Welcome back students! We are so excited to have our students and faculty back on campus for the new academic year and loved meeting all the new students and their families during first year move-in and at the University Resource & Services Fair on move-in day. Thank you to all of the cardboard crew volunteers who worked hard to reduce our waste during move-in! Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the SustainVU website and Facebook page. Have a sustainable September and an incredible beginning of the school year!

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Dragon Boat Festival – September 9
The Cumberland River Dragon Boat Festival celebrates the importance of the Cumberland River to the city of Nashville. The stretch of river downtown once was polluted but thanks to the work of the Cumberland River Compact and others it has been cleaned up and is a great place to spend the day. More information here.
Cardboard Crew welcomes new students to campus

Students moving onto campus for this school year were welcomed by many volunteers helping make their move-in a little greener! The Cardboard Crew collects and recycles cardboard during first year student move in. Enormous amounts of cardboard are generated each year during move in from boxes used for packing as well as packaging for new items being purchased like televisions, microwaves, etc. Last year, the Cardboard Crew collected 12 pounds of cardboard per student during move in! In addition to cardboard, plastic film wrapping and Styrofoam are also recycled at this time.

The collaborative efforts of Cardboard Crew volunteers, Student Promoting Environmental Awareness and Responsibility (SPEAR), the Sustainability and Environmental Management Office (SEMO), and Plant Operations come together each year to demonstrate a commitment to environmentally responsible practices and to help make Vanderbilt a more sustainable enterprise. Thank you to all of the volunteers and all who recycled during move in 2017!

PARK(ing) Day

PARK(ing) Day is an annual open-source global event where citizens, artists and activists collaborate to temporarily transform metered parking spaces into “PARK(ing)” spaces: temporary public places.

The project began in 2005 when Rebar, a San Francisco art and design studio, converted a single metered parking space into a temporary public park

Park(ing) Day – September 15

PARK(ing) Day is an internationally recognized event where parking spots in various cities and towns are transformed into pocket parks and parklets. Visit the parklets across the city from 9am-4pm. More information here.

Sustaining Water Availability in Rural Communities – September 15

Join the talk at VU by Danny Reible, Donovan Maddox Distinguished Engineering Chair at Texas Tech. “Sustaining Water Availability in Rural Communities: Expanding Use of Poor Quality Waters” is co-sponsored by the VU Program in Environmental and Sustainability Studies. More information here.

Open Streets Nashville – September 17

Open Streets Nashville is a movement to activate people, strengthen businesses and inspire public spaces by temporarily closing streets to cars. Free to the public, the event will turn 12th Ave
in downtown San Francisco. Since 2005, PARK(ing) Day has evolved into a global movement, with organizations and individuals (operating independently of Rebar but following an established set of guidelines) creating new forms of temporary public space in urban contexts around the world.

The mission of PARK(ing) Day is to call attention to the need for more urban open space, to generate critical debate around how public space is created and allocated, and to improve the quality of urban human habitat… at least until the meter runs out! Check out Nashville Park(ing) Day locations throughout the city on September 15th, and join Vanderbilt’s own Park(ing) Day event from 9am-4pm in Lot 5a as they transform parking spaces into a parklet! Read more here.

Community spotlight: Glass and growth grab focus in Tennessee capital

We may be known as the Music City, but Nashville is also shooting for another designation. The municipality made recent headlines when city leaders announced a goal to become the “greenest city in the Southeast.” And increased recycling was among the goals a “Livable Nashville” committee recommended striving for. Nashville should aim to raise its residential and commercial diversion rate to 35 percent in the next three years, 50 percent by 2030 and 100 percent by 2050, the committee said.

The city’s recycling program collects standard single-stream materials, with the notable exception of glass. Nashville is known nationwide for its numerous honky-tonks, so it’s only fitting that the classic live music joints are the subject of an upcoming recycling initiative, one focused on recovery of glass bottles.

South into a park space that offers communities the opportunity to experience their city streets in a whole new way. More information here.

World Carfree Day – September 22

Ditch your car this World Carfree Day on September 22nd. Instead of driving, think about walking, riding your bike, or taking public transportation to work or school. Check out SustainVU’s alternative transportation webpage to find local transportation resources. More details here.

Greenway Shuffle – September 30

Walk the Greenway from the Nature Center to learn about all the new paved trails available not only in Warner Parks, but all over Nashville from 10-11:30am at the Warner Parks Nature Center. More information here.

Nashville Mini Maker Faire – September 30 – October 1

Maker Faire is a gathering of fascinating, curious people who enjoy learning and who
Sharon Smith and other Department of Public Works (DPW) staff members met with downtown business owners and found they were “all willing to try and help us with a glass recycling program,” she said. So, later this year, DPW anticipates beginning a trial voluntary glass recycling program at businesses in the commercial center. “We will roll out the honky-tonk glass bottle recycling program at about 35 establishments in our downtown core,” Smith said. “And we’ll probably collect more bottles than we collect in our drop-off program, because there’s just such a massive volume of bottles.” Read more here.

Vanderbilt collects glass for recycling at a number of locations around campus. Check here for a campus map.

Green Jobs Panel Discussion – October 3
Would you like your career to be part of the solution, not the problem? Are you wondering what kinds of jobs you could get in the environmental area after graduation? Meet recent Vanderbilt grads and find out about their green jobs and career plans in Buttrick 101 at 6pm. More information here.

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.

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