

## **SIDEWALKS IN OUR COMMUNITY**

At the annual meeting, concerns were raised about sidewalks in our community. As a general comment, the Section Boards of Southwyck have worked diligently with the City for ongoing repair of sidewalks in those areas that are incorporated, namely the subdivisions of Southglen, Emerald Pointe, Southfield Village and Huntington Park. In these areas, the City takes responsibility for ongoing sidewalk repair. Usually, they try to hit complete sections at a time and the upkeep of public sidewalk is covered in the city tax rate.

It was also pointed out that when areas were incorporated from Brazoria County MUD#1 into the City several years ago, there were one time sidewalk repairs done, but generally, MUD's do not cover sidewalk repair unless there is damage due to water or sewer issues.

For those residents that live in Brazoria County MUD #2, namely, Lakecrest Estates, Edgewater Estates and Southmanor, there is no public mechanism for sidewalk repair and so the burden falls back on the individual residents of the community. The residents had an opportunity to allow annexation into the city, but in accordance with legislative changes didn't support it. Because of that action with MUD not agreeing to cover costs commonly covered by "the city" there is a void created with no long or short term answer for repair and rehabilitation. The MUD takes no responsibility for any infrastructure costs, even with the changing dynamics and with a low .40 mil rate cannot afford to properly provide these services. If these areas plan to be in unincorporated areas for a long period, the MUD Boards need to take greater care of its residents since they are the primary agents to serve the communities.

For streets within the city, those are considered City responsibility and those in the County ETJ areas are the responsibility of Brazoria County. Subsidence in many areas for drainage is an issue both in the City areas and in the MUD areas.

It is not the Master Association's responsibility to cover street or sidewalk repairs from its budget in accordance with its documents, nor would it be appropriate for over half of the owners who have this service covered to "subsidize" those who are not covered in the MUD areas.

Kurt Evenson