



Saginaw Public Library
355 W. McLeroy Blvd.
Saginaw, TX 76179
817-230-0300

MEMO

To: Gabe Reaume, City Manager
Lee Howell, Assistant City Manager
From: Ellen Ritchie, Library Director
Date: 31 May 2022
RE: Consortium/Software Change

We have an exciting opportunity in front of us to make a change that I believe will add a great deal of value for the Library's patrons and staff, and will position our library to move forward into the future. We have the opportunity to join the MetroShare consortium, and as part of that move, to make a much-needed change in the software that runs our Library catalog and circulation.

The Saginaw Library is currently (and has been for more than 10 years) a member of the North Texas Library Consortium (NTLC). A consortium is a network of libraries that have partnered together to expand the services and items that they offer to their patrons.

- All the member libraries share a catalog and software system, so that you can look up a book not only within the Saginaw collection, but also in our partner libraries' collections.
- Patrons from any of the partner libraries can easily borrow items from the other libraries in our consortium by placing them on hold, then picking them up at their home library.
- Patrons can also use their Saginaw library card to check out items at any of our partner libraries.

We have the opportunity to change to a **new partnership** that I believe could benefit Saginaw's patrons more than our current consortium.

This year, NTLC has gone through a bit of a crisis as we lost several key leaders from various libraries in quick succession. While there are good plans in place for restructuring, the situation has provided a good opportunity for us to re-evaluate our current position and our future.

The Library Board and I believe that a move to the MetroShare consortium would be a better fit for Saginaw. MetroShare currently includes the public libraries in Benbrook, Burleson, Forest Hill, Haltom City, Keller, Richland Hills, and Watauga. The Haslet, Roanoke and Decatur libraries are also switching from NTLC to MetroShare this year.

While NTLC has been a good home for us for many years, and we have benefitted immensely from the resource-sharing and networking available in that group, I believe that MetroShare has more to offer us:

The same easy borrowing from other libraries, but an even larger collection.

- **Geographically close** libraries that our patrons can visit (using their Saginaw card), including Keller, Watauga and Haltom City, as well as Haslet and Roanoke. (See maps to compare.)
- A better, more user-friendly **catalog/software system**, with excellent support for staff.
- More **collaborative programs** and sharing of special collections across the group.
- Partnership with high-caliber libraries **closer to our size**, so interlibrary borrowing will be more evenly matched.

Please see the **maps below** to compare the locations of libraries within the two groups.

As we transition to our new, larger building and continue to build our programs and services, I am confident that this partnership will be the right next step for Saginaw. This move will help build the Saginaw Library into the premiere library that we want it to be for the next stage of our community's growth.

I presented this information to the Library Board on May 10, 2022, and they unanimously (and enthusiastically) voted to move ahead with the consortium and software change. I also attended the MetroShare meeting on May 25, 2022, where the MetroShare board of directors voted unanimously to accept Saginaw as a member pending the signature of the Interlocal Agreement.

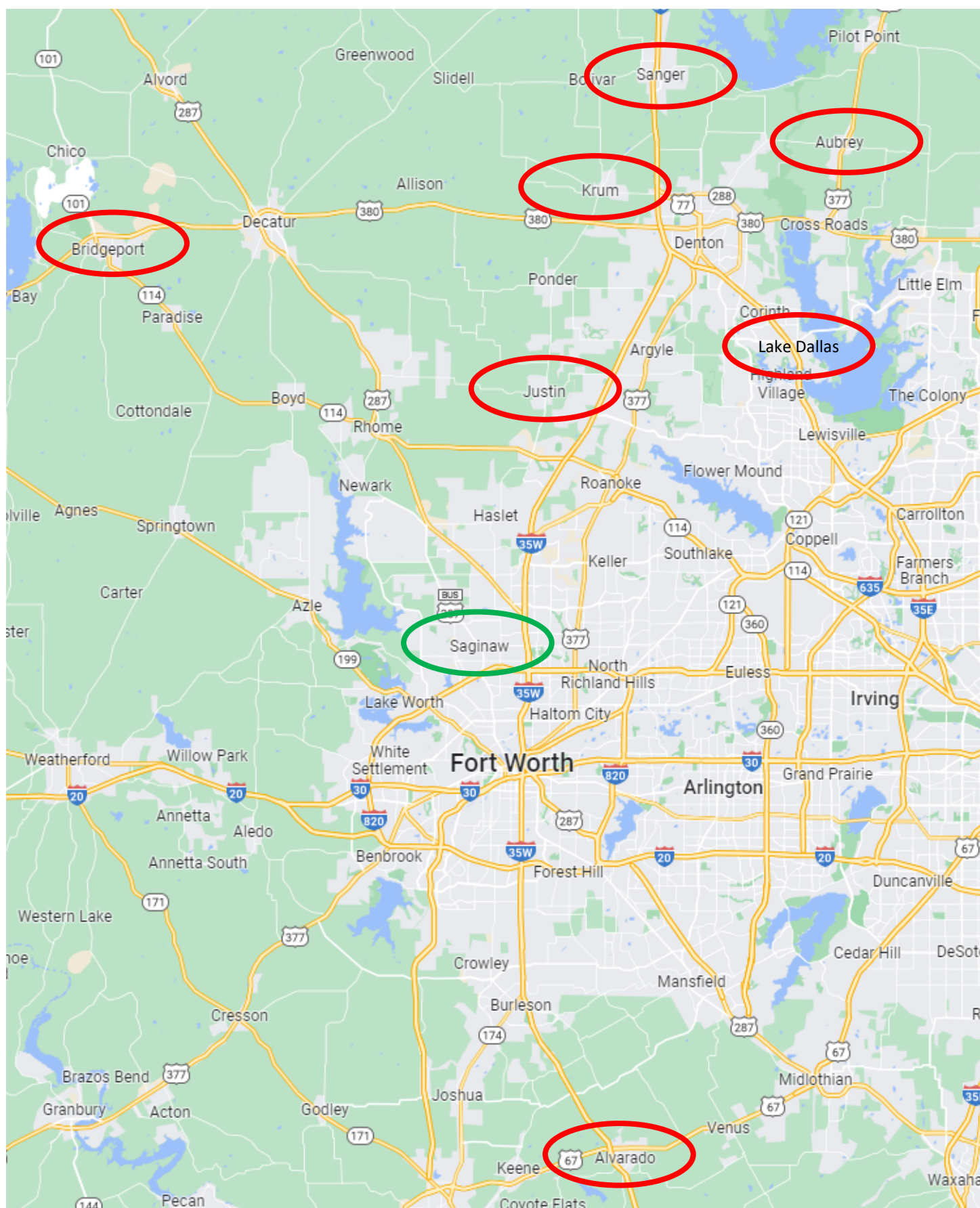
The Library staff are also excited about this change, as the new software system will offer much better support and user experience than the software we currently use. If you would like a demonstration, try browsing or searching the Burleson Library catalog (<https://catalog.burlesontx.com>)—ours will be almost identical.

There are two items that will go to the City Council for approval: the Interlocal Agreement that will make our Library a member of the MetroShare consortium, and the contract with ByWater Solutions for the installation, hosting, and ongoing support of the new software.

There is no cost associated with joining MetroShare. The software contract includes fees for the migration of our data from our current system to the new one, and also for ongoing support. The Library Board has graciously provided the necessary additional funds needed this year from the current year Donations Fund, and the ongoing cost for the software (FY 2023 onward) will be paid from the General Fund.

The Library Board and I recommend both items for approval.

NTLC (Current)



Decatur

