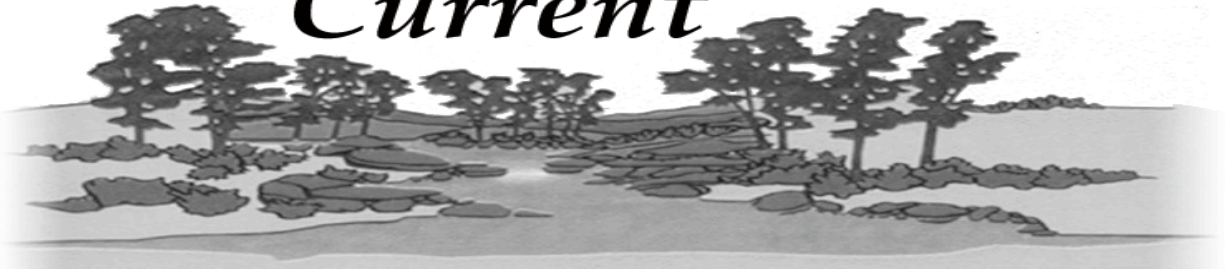


The Current



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

www.drca.org

September 2006

Marymount University Project

Anne Wilson and Maxine Nagel

The Marymount Project Task Force had its final meeting in July, and this fall, the University's proposal for the development at the corner of Old Dominion Drive and 26th Street will be considered by the county's Transportation and Planning Commissions prior to going before the County Board for consideration in October.

As outlined at the June Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) meeting, the proposal was scaled back from its original design so that it would conform to the current zoning of the site which is S 3-A. The proposal consists of an underground parking lot with capacity for 378 cars; a 45,000-square-foot three-story classroom building; a 250-seat auditorium; and a 234-bed dormitory that will be seven stories tall on Yorktown Boulevard. The distance between the back of the street curb to the proposed new buildings will be 32.1 feet on 26th Street, 34.1 feet on Old Dominion Drive and 39.3 feet on Yorktown Boulevard. Plans call for an eight-foot sidewalk and landscaping on both sides of the sidewalk. A pedestrian bridge from the project to the main campus is part of the design. Actual inclusion of the bridge in the project would be contingent on the County's approval of the bridge and the University's ability to secure funding for it.

The project's impact on traffic in the area has been of particular interest to our neighborhood. To help traffic flow around the project, street parking would be prohibited between Old Dominion Drive and Yorktown Boulevard to allow space for a left turn lane. By doing this, eastbound traffic on 26th Street would have a designated through lane. Similarly, a left turn lane would extend down Yorktown Boulevard for cars turning into the new garage. A "gateway" into the residential portion of 26th Street also has been discussed; this gateway would consist of a short narrowing of the street around the entrance to the bike path. The purpose would be to slow traffic and indicate to drivers that they are entering a residential neighborhood.

The final responsibility of the Task Force is a report that will be submitted to the County Board this fall. The concern expressed by many DRCA members that this project is too large in scope was not one that was shared by other task force members, including our Old Dominion, Rock Spring, and Yorktown Civic Association neighbors, and no substantial changes were made to Marymount's proposal after it was revised to conform to the zoning for the site.

The Marymount project will be the main topic for the DRCA meeting on September 20. The presentation will focus on traffic issues, and we will have what may be our final discussion about the project in preparation for the county meetings coming up in the fall.

(continued on page 3)

**The next DRCA Membership Meeting is Wednesday, September 20
at 7:30 p.m. at Taylor Elementary School.**

Marymount University Project

(continued from page 1)

If you are interested in this project and want to provide input, upcoming dates to note are:

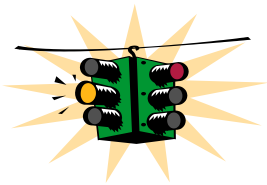
September 20 at 7:00pm-DRCA meeting at Taylor School

September 28-Transportation Commission

October 3-Planning Commission

October 14-County Board Meeting

Dates are subject to change, and for updated information, sign up for DRCA's Marymount email list at anne@drca.org.



Traffic Talk

Anne Wilson

Traffic light at 26th Street and Old Dominion Drive:

As readers of this newsletter know, the County approved a traffic light for this intersection in 2005. Plans for the light have been substantially (90 percent) completed, and soon they will be submitted to Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for review and approval. That process is expected to take about four weeks. It is anticipated that construction of the traffic signal will begin by spring of 2007.

Marcey Road:

For years, residents on Marcey Road have expressed concern to the County about speeds on that street. Once again this summer, a speed study was conducted on Marcey Road, and once again, the results did not meet the threshold that the County requires to install traffic calming measures. The neighbors have asked for a site visit by county staff to see what might be done to improve the situation for pedestrians on this street.

Military Road:

The county recently enhanced some of the speed limit signs on Military Road. They plan to conduct further study of the speeds on this street this fall.

If you have any questions or comments about traffic-related issues in the neighborhood contact Anne Wilson at anne@drca.org or (703) 525-0344.

Fall 2006 Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, September 20

Agenda: Marymount University Project and Related Traffic Issues

Wednesday, November 8

Agenda: To be determined

Join us at 7 p.m. for a social half hour.

The dates, times, and topics of DRCA meetings are subject to change. Updated agendas are sent via email to our list subscribers approximately one week prior to meetings. To join our list, please add your email address to the DRCA membership application. All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. at Taylor Elementary School unless otherwise noted.

Storm Damage along Donaldson Run

Larry Finch

The major storm during the night of June 24-25 resulted in serious damage in parks across Arlington. Trees fell into streams, trails were damaged, bridges were damaged or swept away, picnic tables were carried downstream, and ballfields were littered with debris. The most serious problems were in parks along Four Mile Run, but Donaldson Run also experienced some damage.

Runoff into Donaldson Run was increased because earlier storms had left the soil saturated and unable to absorb more water. As a result, virtually all of the precipitation in the watershed moved quickly into the stream, resulting in a surge of stormwater that appears to have been the largest in at least 30 years.

For Donaldson Run, most of the damage was along the restored stream channel in Zachary Taylor Park. Soil was eroded from around fiber logs and erosion-control fabric was pulled loose from the stream banks. The damage was due in part to two factors: first, the hundreds of small trees planted along the restored channel are still small; as they mature, their root systems will help to stabilize the streambanks.

(continued on page 6)

Schools Update

Greg Gromada

Taylor Elementary School

According to Principal Rob Hindman, with the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year coming soon, Taylor School will be welcoming several new teachers and professional staff to the faculty. In addition, a new fire alarm system will be installed this year, and the portable classroom that has been on the field for the past several years will be removed.

The first day of school is September 5. Taylor School hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:41 p.m. On Wednesdays, school dismisses at 1:26 p.m.

Taylor's Annual Back to School Night is scheduled for September 13 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The parents of current Taylor School students are invited to visit the school and learn more about the school and instruction.

Taylor School shares news through the school, on the PTA website and in the regular monthly PTA newsletter. Please feel free to call Rob Hindman at (703) 228-6275 with questions or comments about Taylor School.

Williamsburg Middle School

It is with great pleasure that Principal Kathy Francis welcomes all Williamsburg Middle School (WMS) students and parents to the 2006-2007 school year. WMS is committed to continuing to build on the strong relationship already established with parents. Parents are encouraged to be active members of the PTA and its committees, to participate in opportunities to visit WMS and meet with the administrative staff, and to contact your child's teachers, counselor, assistant principal or principal if any concern arises.

WMS strives to find ways to keep parents informed of their child's academic progress and to keep parents as active participants in their child's education. WMS has a site on Blackboard called the *Volunteer Corner*, which is coordinated by Marian Klymkowsky, an active parent, and which lists many opportunities for volunteering. Teachers, counselors, and administrators can be reached by voice mail or email or by calling the main office.

Families also are invited to visit our Williamsburg Home Page often throughout the school year for updated information. From the WMS Home Page, click on **Blackboard**. Click on *Login*, for *Username*, type williamsburg and for *Password* type

williamsburg. Click on *Login*. Under *My Courses*, click on *WMS Students/Parents//Homework Online*. WMS has extensive information on this site including daily homework, sport physical forms, resources and contact information, and a calendar of activities and events for both parents and students.

Ways to Stay in the Know

- First Day Packet
- Home Page and Blackboard: *W M S Students/Parents/Homework Online*
- **WMS Annual Parent Event, Tour, and Breakfast, September 13, 8:30 A.M.**
- Back-To-School-Night
- Monthly Events with Principal and Staff
- Gifted Services Information Night

If you would like more information, please be sure to visit the Williamsburg Home Page and Blackboard and peruse the PTA Gazette or contact Kathy Francis, Williamsburg Middle School Principal, at (703) 228-5450.

Yorktown High School

Administrators and teachers at Yorktown welcome all students and parents to the 2006-2007 school year. Below are some dates of interest:

September 2006

5 Tuesday

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!

8:19 A.M.-10:19 A.M. Freshman Orientation

10:19 A.M. Regular School Day begins

12 Tuesday

Freshman Assembly: "Making High School Count"

10th, 11th, 12th Grade Class Meetings

14 Thursday

7:00 PM Crossroads: "College Application Process at Yorktown"- All are welcome

15 Friday

SGA Welcome Back Event

16 Saturday

9:00 A.M. Saturday Science "Jam Session"

7:00 P.M. Crossroads: "High School for Beginners"

9th grade parents

23 Saturday

9:00 A.M. Saturday Science: "Training for human studies and microbiology projects"

26 Tuesday

Freshman Class Elections

(continued on page 5)

Schools Update (continued)

Yorktown High School (continued)

27 Wednesday

7:00 P.M. Back to School Night *Parents meet students' teachers.

School pictures in the auditorium

28 Thursday

School pictures in the auditorium

29 Friday

Welcome Lunch: Principal and Counseling Director begin lunch series welcoming transfer students.

30 Saturday

9:00 A.M. Saturday Science: "Training for human studies and microbiology projects"

If you would like more information, please be sure to visit the Yorktown Home Page and Blackboard and peruse the PTA Gazette or contact Stephanie Meadows, Assistant Director of Yorktown High School Activities, at (703) 228-5375.

H-B Woodlawn

According to Principal Frank Haltiwanger, The H-B Woodlawn music addition is close to completion. It is hoped that classes will start in the two new rehearsal rooms (those two rooms are 90 percent of the new space!) in September. The completion of the landscaping and the reopening of the lower parking lot may not take place until October. There will be a ceremonial ribbon cutting with the superintendent, Dr. Robert Smith, and the School Board on the morning of October 5.

Soon the mess will be gone, and a beautiful vocal and instrumental rehearsal space will take its place. Please remember that the addition does not change the enrollment at the school. It does, finally, provide appropriate instructional space for HB's very large and successful music programs.

For more information on this project or any other matter involving H-B Woodlawn, please contact Principal Frank Haltiwanger at fhalt@arlington.k12.va.us or at 703 228-6363.

For more information about other events at each of the area schools, please access the county website: www.arlington.k12.va.us

Stone Gateways at Park Entrances

Larry Finch

Park visitors will have seen the beautiful stone gateways completed in early summer at park entrances along various branches of Donaldson Run. The largest and most elaborate gateway is at the Military Road entrance to Zachary Taylor Park, with simple stone columns at other entrances. The stone was selected to be compatible with the natural setting of the park.

Funds for the gateways came from a Neighborhood Conservation grant from the County. The same grant also included funds for the new bridge where the bike path crosses Donaldson Run near Military Road. That bridge was assembled at the factory and set in place by a giant crane.

The same grant includes funds for another new bridge farther upstream, to replace an existing timber bridge. However, it would be difficult or impossible for a large crane to reach that site without extensive damage to trees along the path. To avoid this problem, County staff is looking for a modular bridge so that sections could be transported with smaller equipment and assembled at the site.

Another element of the Neighborhood Conservation project that remains to be done is reforestation of an old access road on a steep hill in Zachary Taylor Park. Reforestation will require adding soil, using erosion-control fabric to stabilize the soil temporarily, and planting trees and shrubs to stabilize it over the long term. This project will be undertaken when earthmoving equipment is already in Zachary Taylor Park to repair storm damage along the stream channel.



Storm Damage (continued from page 3)

Second, channel depths at some points appear to be greater than specified in the design for the stream restoration, reducing connectivity with the floodplain and increasing erosive forces. The streambed needs to be raised to match the design.

There was very little damage upstream in Lee Heights Park, where the restored channel corresponds closely to the design – including, in particular, better connectivity with the floodplain. It is impressive that the stream fared well in Lee Heights Park because the channel there is steeper than in Zachary Taylor Park. This seems to validate the design of the restored stream channel in both parks.

A detailed survey of the stream channel in Zachary Taylor Park is being undertaken during the summer to see what changes are needed, and the neighborhood will be consulted about the repair plan. Sometime this fall, earthmoving equipment will be brought into the park to repair storm damage, to raise the level of the channel as needed, and to provide additional protection for vulnerable stream banks until root systems become established. The actual work should not take more than about a month.

After earthmoving activity is completed, trees and shrubs will be replanted as necessary. It is reasonable to anticipate that they will have decades to grow before Arlington experiences a storm of comparable magnitude again. Expansion of the root systems, together with the improvements described above, should result in a stream channel capable of surviving most future storms.



DRCA Needs You!

The Donaldson Run Civic Association is looking for an interested neighbor to fill the position of Treasurer on the DRCA Board. After many years of dedicated involvement with DRCA, Elizabeth Apple is stepping down. We greatly appreciate her service to the neighborhood. If you would like to become involved in the DRCA, please contact Ned Rhodes at ned@drca.org for more information.

Development Update: Lorcom Lane/Old Dominion Drive/Upton Street

Peter Fallon

Three adjacent properties in the Lorcom Lane/Old Dominion Drive/Upton Street area were sold last December. Recently, the two blighted houses were demolished. The County has received building permit applications to build three single-family houses "by-right" under the ordinance (two along Old Dominion Drive and one along Upton Street). These properties are zoned R-8 single-family. As "by-right" projects, the building permits would be administratively approved by county staff, subject to the ordinance requirements. These properties will be subject to the new countywide lot coverage limitations adopted by the County Board in November, 2005. This is not a special exception process (e.g., Unified Residential Development-URD). Therefore, County Board approval is not required.

Senior Crochet Project Needs Hooks and Yarn

The Arlington Mill Community Center Senior Program is starting a crochet project and would like crochet hooks and yarn for their work. Please call Ginger Geoffrey at (703) 243-7181 or email at vcg@mac.com for information on donations. The Center is located at Columbia Pike and Dinwiddie Street. Thanks for helping get this program (there are about 50 participants) off to a good start this fall!

Professional Help Around the House

Email mary@DRCA.org with recommendations.

Computer Support Services

Cameron Jones (571) 217-3596, referred by Rose Bannigan, 524-6722

Concrete/Stone work

Universal Stone, (703) 644-7777, referred by Anne Wilson, 525-0344

Electrician

Jerry Hancock (Ensign Electrics), (703) 217-2070, referred by Karen Hanneman, 276-0787

Fencing

Delaney Adkins (Adkins Bros. Fencing), (703) 642-8051, referred by Kathy and Bill Richardson, 525-5270

General Contractor

Karl Knudson, (703) 538-5865, carpentry, tile work, small additions, decks, referred by Karen Hanneman, 276-0787

Handyman and Landscaping

Joseph Clemente, (703) 535-6989, referred by Jeanne Svikhart, (270) 525-6263

Housecleaning

Professional Housecleaning Services, managed by Alba Isabel, (703) 928-9089 referred by Rob Jones, 276-0545

Mercedes Roldan, (703) 243-2962, referred by Laura Jackson, 312-0541

Aida Sales, (703) 273-6140, referred by Nedji Ellsworth, 243-4329

Landscaping and Yardwork

Andrew Preziosi, (703) 525-6170, referred by Leslie Curley, 243-9459

Jose Sales, (703) 273-6140, referred by Nedji Ellsworth, 243-4329

Landscaping and Yardwork (continued)

A Cut Above Lawn and Landscaping Service, Patrick Rankin, (703) 536-3183, referred by Kathryn Ricard and Greg Gromada, 465-8564

Painting

Edward Wilkerson (C.W. Wilkerson and Sons), (703) 524-1019, referred by Kathy and Bill Richardson, 525-5270

Need a Job Done? Hire a Neighbor!

Email mary@DRCA.org if you or someone you know is interested in providing a service listed below.

Babysitting

- Daniel Bronstein, 527-5714
- Juliana and Gabrielle Mannino, 276-7746
- Caroline Robinson, age 16, 528-1129
- Joan Robinson, age 14, 528-1129

Housesitting

- Kirk Hanneman, 527-4604
- Mindy Hanneman, 527-4604

Petsitting/Dogwalking

- MC Petcare, contact Cara at 812-8894 or Megan at 524-4922

Arlington Recycles Day

Saturday, September 30 from 8:30am to 3pm at Thomas Jefferson Middle School and Community Center.

Recycle computer equipment and old TVs, get rid of your hazardous waste. Most computer items are accepted free, but there is a \$15 charge for monitors and a \$20 charge for TV sets. If you can't make it to TJ, the County's drop off site at the Water Pollution Control Plant is open every Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 703-228-6832 for more information.

**Do you have notice of a community event that you would like posted on one of Donaldson Run's kiosks?
Contact Maxine Nagel at (703) 524-5093 or by email at jkolick@aol.com**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Please check your mailing label to see the latest year for which dues have been paid. Dues cover a calendar year. Contributions are not tax deductible.

Dues: \$15 per household per calendar year. Payment for 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 years (circle one)

Total dues: \$ _____ Newsletter contribution: \$ _____ Total enclosed: \$ _____

New resident: Yes _____ No _____

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____ email address: _____

Address: _____

Special Interests/Volunteer Areas/Comment:

Please make check payable to Donaldson Run Civic Association.
Mail to: Elizabeth Apple, Treasurer, 4207 North 31st Street, Arlington, VA 22207

The Arts at Overlee

The Arlington Artists Alliance announces its fall 2006 show "The Arts at Overlee", September 29 and September 30, 2006. "The Arts at Overlee" will feature over twenty-five oil, watermedia and pastel artists, potters and woodworkers offering artwork suitable for home, office, and gifts, in a variety of styles and prices to fit all budgets.

Attend the "meet the artists" reception Friday evening, September 29, 7 pm to 10 pm; light refreshments served. The show and sale continue on Saturday, September 30, 12 noon until 5 pm.

"The Arts at Overlee" will be held at the Overlee Clubhouse, 6030 Lee Highway, in Arlington. The Arlington Artists Alliance is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting art and artists in Arlington County. Art is an intrinsic part of the community and enriches the lives of those working and living in Arlington. The Arlington Artists Alliance seeks to integrate the community at large and the community of artists at all levels.

**Treasurer's Report,
September 2006**

Elizabeth Apple

The balance in the Donaldson Run Civic Association's (DRCA) checking account now stands at \$5,812.94. So a special thank you to members who have sent in their dues and a reminder that it is not too late to send them in for 2006. Each of the quarterly newsletters now costs the Association about \$700 and is mailed to every household in the DRCA boundary.

If you are unsure whether you have already renewed for 2006, please check the mailing label on your newsletter. Membership information is included at the top of your mailing label in gray. If your label says "Resident," the members of the DRCA Board invite you to join your neighborhood civic association. We look forward to seeing you at the September meeting and hope you come early for cookies!

NCAC Update

Ned W. Rhodes

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) decided to postpone the summer funding round. The committee thought it was not fiscally responsible to start on new projects when it knew there were not sufficient funds to cover the project overruns on existing projects due to the escalating cost of construction. In addition, 18 existing projects were elevated to a high priority status and commitments were made to get those projects constructed as soon as possible.

Fortunately for the Donaldson Run neighborhood, two of our old projects were put on this priority list. The first project is our Vermont Street curb, gutter and sidewalk project. The County held an additional meeting with the neighbors on this street to go over some cost savings measures which were approved. The project has now reached the 100 percent design phase and is ready for the bid package to be prepared so that the project can move to construction. The same thing has happened with the 25th Road curb, gutter and sidewalk project. The street's residents gave their final approval to the design and that project also can move ahead to bid preparation and construction. This would all seem to be a good thing, except that the County does not have sufficient staff resources to prepare these bid packages. Consequently, we can expect further delays. I am hopeful that this can be cleared up by the end of the year so that we will see both of these projects in construction early next year. Obviously these long delays are frustrating to the neighborhood.

Another project that has been delayed is a sidewalk project near Vernon and Vermont Streets. A neighborhood meeting with residents was delayed while the County concentrated on "easier" projects which were defined as ones that had no "issues" and had board and neighborhood support, such as the new sidewalk on 26th street between Wakefield and Vermont Streets. I am hopeful that we will get back to that project this fall and work out all the design issues with the neighbors.

The Civic Association also has applied for a park enhancement grant for trail signage in Zachary Taylor Park. And have you seen the new park gateways? I like them and I think they do a wonderful job in dressing up the park entrances along with the new park entrance signs. Many thanks to Larry Finch and the parks committee for seeing that project to completion.

As we move into the coming year, it is not 100 percent clear as to what the NCAC program will be able to fund in the way of new projects. NCAC was given the direction to complete the existing projects that had already been funded. The committee was also directed to do an inventory of all the missing sidewalks, curbs, gutters and street paving needs in the County to present to the Board for consideration. Once the inventory is completed, the County can decide how much it needs to spend to build these missing infrastructure items which traditionally have been the bulk of the NCAC projects. I am hopeful that missing infrastructure items will be given their own budget and timeline and that NCAC can go back to being the place to go for projects such as our own Donaldson Run Stream restoration, which affects all DRCA residents in a positive way. As I learn more, I will keep you informed.



Beautify Your Yard for Healthy Streams-- A Rain Garden Seminar

On Saturday, September 16, rain or shine, learn how to create a rain garden from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration and refreshments begin at 8:30 a.m. in the Atrium at Meadowlark Gardens (<http://www.nvrpa.org/meadowlark.html>), 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court in Vienna.

Learn how to properly locate, design, construct and maintain a small-scale rain garden, an attractive landscaped area that is designed to resolve drainage or flooding problems by capturing rain water and allowing it to soak into the ground. Participants will also have an opportunity to get their hands dirty in constructing and planting a demonstration rain garden on Meadowlark Garden's property.

Cost is \$10, which is payable at the door, and registration is required. Seating is limited, so register early with Sally Ormsby at sally.ormsby@cox.net.

For questions about the seminar and its sponsors, presenters, advisors, and funding partners, contact Laura Grape, Senior Environmental Planner, Northern Virginia Regional Commission, at lgrape@novaregion.org.

Donaldson Run Civic Association
c/o Elizabeth Apple, Treasurer
4207 North 31st Street, Arlington, VA 22207

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See page 2 for Civic Association
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DRCA Meeting

Wednesday, September 20 at 7:30 p.m.
A social half hour begins at 7 p.m.

**Agenda: Marymount University Project and
Neighborhood Traffic Issues
Taylor Elementary School
2600 North Stuart Street**

“My Fair Lady” at Arlington’s Signature Theatre

“Probably the greatest musical of all time” (*Daily Telegraph*), *My Fair Lady* is the standard by which all others are measured. With Henry Higgins, Eliza Doolittle, and such musical favorites as “Rain in Spain,” “I Could Have Danced All Night,” and “I’ve Grown Accustomed to Her Face” it’s no wonder this delight is considered just that. Signature Theatre brings new life and a unique vision to this Lerner and Loewe classic from September 26 - November 19, 2006.

Bikes for the World

On September 30, from 8:30am to 3pm, used bicycles will be collected at Thomas Jefferson Middle School and Community Center, and will be sent to people in developing countries for use as basic transportation. Bicycles should be in good working order.

A minimum \$10 per bike donation to defray shipping costs would be appreciated. Bikes for the World is a sponsored project of the Washington Area Bicyclist Association, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit charity. A receipt will be provided for all material and cash donations. Checks accepted. For further information please e-mail Keith Oberg at info@bikesfortheworld.org or call 703-525-0931.