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# THE BRIDGE

Keeping People Connected

SUMMER 2025

An initiative of the Bonnie Doon Community Group Inc

# THE BRIDGE

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Please email your content directly to the editor at: media@bonniedooncommunity.com

*The opinions and views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Bonnie Doon Community Group*

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## FROM THE EDITOR

### Summer greetings to all our readers

With summer's arrival and the days stretching out over our hills, Bonnie Doon begins to take on its seasonal glow. The lake will start to fill with life again, with boats on the water (albeit a little low this year), caravans arriving, tents popping up, families gathering, and those familiar holiday sounds returning.

While we weren't able to bring you a Spring edition, the delay gave us the chance to refresh and present a new-look Summer edition—we trust you'll enjoy the update.

These pages highlight the local events, neighbourly stories, and moments that make Bonnie Doon so special. Thank you to everyone who supports and contributes—your photos, stories, ideas, and enthusiasm keep The Bridge thriving. We also welcome new voices and fresh content, so if you have a tale to tell or a local highlight to share, we'd love to hear from you.

Finally, we wish all our readers a very happy festive season. Whether you live in Bonnie Doon, are returning for the holidays, or visiting for the first time, may your days be filled with good company, good cheer, and plenty of sunshine.

Stay cool, enjoy the celebrations, and happy reading until next time.

Warm regards, *Mandy*

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# MESSAGE FROM THE BONNIE DOON COMMUNITY GROUP INC (BDCG)

*From Group President Nola Evans*

Billy's House – Getting Closer!

We're excited to see this project take shape in the new year! Mansfield Shire Council has kindly supported the venture with a project officer to help us navigate all the necessary requirements.

Like many building projects these days, costs have risen significantly, and this one is no exception.

But we're committed to preserving as much of the 1930s original home's charm as possible – including the original-style wood stove (though who knows if it might decide to collapse!).

Part of the process involves carefully cleaning and reinstating the chimney bricks at the new site, much like what was done with the Bonnie Doon Library relocation in 2011. If you can lend a hand as a volunteer, we'd love to hear from you – please contact Nola on 0438 787 238.

**A Big Thank You!** We also want to extend a huge thank you to all our amazing volunteers. Your energy, good vibes, and contributions make every event extra special. The committee sincerely appreciates you!



---

## BONNIE DOON CENTRE HOLDS AGM

The Bonnie Doon Community Group Inc (BDCG) held its Annual General Meeting on 29 October, with Cr Bonnie Clarke overseeing the election of office bearers for the coming year. The elected team for 2026 is: **President:** Nola Evans | **Vice President:** Jennifer Thompson | **Secretary:** Jeannette Hopgood | **Treasurer:** Christine Pitchford | **General Members:** Rod Tamblin, Mandy Wolbers

President Nola Evans highlighted a successful year with grants from Mansfield Shire, and the Mechanics' Institute. She also praised the success of Bloom@Doon, held in partnership with the Bonnie Doon CFA, and thanked staff Rachele and Lisa, along with all volunteers, for making the Centre such a welcoming place.

Nola looks forward to another great year working with everyone to support the community and provide a fantastic space for all who visit.

# BLOOM@DOON BLOSSOMS INTO COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Following the huge success of the inaugural **Bloom@Doon Community Plant & Garden Market**, plans are already underway for next year's bigger and better event. Despite cold and wet weather, around 850 visitors enjoyed a day of plants, produce, live music, and workshops presented by Up2Us Landcare. Seventeen imaginative scarecrows added fun and colour, while the event's mascot, "Bloom," delighted families with countless photo opportunities. One attendee called it the biggest event Bonnie Doon has seen for some time.

Organised by Mandy Wolbers, Jenni Cherry, Christine Pitchford, Jeannette Hopgood, Nola Evans, Jenny Thompson, Mary Ann Egan, and Rachelle Kinsmore, the market revived a much-loved tradition originally run by the Maindample CFA. Twenty-five stallholders showcased plants, produce, and crafts, supported by 28 volunteers known as the Bloom Crew, with many more donating baked goods. Serenity Café generously supplied food.

The event was proudly run by the Bonnie Doon Community Centre and Bonnie Doon CFA, generously supported by Mansfield Shire and 21 local businesses, helping make it a huge success. Funds raised were shared between the two organisations, with the CFA donating their portion back to the Centre.

Visitors, stallholders, and performers alike praised the day, and the committee is excited to bring even more guest speakers, workshops, and activities to Bloom@Doon next year.

For photos and a full list of sponsors, visit: [www.bloomatdoon.com.au](http://www.bloomatdoon.com.au).



Follow 'Bloom' on Facebook and Instagram for 2026 updates



## CONGRATULATIONS TO ‘SIR ROBERT’

Bonnie Doon resident and frequent Community Centre volunteer, **Robert Pitchford**, was recently installed as the incoming Master of the Albert Edward Masonic Lodge in Alexandra. Robert first joined the Freemasons 38 years ago while living in the UK, where he was a member of the Court Knoll Lodge in Suffolk. After emigrating to Australia with his wife Christine, he joined the Mansfield Masonic Lodge and later transferred his membership to the Albert Edward Lodge upon moving to Bonnie Doon six years ago.

At the installation ceremony, Christine surprised Robert by reading a congratulatory letter from Buckingham Palace to the 60+ guests, celebrating his new role as Master. From that moment, guests affectionately referred to him as “Sir Robert.” The evening ran smoothly, with Robert providing a variety of hors d’oeuvres before the banquet, and both he and Christine helping to set the tables and decorations. Congratulations to Robert on this well-deserved honour!



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**BONNIE DOON YOUTH  
 GROUP - GET INVOLVED!**



Looking for a fun, welcoming place to hang out? The Bonnie Doon Youth Group is the spot for ages 12-17!

Enjoy a mix of activities, meet new friends, and have a blast in an inclusive space designed just for you.

Want to make a difference? Join our Youth Committee—because your voice = your choice. **When: 4-6 pm, every second Wednesday of the school term.**

To join in the fun or to find out more information, call the Community Centre on 5778-7722 or email youthgroup@bonniedooncommunity.com

Come along, get involved, and make your mark in Bonnie Doon!

**If you are not receiving an electronic copy of our quarterly newsletter, *The Bridge*, or the Community Centre's *What's On*, please call 5778 7722 to provide your email address.**

**THE OPPORDOONITY SHOP**

Our **BDCC Fashion Night** was an evening filled with fun, laughter and fabulous company, with 12 local ladies enjoying a relaxed and entertaining night out. With a “dress to impress” theme, the highlight was our playful dress-up competition—creative, quirky and downright hilarious outfits were styled entirely from op-shop treasures. The laughter level was off the charts!

It was a wonderful chance to browse some great op-shop pieces, enjoy a social night together and celebrate community spirit. Thank you to everyone who joined in the fun—**and no photos were taken to protect the fabulous fashion risk-takers!** 7

**BDCC Op Shop Hours:**  
 Mon 10am–2pm  
 Tue–Thu 9.30am–4.30pm  
 Fri 10am–2pm  
 Sat & Sun Closed



*The OpporDoonity Shop*

# SENIORS MONTH @ BDCC

Our Seniors Month celebration at BDCC was a joyful success, highlighted by a whimsical **Mad Hatter's High Tea Party**—a free, fun-filled event enjoyed by 45 wonderfully dressed attendees. The room came alive with creative hats and costumes, including 35 local guests from the **Mansfield Spring Club** and seven members of our **High-Country Poets** group, who entertained everyone with themed poems and humorous performances.

A huge thank you to the talented **BDCC Monday Mingle Crew** for crafting the stunning Mad Hatter's sign under the guidance of facilitator **Lisa Greenwood**, and to our amazing volunteers—**Carmel, Ruthe, Honor and Bonnie**—for setting up, serving and packing down.

Our delicious high tea was generously catered by the **CWA** and **Rosie's Café**. We are also grateful to **Mansfield Shire Council** for their financial support and for providing the marquee, tables and chairs.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this wonderful Seniors Month event!



The Country Women's  
Association of Victoria Inc.  
care empower contribute



# A MESSAGE FROM BONNIE DOON CFA



Since our official formation on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1945 the CFA has been instrumental in protecting communities across Victoria. We have become one of the largest volunteer-based organisations in the world with more than 52,000 members in over 1,200 Brigades across the State.

Advancements in firefighting equipment, vehicles and safety procedures have enhanced the ability of our Members to respond to emergencies and protect lives and property.

**REMEMBER** to check your **SMOKE ALARMS** as we enter the summer months!

**Fire Permits** are issued to businesses and individuals who need to use fire to conduct work of an activity during the Fire Danger Period (FDP). They provide an exemption to laws during a period when fire restrictions are in place or a day of Total Fire Ban (TFB) with specific conditions applied. There is no cost involved with getting a Permit.

**Campfires** are a great source of warmth and can be useful for cooking, but they can easily turn into a bushfire. Water is the only way to put out a fire so always have 10 litres of water nearby to put your fire out. Don't use soil or dirt to put out a campfire because the hot embers can smoulder under the soil and start burning again. When the ashes are cool to touch it is safe to leave.

**Preparing Your Property CHECK, CLEAR, PREPARE.** Anywhere embers can lodge or enter your house can start a fire. Seal gaps around window frames, door frames and screened doors. Clear trees and vegetation especially on roofs and in gutters.

**Property Access...Will our Truck fit?** Fire trucks are large, heavy vehicles that need to quickly locate and access properties and water. you can help by ensuring your gates and driveways are wide enough for a fire truck to fit through and its doors to be opened safely. If your driveway from the road to the building including gates is longer than 30 metres your driveway surfaces need to be 3.5 metres wide, plus another 0.5 metres on either side clear of obstructions such as gate posts, bushes and other structures and also needs to be clear of obstructions for 4 metres above.

**Dave Evans - Captain**

[david.evans1@members.cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:david.evans1@members.cfa.vic.gov.au)



Bonnie Doon  
Rural Fire Brigade

## BONNIE DOON CFA

The **Bonnie Doon Fire Brigade** recognised the importance of having a publicly accessible defibrillator in our busy and highly transient township. In response, the brigade supplied and installed a new AED at the Shell Roadhouse, giving locals and visitors vital access to lifesaving equipment should an emergency arise.

The installation coincided with a free Heart Safe Workshop held at the Bonnie Doon Community Centre on 24 November, where community members gained practical skills and confidence in responding to cardiac emergencies.



### 3 STEPS TO SAVE A LIFE:

- 1 **Call** Triple Zero (000)
- 2 **Push** hard and fast on the chest
- 3 **Shock** with an AED

### 3 steps to save a life:

000  
**CALL  
PUSH  
SHOCK**

Together we can save lives Cardiac arrest can happen to anyone, anywhere, at any time.

It can happen at any age, health or fitness level, and often without any symptoms. It's up to all of us to learn how to save a life

22 participants recently joined Ambulance Victoria, at the Bonnie Doon Library in a hands-on training session learning the "3 Steps To Save a Life."



# WHAT IS A HEART SAFE COMMUNITY?



Ambulance  
Victoria



Thousands of Victorians suffer an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest every year. Tragically, only one in ten people currently survive.

A cardiac arrest occurs when the heart suddenly stops, and immediate action is critical to save a life. In fact, for every minute without life-saving intervention, a person's chance of surviving decreases by 10%.

That's why it is vital bystanders act quickly.

When a bystander performs Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) a person is twice as likely to survive, and if an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is also used, this survival rate dramatically increases.

A Heart Safe Community is one where the community is empowered with the skills and knowledge to feel confident to act if they witness a cardiac arrest.

## A HEART SAFE COMMUNITY...

**Integrates community presentations into existing programs and events.**



**Recognises a cardiac arrest and knows what to do to save a life.**



**Registers AEDs and makes them accessible 24 hours a day.**



Call 000



**Responds to cardiac arrest with the GoodSAM App**

EMPOWERS COMMUNITIES TO TAKE LIFE-SAVING ACTION WHILE THE AMBULANCE IS ON ITS WAY



1 CALL

CALL TRIPLE ZERO (000)



2 PUSH

PUSH HARD AND FAST ON THE CHEST



3 SHOCK

SHOCK WITH AN AED

# SOCIAL PAGES

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH



Celebrate the season at the Bonnie Doon Community Centre on 7 December from noon! Santa will arrive on the CFA Fire Truck, with plenty of food, festive cheer, free face painting, a jumping castle, and a free sausage sizzle for the kids.

Adults \$10 per person. Bookings required for catering – call 5778 7722 to reserve your spot. Fun for the whole family – all welcome!

## JT'S MINI CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS



### Ingredients.

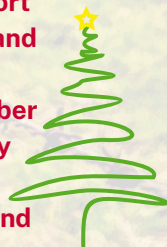
- 1 Store Bought Fruit Cake Crumbled
- 1 tablespoon of Muscat liqueur or sherry
- 1 tablespoon of instant coffee dissolved
- 1 tablespoon of almond meal
- 1 tablespoon of apricot jam
- 1 250g Block of milk chocolate, melted
- White chocolate bits/melts melted
- Red/Green glazed cherries for the holly (or lollies i.e. snakes or mint leaves)

### Method

- Combine the fruit cake, muscat, coffee mixture, almond meal and jam in a bowl mix well to combine.
- Roll heaped tablespoons of mixture into balls, place on a lined tray.
- Refrigerate until firm.
- Melt the chocolate, dip each ball into the chocolate to cover.
- Drizzle the mini puddings with white chocolate, decorate with cherries or lollies of choice.
- Allow to firm and set before serving

**The Bonnie Doon Community Centre will be taking a short break over the Christmas and New Year holidays. We will close on 19 December and reopen on 13 January 2026.**

**Wishing everyone a safe and joyful holiday season – we look forward to seeing you in the New Year!**



**Henry The Third**  
*The Royal Flusher*



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## MUSIC TRIVIA WITH KATHY 'O

Join us for a fun night of laughs, music trivia, prizes, and great tunes at the BDCC Library.

**When:** Saturday, 13 December, 6 PM

**Cost:** \$10 per person

**Bring:** Your own drinks and a plate to share

**Bookings essential:** Call 5778 7722.

**Don't miss a night of music and fun!**



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# MEET THE LOCALS

## MEET JADE AND MATT FROM SERENITY COFFEE

### How long have you lived in Bonnie Doon?

We have lived in Bonnie Doon on and off since 2020. We were on our way to travel up the east coast with our caravan when we popped a tire at NSW border. Coincidentally, we had received a few calls from a family friend suggesting a job offer at the Bonnie Doon hotel as we were setting up camp on the side of the road. If we had made it across the border that day we would have declined the offer.

Life works in funny ways. Bonnie Doon became like home and we came back every summer to work and did some traveling in our caravan in some of the cooler months.



### As a local what would you like to share about yourself with our readers ?

We wouldn't consider us locals just yet, maybe in another 15 years or so ha-ha. It's crazy how the number of times I have driven through Bonnie Doon without stopping before 2020, never did I think we would call this place home or make some of the friendships we have here. The longer we've been here the more we love it. The hills, the lake. It is a pretty cool part of Victoria



### How do you pass the time (*hobbies, interests, etc*)?

Working in hospitality means we work a lot. But outside of work we take our blue heeler down to the lake and let him have a swim or I enjoy taking him to the paps when I can. Matt might go for a skate or work on a few mechanical projects he has.

You'll find Serenity Coffee at  
2 Phillip Street, Bonnie Doon

-----  
Wed - Sat 8am - 2pm  
Sun 8am - 1.30pm



Follow  
Serenity Coffee  
on Facebook

## What is your favourite season in the High Country and why??

Probably summer. The days are longer, warmer and it's like there's productivity in the air. It's also busier and people in general seem a bit cheerier. However, as we've just moved to Bonnie Doon from Mansfield, we are enjoying this spring, and the lake is quiet enough for us to have a pup roam off lead.



## What are two favourite things that you recommend people try in this area?

I am usually suggesting to visitors to take a nice walk on the rail trail and over the bridge and to check out the 3 churches. Otherwise, a hike up to the paps or definitely to check out the Mansfield Zoo a bit further away.



### **Note from the Editor...**

If you haven't visited **Serenity Coffee** in Bonnie Doon yet, you're missing something special. Matt and Jade have created a relaxed, welcoming space filled with great coffee, delicious toasties, fresh rolls, pastries and tempting sweets. They were also a major sponsor of this year's Bloom@Doon, generously providing a warm lunch for all our hardworking volunteers—a gesture we're truly grateful for. *And my editor's pick?* The pistachio éclair... absolutely divine and highly recommended!



# SPORT & WEATHER

## ANYONE FOR TENNIS?



Summer is here, and so is tennis! Get ready for a fun-filled season at the Bonnie Doon Tennis Club. All school-age children are welcome, whatever your ability or experience level. Come along and enjoy a friendly, safe space to learn the basics of tennis through Tennis Victoria's Hot Shots program.

Join our coach and volunteer Hot Shots Crew to get active, make new friends, and have a great time on the court. Tennis racquets are available, and sessions cost just \$5 per child for an hour of social exercise and fun.

You can also help support the club and keep this wonderful community program running by purchasing a family membership for \$25 or a single membership for \$10.

For more information, contact Rach Kinsmore on 0419 898 362.

We look forward to seeing you on the court this summer!

## BONNIE DOON FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB (BDFNC)

After another fabulous season, the Bonnie Doon Football Netball Club has already started preseason! Players, families, and supporters can stay up to date with training dates, events, and news by visiting the club's Facebook page.

Mark your calendars for the **BDFNC Christmas Party & Meet the 2026 Coaches on 13 December**. It's a great chance to celebrate the year, meet the team, and get ready for the season ahead.

For more details, follow the club on Facebook or contact [bonniedoonfnc@outlook.com](mailto:bonniedoonfnc@outlook.com)



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## SPRING WEATHER

Spring (Sept–Nov 2025) in Bonnie Doon was mild, with temperatures and rainfall near long-term averages:

### Rainfall:

Sept 80.8 mm,

Oct 79.2 mm,

Nov 67.3 mm (total ~227 mm)

**Mean overnight lows:** 5.7 °C → 9.5 °C

### Average rain days:

September 14, October 12, November 9

While rainfall maintained green ground cover, rising daytime temperatures toward summer may dry surface fuels, raising bushfire risk. Residents are advised to stay alert as summer approaches.

Sources: Elders Weather ([eldersweather.com.au](http://eldersweather.com.au));  
Climate-Data.org ([en.climate-data.org](http://en.climate-data.org))

## LAKE LEVELS

Lake Eildon is currently sitting at 56.1 % below full capacity or 275.83mm full.

Inflow is 2,500 mega litres per day.

Release is 3.300 mega litres per day.

# WATER MATTERS

## Every Drop Counts - Let's work together to save water.

We all need to take action to protect precious water supplies right across the region as we move into spring and summer.

Using water wisely not only help us maintain drinking water supply, it helps the environment and can also save you money.

You'll find tips for your home and garden, a water use calculator, and reminders about **Permanent Water Saving Rules**, which apply all year round.

Visit our Save Water webpage to help you understand your water use and find practical ways to reduce it.



Scan for tips to save drips, or visit:  
[gvwater.vic.gov.au/save-water](http://gvwater.vic.gov.au/save-water)



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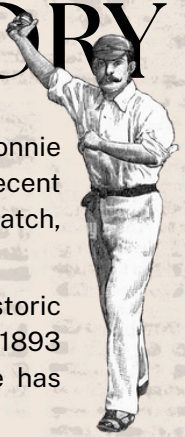


# A SLICE OF HISTORY



The **Delatite Cricket Club** will play games at the Bonnie Doon Recreation Reserve this summer, following the recent installation of a new concrete cricket pitch. The first match, versus Beechworth, was played at Doon on 25 October.

With cricket returning to Bonnie Doon, we look back on a historic match between Mansfield and Bonnie Doon, played on 15 March 1893 and reported in the *Mansfield Courier*. This fascinating article has been kindly shared with us by Sheila Hutchinson.



## CRICKET

-----

### MANSFIELD v. BONNIE DOON (By MID ON)

On Saturday last Mansfield and Bonnie Doon clubs tried conclusions on the ground of the latter. We left Mansfield in a four-in-hand about 1.30pm. the ribbons were handled by Mr T. McMillan in his usual artistic style. On the way down one of our party was complaining about a sprained wrist, the result of the previous evening's Hibernian Ball. This was afforded a fund of amusement both in going and returning. After an hour and a half's driving we reached the pretty little hamlet of Bonnie Doon, the scene of the day's operations. We put up at Mr. P.A. Woolf's hotel, and like all other visitors, were treated with the greatest of kindness. After a few minutes' rest we started for the cricket ground, situated about half-a-mile from the township. Here a fair pitch had been prepared. Stevens captained the local men, and C. Chenery performed a similar office for the visitors.

Stevens won the toss and elected to bat. Almond and Purcell opened the Doon innings and were opposed by Bromfield and Sims. The wickets fell rapidly, Black, 21, and Friday, 9, being the only ones to make any stand. Bromfield bowled unchanged throughout and accrued seven wickets for a trifling cost. The innings closed for 51. Withers and Edmondston were the first representatives of Mansfield. A very bad commencement was made, the first five wickets falling for 25 runs. There was great joy in the enemy's camp, but Chenery and Hogan soon put a different aspect on the game, and victory was assured. The innings closes for 80, leaving Mansfield victors by 20 runs. After valedictory addressed by the captains of both sides, we adjourned to Host Woolf's where a sumptuous repast had been prepared, a full justice being done by us to the good things provided. We left Bonnie Doon about 8.30, the night being fine, but rather dark. The drive home was thoroughly enjoyable. We had several singers of fair ability, and they kept things lively.

Our driver favoured the company with a couple of songs which he used to sing in the "Land o' Cakes" his powerful voice blending harmoniously with the rattle of our conveyance. WE arrive home about 10 o'clock, after one of the most enjoyable trips of the season. The following are the scores : --

### BONNIE DOON

Purcell, c Sims, b Bromfield	...	...	...	1
Almond, b Sims	...	...	...	0
Black, b, w., b Bromfield	...	...	...	21
McCullough, c Edmonston, b Bromfield	...	...	...	0
Stevens, b Bromfield	...	...	...	3
Redfern, run out	...	...	...	0
Pateman, b Bromfield	...	...	...	0
Cleary, b Bromfield	...	...	...	0
Friday, b Allison	...	...	...	1
Hutchinson, not out	...	...	...	12
Byes	...	...	...	12
				----
Total	...	...	...	51
				----

### MANSFIELD

Withers, run out	...	...	...	5
Edmonston, b Hutchinson	...	...	...	4
Sims, c Cleary, b Hutchinson	...	...	...	7
Holt, b Hutchinson	...	...	...	2
Bromfield, b Peterman	...	...	...	5
Chenery not out	...	...	...	23
Hogan, c Cleary, b Cleary	...	...	...	18
McKee, b, Cleary	...	...	...	1
Wells, b Cleary	...	...	...	5
Fitzpatrick, b Fitzpatrick	...	...	...	2
Allison, lbw, b Hutchinson	...	...	...	2
Byes	...	...	...	4
Wide balls	...	...	...	2
				----
Total	...	...	...	80
				----



Bonnie Doon Cricket Team 1950's



Square-leg hit. (W. G. Grace.)



*Hi I'm Jenny!*

Our mission at DPG is 'Work hard!  
Have fun! Make a difference!'

We are dedicated to making a positive difference not just to our customers but to our community and we are delighted to support the publication of 'The Bridge'.

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DPG sell significantly more properties in the Mansfield district, which includes Bonnie Doon, than other agency. What these results means for our customers is a bigger pool of buyers and greater exposure for their property. More competition means higher prices and less days on the market.

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