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Shifting Sands, Shifting Tides, and the... Shifting Outer Banks real estate market

As you know, our beloved Outer Banks are merely a string of sand bars off the coast of North Carolina where the sands and tides are always shifting. Well, the real estate market has also continued to shift. Our last article about the Outer Banks real estate market appeared in the first quarter edition of the Village View in April of 2022. At that time, we wrote about how the market had quickly shifted from a stable buyer's market to a fast and furious seller's market—all in 18 months—driven by COVID's impact on people's values, low inventory, and low interest rates, and what that meant to you as a buyer or a seller.

Well, the market continues to shift. Now, the shift is primarily driven by inflation, high interest rates, and low inventory. Sales are down, both in units and sales volume. Median and average prices are up, and days on market is down. Let's have a look at the numbers since 2019:

Please see Table 1 on following page.

As you can see, after steady growth, 2022 saw a drop in unit sales and sales volume but the median and average home prices are up considerably, while days on market decreased. We believe that the demand for homes is still there, but that people are holding off on purchasing, either due to interest rates or thinking that home prices will drop dramatically. We don't think that will happen for one good reason —inventory. Inventory remains extremely low. At the time of this article, there were only 318 single family homes and 459 active listings on the market in Dare and Currituck counties.

Now, let's look at home unit sales by town for the fourth quarter and full year:

Please see Table 2 on following page.

As you can see, unit sales are down in every town with the biggest drop in Duck and the smallest decrease in Southern Shores.

So, what do we expect to see in 2023? If we only had a crystal ball. Our best guess is that inventory will remain low, but we will see more homes come on the market in February, March, and April (which is typical of our vacation rental market). We believe that interest rates have peaked. So, we also expect to see more buyers coming to market but we don't expect a banner year for sales. We believe home prices will remain somewhat flat— up a little in some towns and

The shifting Outer Banks real estate market (continued from previous panel)

down a little in others but nothing dramatic.

The National Association of Realtor is forecasting mortgage rates to average at 5.8%, existing home sales to be down by 7%, and home prices to be up by .1%. We shall see!

Nice homes that are priced correctly are still selling! As a buyer, the

advantage of looking right now is that there is very little competition. As always, engaging a seasoned Village Realty agent to guide you through the buying or selling process is highly recommended. We have remained fifth in real estate sales across the Outer Banks with considerably fewer agents than most brokerages. From working with you to assist with pricing your property correctly for getting the best return on your investment, to strategizing and guiding you through the purchase process, and assisting you with identifying the right local lender for your circumstances, our agents stand ready to assist you.

All data obtained from the Outer Banks Association of Realtors (OBAR)

Table 1. 4 years of residential Outer Banks sales

4-Year Residential Sales 2019 2022 2020 2021 Units sold 2,142 3,091 3,385 2.459 Volume sold \$861,092,179 \$1,473,783,183 \$2,097,300,391 \$1,755,227,601 Average price \$402,004 \$476,758 \$619,404 \$733,797 Median price \$330,000 \$395,000 \$480,000 \$559,000 Average days on market 116 111 53 37 *Average interest rate, 30-year fixed 3.94% 3.10% 2.96% 5.41%

*Freddie Mac

Table 2. Residential sales by town

Data obtained from OBAR MLS

Data obtained from OBAR MLS

Q4 Sales By Town	Q4 2021	Q4 2022	% + or –	2021 Full Year	2022 Full Year	% + or –
Corolla	111	72	-35%	520	322	-38%
Duck	50	18	-54%	234	130	-44%
Southern Shores	22	23	5%	123	115	-7%
Kitty Hawk	34	21	-38%	138	126	-9%
Colington	38	25	-34%	172	122	-29%
Kill Devil Hills	114	61	-46%	453	359	-21%
Nags Head	81	30	-63%	350	210	-40%
Hatteras	125	69	-45%	578	382	-34%
Roanoke Island	47	25	-47%	202	172	-15%
Currituck Mainland	70	44	-37%	270	227	-16%
Ocracoke Island	11	7	-36%	46	34	-26%

Just a Sampling of Our Listings for Sale



Columbia Soundfront Lot Build your dream home, 1.26 acre, 100 ft wide lot, HOA maintains 2 soundside piers 58,410 sf • \$140,000 • MLS 119988



Kitty Hawk Commercial Lot Approx. 5 acres w/US 158 & Woods Rd access, approved 14 multi-family units per acre 217,800 sf • \$2,500,000 • MLS 114817



Old Nags Head Place Custom, 2,930 sf, 2 lots off ocean, direct beach access, every amenity, ship's watch w/views 5 BR, 4.5 BA • \$1,220,000 • MLS 120702



Ocracoke Island Charming 1,104 sf cottage, quiet residential area, fenced side/back yards, 1st fl primary 2 BR, 2 BA • \$450,000 • MLS 121213



Avon Semi-Soundfront Lot Essentially soundfront, also canalfront, at the end of street, amazing sunset views 21,500 sf • \$199,950 • MLS 117898



Ocracoke Island Contemporary w/sustainable design, 1,196 sf, bamboo fl, rev. osmosis water, furn./art convey 2 BR, 2 BA • \$474,000 • MLS 120957



Nags Head Semi-Oceanfront Condo Across from beach access, 1,334 sf, end unit next to pool, 2-car carport, deck w/ocean views 3 BR, 2.5 BA • \$499,500 • MLS 120991



Ocracoke Island Inn & Marina Popular inn plus 36-slip marina, retail shops, gas/diesel business, pool, bar/grill & house 37 rooms • \$6,400,000 • MLS 116868



Downtown Manteo

Large corner lot, 1,785 sf, recent renovations, landscaped, short walk to waterfront & shops 3 BR, 2 BA • \$495,000 • MLS 120366



Hatteras Island Semi-Oceanfront Lot Large corner lot in Salvo, beach access directly across the street, room for a pool 15,000 sf lot • \$500,000 • MLS 117923



Columbia, Semi-Soundfront Lot Homesite with Albemarle Sound views, POA maintains 2 wooden piers for water access 33,976 sf • \$18,750 • MLS 116255



Manteo, Mother Vineyard Lot Sound views from high elevation lot, in quiet neighborhood, owner willing to sell two lots 22,000 sf lot • \$139,000 • MLS 120357

Just a Sampling of Our Listings for Sale



Ocracoke Island Retail Shop

In "downtown" with great vehicle/walk-in traffic, wood fl, vaulted/beams, ceiling fans Retail 1,627 sf • \$599,000 • MLS 117158



Roanoke Island, Brakewood Outstanding rental >\$62K, 2,434 sf, many updates, new furnishings & TVs, com. pool 4 BR, 2.5 BA • \$649,900 • MLS 119716



Manteo, Mother Vineyard Lot Sound views from high elevation lot, in quiet neighborhood, owner willing to sell two lots 24,000 sf • \$139,000 • MLS 119920



Mann's Harbor Soundfront Lot Lots of opportunities, huge lot w/3 RV hookups, 30 & 50 amps ea., will drilled, no pump \$325,000 • MLS 117036



Nags Head Semi-Oceanfront Lot Approved Cottage Court for 6 houses, 24 BR, across from Jennette's Pier, next to Sam & Omie's 34,000 sf • \$1,200,000 • MLS 120138



S. Nags Head, Bodie Island Ocean, sound, marsh views, 1,632 sf, private, walk to beach, great rental or second home 4 BR, 3 BA • \$795,000 • MLS 120822



Nags Head Retail Shop Life on a Sandbar shop, rated #1 in Trip Advisor, tremendous foot traffic at Jockey's Ridge 624 sf • \$399,000 • MLS 121235



Nags Head Btw. the Highways Unique OBX beach box, 988 sf, walk to beach accesses, some hardwood fl, used as 2nd home 3 BR, 1.5 BA • \$425,000 • MLS 120157



The Village at Nags Head Lot Potential golf/sound views in a lovely, well-kept neighborhood, mostly 2nd & primary homes 7,000 sf • \$210,000 • MLS 118881



Ocracoke Island Fully, extensively renovated, sunroom, garage, large yard, updated septic, 30 amp hookup 3 BR, 1 BA • \$599,900 • MLS 121250



S. Nags Head Oceanfront

Beautiful ocean views, 4,144 sf, heated pool, many recent renovations, very popular rental 8 BR, 5.5 BA • \$1,950,000 • MLS 121119



Kitty Hawk, Ocean Winds Condo On hilltop, 1,040 sf, short drive/bike to beach access or sound access to Kitty Hawk Bay 3 BR, 1.5 BA • \$289,000 • MLS 121055