

Not many homeowners are leaving Newville

Though Newville homeowners dealt with hazards large and small in last year's flooding, it doesn't seem like many of them are pulling up stakes, neighbors and real estate agents said.

Paula Carrier, an Edgerton real estate agent, said she sees fewer homes for sale along the water this year than she does in typical summers.

Most years, Carrier does about 1/3 of her business with waterfront properties. She's used to seeing about 50 such properties for sale at a time in the busy summer season.

As of Sunday, 29 waterfront homes were listed for sale in the Edgerton School District—and 12 of those flooded last year, she said.

"There's not a lot of available properties that weren't damaged by the flood," she said.

Carrier thinks homeowners might be holding onto their properties now.

Chris Sweeney, another Edgerton-area agent, said the number of waterfront properties for sale seemed average to her.

Agents struggle to sell the properties that were damaged by the flood, even if the owners have repaired the damage, Carrier said.

"The first thing people ask me is 'Did they flood?'" she said. "And what do you say? 'Yeah, they did'... Those are the ones we aren't seeing a lot of people look at."

People who know the area realize that the 2008 flood probably was a once-in-a-lifetime event, but the memories still are raw, she said.

"It's going to take time to heal," she said.

Still, if you're looking for waterfront property, you're not going to find lower prices than the ones offered now, Carrier and Sweeney said.

"The water is still something that everybody wants," she said. "That's where summers are made."

—Stacy Vogel