how they fit into the larger picture of sustainable urban development and will give everyone the chance to walk through the home and ask questions. More details [here](#).

National Creative Ice Cream Day – July 1

Celebrate National Creative Ice Cream Day on July 1 at [Shelby Bottoms Nature Center](#) for a walk to the [East Nashville Farmer's Market](#) and to their organic teaching garden for creative ingredients to mix into ice cream. Register [here](#).

Vanderbilt Farmers' Market – July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

The Vanderbilt Farmers' Market will be held every Thursday from 3:00-6:00pm through October 29. The market is relocating for this summer to the curved section of Medical Center Drive adjacent to Vanderbilt Stallworth Rehabilitation Hospital, between Children's Way and Blakemore Avenue, steps away from the intersection of Blakemore Avenue and 21st Avenue South. More details [here](#).

BELL Garden Work Days – July 7, 11, 14, 18, 21, 25, 28

Summer is here, which means the Bellevue Edible Learning Lab ([BELL Garden](#)) is in full swing. The garden provides practical learning opportunities for the community in a setting that promotes physical activity, healthy eating, environmental stewardship, and multi-cultural

Andrea George, Director
Sustainability and Environmental Management Office
Vanderbilt University (615) 322-4551 | [e-mail](#) | [Web site](#)



Unclaimed bicycles donated to neighborhood youth organization

In the Edgehill community, [Terry Key](#) and his tight-knit group of neighborhood kids have a new batch of bicycles, thanks to Vanderbilt University! The Vanderbilt Sustainability and Environmental Management Office ([SEMO](#)) and [Plant Operations](#) arranged to donate bicycles to the Edgehill Bike Club that went unclaimed from campus and were approved for recycling by the Office of Housing and Residential Education ([OHARE](#)).

These bicycles were all left behind and unclaimed on campus at the end of the 2014 school year. Collected and stored for months by the Vanderbilt Grounds Department, the bicycles were eventually released for recycling by OHARE once no one at Vanderbilt had claimed them. This year, they were instead donated for reuse to [Edgehill Bike Club](#). On Friday May 29th, SEMO staff and student interns pulled up to a large group of cheerful volunteers and excited children and unloaded 31 bikes to begin the process of refurbishment.

Read the full story [here](#).

Keep cool, save money with hot weather energy tips

Summer is here and hot temperatures have officially arrived in Middle



Tennessee! Many of us will see an increase in our home electricity bills as we try to cool our homes in the summer heat, and we want to lessen our burden and conserve energy at work as well. Here are some simple tips from the [Tennessee Valley Authority](#) to help us all save money and energy but still stay cool. You can read the full list [here](#).

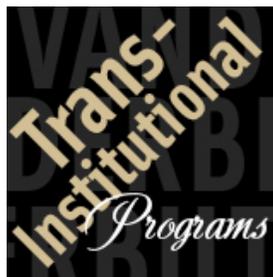
connections for all generations. Most of the harvest is donated to volunteers and area food bank agencies. No experience necessary to volunteer. More details [here](#).

Urban Farm: Preparation and Maintenance Day – July 7, 16

[Hands On Nashville's](#) Urban Agriculture Program empowers volunteers to gain gardening skills, learn about healthy eating choices, and help address our city's food access issues. Produce harvested from the garden is used in the Urban Agriculture Program's year-round educational activities that teach youth about the food system and how to make healthy eating choices. Whether you're curious about gardening, or an expert green-thumb, this volunteer opportunity is for you! More details [here](#).

Home Canning in 2015: Be Safe and Successful – July 9

Want to learn how to enjoy your garden's bounty into the colder months? Jane A. Gault, from the University of Tennessee Extension Office, will cover basic canning techniques, equipment and methods. Learn the difference between pressure canning and water bath canning and what foods require which method on July 9 from 6pm-7:30pm at the Green Hills Library. This program is brought to you by the [Nashville Public Library Seed Exchange](#):



At work:

- Set your thermostat a little higher, such as 76°F-78°F.
- Keep blinds and curtains closed during the day.
- Turn off lights when you leave a room and electronics when you leave work at night.

At home:

- Make sure your air conditioner filter is clean.
- Consider using your gas or charcoal grill outside for cooking rather than your stove or oven.

Two sustainability-focused projects awarded TIPs funding

Seventeen cross-disciplinary projects involving 153 faculty from all 10 Vanderbilt colleges and schools have been selected for the initial set of [awards](#) from the new [Trans-Institutional Program \(TIPs\)](#) initiative. The projects represent a broad range of research and teaching, with diverse topics including two focused on sustainability: “Sterling Ranch – Sustainability and Education Research Center”, and “Private Governance Approaches to Climate Change”.

The Sterling Ranch project includes partners from Peabody College, the College of Arts & Science, and the School of Engineering. The proposal seeks to establish a multifaceted sustainability test bed using the development of the Sterling Ranch planned city in Colorado. The Test Bed will focus on 1) energy and cyber-physical systems, 2) education ecosystem, and 3) sustainability and environmental quality.

The Private Governance Approaches to Climate Change project includes partners from the Law School, the College of Arts & Science, and the Owen School of Graduate Management. The proposal offers an ambitious, innovative, and inspiring trans-institutional response to climate change and draws on and extends existing collaborations across law and policy, environmental science, economics, and other social and behavioral sciences.

Read about all of the award winners [here](#).

Organic vs. conventional foods

Borrow seeds, grow plants, return seeds. More details [here](#).

World Population Day – July 11

This year's World Population Day slogan is "Investing in Young People" and explores the role of youth empowerment in our ever-growing world and focuses on the challenges and opportunities involved in sustainability and urbanization. Learn more [here](#) and check out the U.S. and World population clocks [here](#).

Sustainable Small Business – July 12

Do you want to learn more about sustainability efforts in small business? [Crepe A Diem's](#) Brittney Blackshear will speak July 12 at 5pm about her experience in running a sustainable food business by reducing waste and creatively reusing and upcycling as part of [Urban Green Lab's](#) Live Sustainably Series. Grab a local beer and engage in some casual conversation about how to make our world a little bit greener! More Details [here](#).

Nutrition Workshop: Preserves & Preservation 101 – July 15

Looking for a way to make your summer produce last all year long? [Team Green Adventures](#) and the [Nashville Farmers' Market](#) are hosting a workshop on preserves and preservation on July 15th at 6pm in the Nashville Farmers' Market. Get an introduction to basic methodologies

[Vanderbilt Health Plus](#) recently conducted an interview with Melinda Mahoney, registered dietitian, to get the raw facts on organic foods and



how they compare with conventional foods. Melinda explained that the terms "organic" and "conventional" refer to the different ways that farmers produce their crops. "Conventional farming uses chemical fertilizers and insecticides to reduce weeds and other pests. And organic farming uses methods to avoid these synthetic materials."

Melinda notes that the nutrient quality of organic foods has no significant difference from conventional foods, but there are some other differences between the two types of foods. Read the full interview [here](#).

Pope Francis calls for action on climate change in papal encyclical



"The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all...Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat this warming." -Pope Francis.

Pope Francis called for a transformation of policies, economics, and individual lifestyles to combat climate change in the papal encyclical released June 18. Read more about the Pope's announcement [here](#) or read the full encyclical [here](#).

Deciphering clues to prehistoric climate changes locked in cave deposits

[Jessica Oster](#), assistant professor of earth and environmental sciences at Vanderbilt University, is a member of a small group of earth scientists who are pioneering in the use of mineral cave deposits, collectively known as speleothems, as proxies for the prehistoric climate.



involved in canning, pickling, freezing, and other preservation options. More details [here](#).

Night Market at the Nashville Farmers' Market – July 17

The [Nashville Farmers' Market](#) hosts the Night Market every third Friday during the summer. Join them for live music, local shopping, and a cash bar until 8pm every month. More details [here](#).

Composting Class at Shelby Bottoms Nature Center – July 18

Growing season is here, bringing with it an abundance of locally grown produce. Learn how to compost your veggie and food scraps from your garden or local market on July 18 from 2-3 pm at [Shelby Bottoms Nature Center](#). More details [here](#).

Butterfly Garden Celebration – July 18

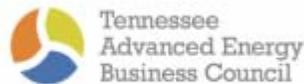
Join the staff at [Burgess Falls State Park](#) for a day of fun for the whole family! The all-day July 18th event will include educational programs, hikes, butterfly identification, creek studies, and more. More details [here](#).



Oster is investigating a cave in Tennessee to determine if it can be used as a proxy that can provide information about how the climate in the past has varied. It turns out that the steady dripping of water deep underground can reveal a surprising amount of information about the constantly changing cycles of heat and cold, precipitation and drought in the turbulent atmosphere above.

Read the full story [here](#).

Report highlights advanced energy as an economic driver in TN



The [Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council](#) has released a report that highlights advanced energy as an economic driver, as

well as a source for high quality jobs. Key findings include that the advanced energy sector supported nearly 325,000 jobs in 2013, and these jobs required skilled labor, and therefore the advanced energy sector is also a source of high quality jobs. Read the full Report, [here](#).

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For more information on any of these stories, events and more, visit the SustainVU website at www.vanderbilt.edu/sustainvu or contact the Sustainability and Environmental Management Office at sustainvu@vanderbilt.edu or (615) 322-2057.

