

EPISODE: #13 Hosting Mayor Todd Flippo and Keith C. Rinehart, The City of Saginaw

Shannon Bryant (host): Greetings, and welcome to the 13th installment of our podcast series the workforce lens, brought to you by Tarrant County College in North Texas. I am Shannon Bryant, Executive Vice President for Corporate Solutions and economic development. And I will be your host moderating strategic conversations with employers and economic developers on all things related to preparing and growing the workforce today in the future. Today, please help me welcome our guest, Mayor Todd Flippo, city of Saginaw, and Keith Reinhart, Director of Community and Economic Development for the City of Saginaw. Welcome, gentlemen, happy to have you here.

Mayor Todd Flippo: Shannon. Thanks for having us.

Keith C. Rinehart: Thank you.

Shannon Bryant (host): Well, let's get let's get started. And I want to hear about Saginaw, Texas. So, this question goes to both of you, whereas Saginaw, Texas, tell us a little bit about the population. Anything you want to tell us about Saginaw?

Mayor Todd Flippo: Sure, I'll start. We are located very close to I 35. West and North Loop a 20. We're a couple miles to the east of Eagle Mountain Lake geographically, I'm also just a couple miles to the east of Tarrant County College Northwest. We're in the north part north, the west part of Tarrant County, very close to Fort Worth roughly 15 minutes from downtown Fort Worth 2025 minutes from the airport. So, we're in a great location.

Keith C. Rinehart: One of the great things about Saginaw on our location is we are centrally located to most of everything the 3035. West is just a few miles to the east of us a loop 820 is just to the south 287, which runs up to Decatur in Wichita Falls is just to the north business to 87 runs right through the middle of town. We have Meacham airport just immediately to the south about one mile and just a few miles to the north of us is the Alliance corridor and Alliance airport. So, we're very close to all transportation needs. Union Pacific. Burlington, Northern Santa Fe runs right through the middle of our town.

Shannon Bryant (host): So, what's the population of Saginaw?

Keith C. Rinehart: Right now, the most recent number we've seen is about 24,001 50. Okay, we've grown steadily over the years, we're about to have another growth as we have some mixed-use developments coming into town with single family multifamily. But we will continue to grow.

Shannon Bryant (host): And just for perspective, what is the size of Saginaw versus the kind of the average of a city in Texas? Where do we where do we rank?

Keith C. Rinehart: Actual percentage, I'm not totally sure, or where we rank in that we're considered a small town under 25,000. But as far as growth, we grew significantly around 2010-2011 slowed down as developments slowed, or housing development slowed down. And then better 2% growth, and then recently, we picked our population has grown even more and will continue to grow over the next few years.

Shannon Bryant (host): Okay, great. So may or what, obviously, the podcast is about workforce and economic development. So, tell us you if you will a little bit about what are the best workforce characteristics of Saginaw? And what do you as the mayor feel needs to be improved with the organism or with the city and any short-term long goals, long term goals for growth and improvement in supporting your economy?

Mayor Todd Flipo: Sure, you know, we have a good base of skill and talent in Saginaw. We're actually very young community, I think the median age is about 34. So, we've got great potential there. I think we need more skilled workers, some more skilled folks. We've got some, some good baseline industries, in town milling, manufacturing, some things like that. We'd like to get more and more high technology, which would require a more skilled workforce. I think we're well positioned for that. What was his education, you know, universities as well, but also, I think our workforce is ready and poised for that. For years, we've been seen as more of a bedroom community of Fort Worth. I think we're more than that. Now. We're moving in that direction. I think we have great potential. I really want to see us build our workforce and grow that I think that's the partnerships with the local universities in higher education is key to this. We have a strong school district around us, I think that helps. But we do need to do more and I think there are a lot of potential and Saginaw I think we're well poised, but we need to grow and do some great things.

Shannon Bryant (host): Okay, any long-term, short-term goals of helping with that growth?

Mayor Todd Flipo: You know, we're bringing in a lot more folks, a lot more opportunities. We've, as I mentioned, we've been Veteran community, I want Saigon to be a community where people live, work, play, eat, the whole package. I don't just want to be a bedroom community for folks feeding into workforces in Fort Worth and surrounding community. So, I think we've got some of that going, we got more of that coming. But we need to do a better job of that. And I think we're, we're in a, in a growth, we're about to hit a big growth spurt, workforce wise, and especially industry wise, and I want us to be well positioned and

Shannon Bryant (host): Ready for that, What do you contribute to that growth spurt?

Mayor Todd Flipo: You know, we try to bring in industries that are well suited for our area that fit in with community, we've got a history, we've got trains, and grain and grain that were the one of the largest great innovators in the world. We've got, they're still active. So, we're, that's sort of our history. But we want to build on that and be more than that. So that's a lot of where we come from, but where we're going is bringing in more industries and more businesses that are suited for the future, high tech, it types related growth things. We've looked at business

incubator concepts and things like that to help folks. But that's what we're trying to go. But it's a long process. And it's frustrating as a elected official. See, you got a vision for the future. But how do you get there? And how does that change happen?

Shannon Bryant (host): Got to put the right strategic plan in place. And how long have you been Mayor Sir?

Mayor Todd Flipo: But Americans 2017 I was on the council for several years before that. So, I've got deep roots in the community. And I've got a vision, but I've got a vision for the future. My goal was all about where Saigon going, not where we've been. But where are we going? Where do we need to go?

Shannon Bryant (host): There you go. I like the concept. Rip off the rearview mirrors, look out the front window. There you go. So. So speaking of that, then Keith, can you tell us a little bit what is the economic development portfolio of Saginaw? So, for example, what's the current state of the city, if you will, and how a second all recruiting new businesses and our existing businesses within the city expanding? Tell us a little bit about that?

Keith C. Rinehart: Sure, Maybe a long answer, because we're doing a lot right now. That's okay, we want to hear about it. Part of my job took over economic development about two years, a little over two years ago. And my job is recruiting new development, redeveloping existing areas, retaining our existing businesses and recruitment of new businesses and developments take time. They it's not one of those things where, you know, you start turning to start turning dirt and then the next day or the next week, it's built and ready to go. I get a little request from our residents and businesses, people in the community asking about certain types of businesses to come in town and we reach out to all of those that's been one of the biggest helpers in my recruitment is I listen, it's not I could build you a beautiful city. But it's much better if I hear from the stakeholders, our residents, our business community, our elected officials, that what do you want in your city? And

Shannon Bryant (host): So, most of those requests that you're receiving, are those from small midsize to larger organizations? Or is it just across the

Keith C. Rinehart: Across the board or it comes from? It comes from residents from emails, phone calls, personal conversations that I have? See him while I'm out in the community, talking to businesses, stopped by our businesses on a weekly basis, just visiting with different ones and just kind of picking their brain a little bit and it comes from all across the board. And part of my job is to try to diversify what we have. For the longest time as mayor Flippo said, we're known as a bedroom community, we have the trains and grain elevators. We have a number a lot. We have a number of fast food but we don't have a sit-down restaurant. We really don't have retail. We did in 2019 We did a survey with our citizens and people online to complete to what is it that you want, you know, we call it an eat in play survey, you know, what are the things that you want it and nameless businesses may give us names, what type of things you're looking for, and that that was a huge. It helped staff out in the city out to give us a plan and guidance on

where to go and what to look for. And, you know, for example, our number three request for a place to eat was Chipotle. And we have one it opened up within the last year and some of the other places that they asked for. We've been talking to and while I never divulge anything until it's signed on the dotted line. Some of the things that were on their list, we're talking very closely with.

Shannon Bryant (host): Good everyone loves to polt or the lines long at lunchtime.

Keith C. Rinehart: Yes.

Shannon Bryant (host): Okay, that's a good sign. Right.

Keith C. Rinehart: I had a brilliant plan of eating there the other day and saw the line like yeah,

Shannon Bryant (host): There you go. You got success. So, can you talk a little bit about you're talking about the trains and the grain? What other kinds of businesses can you name some other businesses, organizations industry that you have in Saginaw?

Keith C. Rinehart: Yes, One business that a lot of people probably don't realize is when you go to the grocery store and you in the, I guess, vegetable area or snack area and you see Holy guacamole, the little bowls of Holy guacamole, which everyone loves that I buy those frequently. That comes from Saginaw, Texas. Wow, the plant is actually in Saginaw, Texas, on Burlington Road, and which is a unique industry, a lot of people didn't realize it was there. It's kind of hidden on the other side of the train, or the elevators, grain elevator.

Shannon Bryant (host): They've been there for a while now.

Keith C. Rinehart: And they're probably 10 years maybe been here a little while. We have a number of different businesses like Troxel trailer, they work with our train industry, Trinity rails, also works with our train industry. We do have a Walmart, which we which moved into Saginaw about probably 17 years ago. But we're looking at growing our industry, we had a food liner, which works with our grain elevators, they clean the tankers, that takes the grain, and they clean those and transport those and they're a new industry coming into town.

Shannon Bryant (host): Is there a lot of industrial retail, or industrial and or retail space to build on in within the scope of city of Saginaw?

Keith C. Rinehart: Yes and no retail right now. Existing places that are available, we don't have a lot. We're pretty full. We were very fortunate during COVID, where a lot of municipalities had lost a lot of businesses. During the time of COVID, we only lost one. And it didn't have anything to do with COVID, which was good. Our economy stayed very strong. During that time there were some I keep track of all the not just right in our area of municipalities and how they do on sales tax. But across the state also, but mainly in our in the north Texas area and there were

some municipalities that took a massive hit, or they were losing, you know, 2030 40% this month compared to the same month a year ago, we didn't have that issue. We had a few bad months per se but during 2020, our revenues actually increased. Our sales tax revenues increased by about 6%. From the previous year before COVID. Last 2021, we had an increase of about 20 23%. From the COVID year, our economy and Saginaw was doing very well, which is great. We encouraged our residents and our businesses to shop locally. We had during COVID. Instead of looking at the negatives of what was happening, we tried to promote what we have and take care of what we have. And we did that and our residents and business owners came through and they did shop locally they'd instead of traveling outside north of town or south or wherever they stayed, stayed at home, which helped our businesses out significantly.

Shannon Bryant (host): That's great. So as in this question is to both of you and so you're both out every day talking to businesses in your community, pertaining to workforce. Obviously, that's a very hot topic across the country right now. And I think will be for a very long time to come. What are you hearing from the businesses as it relates to workforce? What kind of needs are you hearing about when you're talking to them?

Keith C. Rinehart: One thing would be space right now we there. I, yesterday I spent a good part of the day. You asked earlier about what how do we do recruitment in the recruitment? We do listen to our residents that listen to our businesses. The in-place survey was great. We work with a group. They're based out of Austin, called the retail coach and they help us with recruitment. But also, just newspaper articles. One of the things that I love is one of our council members, Mary Copeland. Before every council meeting, she brings me a little handful of newspaper articles that she found Have some businesses that are thinking about expanding. And I think it's great because I take that and I use that. And I read the paper, also and get ideas of who is coming, or who's wanting to expand. And I contact him. And we reach out to this Thursday, the International Council of shopping centers, national conferences in Dallas, which I'll be attending all day right after their local business forum, of course, but that comes from we'll be speaking, you're here. The right now the thing that people are asking for space, the group I worked with yesterday was an individual who was has a business and another community wants to move second home, which is great. And I'm not a real estate agent, don't act like one, I don't claim to be one. But what I do is, I find out what kind of space are you needing. And then I try to, through my contacts and resources, I try and find the, here's a list of spaces for lease with your specifications that you need. And then I pass that along to them, and try and help them find a spot I can't negotiate. And I don't do that. But I try and help people find the right space that they need. One of the things that's, coming soon, as far as space is we have four mixed use developments that are turning dirt, as they say, three of them are putting in the infrastructure right now of roads and most mixed-use developments, which is some form of residential, retail and restaurant. Most of them start with the residential first, which that's 99% of them do that. But we have one of our more recent developments, the victory development right off of Blue Mountain Road, just south of Saginaw High School. They're actually doing the restaurant retail first, which is unheard of, but it's good, because that that's going to help us get some of the things that our residents are wanting. All of these mixed-use developments will have some form of residential, whether it's single family, single family for rent, multifamily, but also resident or

retail and restaurant, which will open up spaces, and there'll be some strip centers, commercial centers that will be available and what will start having more spaces for people to be able to move to.

Shannon Bryant (host): And that's great, bringing more people into the restaurants and things also give more exposure to the city.

Keith C. Rinehart: And one thing we've done on these mixed-use developments, we've worked with developers and lenders to incentivize things that we want, such as restaurant sit down restaurant, we've worked with one of the incoming developments, we're helping them build a road a public road. And in exchange, they need to have three sit down restaurants. So, we've in the past posts have been frustrated, we don't have the restaurant choices available to maybe some other cities do. So, we've had to go out and look be a little more aggressive and assertive on that, that's one thing to be tried is to say, you know, hey, we'll gladly spend some public money on this infrastructure, these facilities. But in exchange, you have to promise to this, this and this. So, it's a nice, it's a give and take, and the developers are happy to do it, because that we know what the citizens want more than they do. And this gives them a draw immediately for their property.

Shannon Bryant (host): So, for the continued growth and trying to draw and attract more businesses to the city a second on the second I'll have hospitality, motel hotel, anything in that, that space or something that you're looking at for the future?

Mayor Todd Flipo: We do, it's not the best we're working to improve that there is a need for improvement, absolute, that's not a strength, that's a need for improvement area, we have a couple, they're not the best. We've talked with that and looked at others. That is definitely a need, though. That's one thing that from the industries have said they need more space for folks to come in and visit. Currently. Now if you come to visit Saigon, you typically don't stay at a hotel, and you'll stay somewhere else you say somewhere in Fort Worth. So that's telling you something we need to improve on. Absolutely. But we've heard that that's not news,

Keith C. Rinehart: With any development there is you have to have two things, you have to have somebody that's willing to sell their land, can't force them can't make them do it. And you have somebody that's willing to pay the money to buy that and following up on what the mayor saying is, you know, with hotels, we've been in contact with several of them, but there's we've had some good contact with them, trying to find again, trying to find the right location for them that that suits their specifications and their visibility. So, we're working, we're working. We've been working on that.

Shannon Bryant (host): Okay, very good to talking about businesses, obviously, with smaller communities. They're very heavily supported by small businesses. So, mayor for you what is the state of entrepreneurship in Saginaw?

Mayor Todd Flipo: You know, previous I would have said it's more organic and grassroots. But we've taken some steps in the last couple of years that have helped. And one of those that I didn't really appreciate how much it would help. We have a farmers' market and food truck park that are right next to each other wildly successful open during COVID. I was fearful, but it's been amazing. People love it. It's got a huge turnout. We just had the first one this last weekend, a huge turnout, you know, 40 to 50 booths every week, six 810 Food Trucks every week, very popular. What that brings us that I didn't fully anticipate is folks that either have a business, a small business, or even a food truck, they want to graduate, go up to the next day to a brick-and-mortar facility. That's an opportunity that we are just now addressing and saying, hey, we've got folks in a massively successful truck business but then I want a restaurant. How can you do that? How can we help? How can the city be an incubator for that? So that's some new things we're working on, that really popped up just on their own over the past couple years. And I think it's fantastic. We've had folks that have small businesses, they have a booth at the farmers market or even other farmers markets as well. But they are getting popular and well, and they want a brick and mortar. So, we're working with him and talking some of those folks that how can we make this happen? How can we help you make this happen? And that's really driving a lot of our newer growth.

Shannon Bryant (host): That's interesting. So as part of the Tarrant County College system, we offer a program called the everyday entrepreneur Venture Fund, which I'll be talking about this Thursday at your breakfast and it is for new and aspiring entrepreneurs in the greater Tarrant County area. We have the we're on our second cohort and we've had a number of people who have food trucks and their ultimate end goal is to have brick and mortar at some point in time. So that might be something that we could discuss at a later point in time.

Mayor Todd Flipo: Let's get together after that. Sounds great.

Shannon Bryant (host): Sounds good. So, what are what is the city doing to encourage new and small business growth from your residents? Are there? Is there anything that you're doing on a proactive basis to encourage the young folks of your community who maybe want to start a coffee shop or they want to start a consulting business or anything that you're working on right now or in future plans?

Keith C. Rinehart: A couple of short answers, I guess, would be kind of following up on what the mayor said with the popularity of our food truck park, our farmers market. The things we've discussed with our incubator, potentially doing a business incubator, one of the things that I've tried to do passionately is to communicate to our residents, what is going on in our community and let them know, different things that are available through our office, through the state of Texas and through, you know, even though, you know, talking with having you come and speak in a few days. Those are some of the things that we do trying to get information out to encourage people. You know, following up on what the mayor said about entrepreneurship is, you know, a great example. It's not something that happened in our city, but it's a great example of something that we're trying to do is there's a food truck out there. Wildly popular a food truck named Coco shrimp done extremely well very popular. They have a bus not much bigger than

this room. And they travel around you just made my stomach thinking about it. And they've they now have three brick and mortars opened up because it's incredibly popular and yet yes, I have contacted them are in the process of that but that's one of the things that we're trying to do. With our food truck park that we started a little over a year ago, a year and a half ago. We were begging people to come give us a chance to come out here and small businesses like a food truck park they want to go where they can make money. And we were an unproven commodity at the time and it went from begging people and two we're getting 140 per month that are coming in there. People are begging us to be a part of our food truck Park. That's a great

Shannon Bryant (host): And this is open every weekend?

Keith C. Rinehart: It's open every day,

Shannon Bryant (host): Every day!!! Oh wow.

Keith C. Rinehart: Farmers Market is twice a month. I think it's the second and fourth Saturday of the month and it's that's met the it said in our park right where our food truck Park is located but it's managed by community link of Saginaw. Okay,

Shannon Bryant (host): I live right outside of Saigon. So, I'll be making a visit soon. You need to come eat. I will do that. Put my food in front of me. So, let's segue from shrimp to butterflies. So, Keith, I read some articles on your website. And on that website. You talked a little bit about the story about the butterfly effect. And so, I'm curious to know tell us about the butterfly effect and how does that relate to the city of Saginaw?

Keith C. Rinehart: How I will relate it to the city of Saginaw is the relations friendships, the butterfly effect is you know, with without giving the scientific definition of it, it's small variations of, you know, the example that I think I gave was a butterfly flapped its wings in Hong Kong can later affect the weather in Kansas, and just small variations can have a small can have an impact on the future. And what I mean by relationships is that's part of my job. That's what I do is I'm trying to build relationships with individuals with businesses. Knowing that right away when I reach out to them, and try to stay in touch with them, it may not have an immediate impact of what right immediate right now. But in the future, it might or might not an example, and I won't give the business name, but I ride mountain bikes crashed really hard the other day, and I won't go into that detail and the blood and bruises that I have. But sometimes my friend, my friend, and his wife and my wife and I, on Sunday or Saturday, we'll get up we'll ride concrete trail, just real smooth, easy trip, right. And we're right to this place in Keller, and it's a coffee shop and we'll get coffee and we get breakfast tacos, and it's great. And we go there and really like the food's great coffees great. The guy's really nice, real nice business. And I thought, you know what I'm gonna, and this was during COVID. So, I got his card and contacted him the following Monday and at the time, because it was during COVID. And said, well, you know, it's not the right time. For us, we want to kind of wait this thing out. And that which was this really the standard answer I heard from most, if not all businesses in which that's on their part, it's smart. On our end, that's not what we really want to hear. But it's the smart decision for them.

And I kept staying in touch not pestering him every day or every week, but every couple month, I'd reach out to him and not necessarily saying, hey, come to Saginaw, we want you right now just reaching out, just keeping that communication going and trying to build a relationship. And about probably about three months ago, and I hadn't talked to him in about probably five months, he just reached out to me said, you can't convince me, I want to be there found me a spot, this is what I need. And just building a relationship, you know, two years ago, and it took a while. But it does take time. Those things can pay off in the future. And for the butterfly effect, I guess for a second, I was building relationships every day, because you never know when or if it'll pay off in the future. Right, that can have a massive impact. You know, we, I had, when I started in economic development, we were working with the group who was interested in buying the property, which I referred to as victory development and development group fell through, started working with another one. And that development fell through. But while they were still working on that, potentially working on that project, I had made a contact with a very well-known high end development group, and just started talking casually talking and building a relationship to the point where when that second group fell through, they jumped in, and they've been outstanding to work with and, you know, the mayor reference that, you know, we have in our development agreements that if you build three, sit down restaurants, we can help you out with some incentives type of thing. And it wasn't a thing that we're necessarily had to beg them to, you know, our demand that you have to do this, they just want to do it because they we've built that relationship, and it's paying off.

Shannon Bryant (host): It's great. Yeah, it's this business is all about the relationships your comment makes leads me back to a story of I've worked with site selectors for years. And a couple of years ago, I was involved in a project with some site selectors who were in Ohio, where I'm from, and it came down to two small towns in the state of which were about the same size as probably the city of Saginaw. And at the end of the day, they selected one city over the other. And we talked to the site selectors and said Why did your business pick this particular city over the other one they were so neck and neck and what it came down to it came down to two things. Number one, it came down to the fact that the courthouse and the one city had flowers and decorations. It was pretty it was beautiful and the big component is the mayor's wife made them all homemade apple pies.

Keith C. Rinehart: There you go.

Shannon Bryant (host): That was the final clincher for the decision and so.

Mayor Todd Flipo: They set out to my wife to get busy.

Shannon Bryant (host): There you go.

Keith C. Rinehart: Oh, send her an email.

Shannon Bryant (host): So, but yeah, definitely about the relationship building. So let's transition a bit and talk a little bit about the aspirational goals of your city council. What does that look like right now for the city?

Mayor Todd Flipo: You know, we've got a few big things that we're really looking at trying to attract more developments. We've talked about things like that, and the kinds of things people want, such as sit-down restaurants. There's a large, three letter named grocery store, which I will not name, which we would love to have, we will do anything for them and call me. But things like that we've got some open space, still, we have an opportunity open space, we have a very favourable tax rate or one of the lowest tax rates in the region. I tell folks, we're right across the street in Fort Worth, I tell folks, during move to Fort Worth, you'll pay twice a tax and get half the services but go ahead and I'm only that's only half two. But we have a couple things we want to get as I mentioned that we want places for people to play, we want entertainment venues. We also want some other type of retail and food type options. I personally want a brewery or and or a distillery, I'll take both call me.

Shannon Bryant (host): I think that was a shameless plug for some microbrews and such.

Mayor Todd Flipo: Bring it on we're very business friendly. That's our reputation. We have options for many of those. We're working hard on our infrastructure. Traffic is a big concern. I hope to hear from folks. Traffic effect businesses, businesses like to have count good traffic count, but also, they want people to be able to get places not get frustrated. So, there's a fine line that working on those we just opened a very large bridge slash overpass to alleviate traffic drove over yesterday for the first time. So y'all should all come see it. It's great. Fantastic. The Bailey Boswell Overpass, very proud of that many, many years in the making. So that all leads up to making the town more liveable and lower for citizens but also favourable for a business climate as well. There's lots of things that come involved I mean for years and you'd we've done infrastructure as far as water and sewer. So, roads don't flood simple things like that. You put all these millions of dollars underground, people don't see it. But the end result is you don't have flooding, you have better water, you have things like that. So, we've worked in that we built that sort of groundwork, that framework. Now we're ready for folks to come and live next I got on more than what we have in.

Shannon Bryant (host): So very good.

Keith C. Rinehart: I follow up really quick the one of the benefits of Saginaw and when the mayor was talking about being business friendly that's one of the things that you know, there's a lot of things reasons why businesses want to move to a community or even people want to commute move to community they want nice parks, which we have and we're working on improving that had several million dollars improved in a bond election about a year ago I think for me and Raven and bond election. Working our parks masterplan businesses and residents want excellent school system. We have Eagle Mountain Saginaw ISD, one of the best in the state, growing community One thing that businesses look at is, is the council in the city business friendly and one of the ways that we are is that our permitting process, you can go to other cities, one that Mayor mentioned and some of the other ones that way it takes months to get something done. And to go through the permitting process takes just a few short weeks just for Saginaw because we, we have a small staff, but we work very hard. And we don't brush things under the rug or move them move them off to the side, we take care of it right then. And that that whole process is so much quicker and that they can decide yes or no or if they want to be there if they know the process is simple and quick. That certainly helps us out.

Shannon Bryant (host): Yeah, that makes all the difference because gonna be a very complex process.

Keith C. Rinehart: Not a lot of hoops to jump through. Just very straightforward. And here's what it is

Mayor Todd Flipo: You know, one thing I would say is a city our size. I mean, you can call the city, you can get the account director, you can get Keith on the phone, he will call you back, he'll come see you can get me on the phone as well. Good luck with that in larger cities. I mean, nothing against them. But just the size and the logistics make that impossible, but we will call you back. We'll sit down with you. I'll have lunch with you. I know Keith Will keep does it all the time.

Shannon Bryant (host): So mayor, let's segue to that. Pertaining to you as mayor, what do you want your legacy for the city of Saginaw to be as the mayor?

Mayor Todd Flipo: It appears that I'm a builder. I just mentioned the overpass we're building a fire station. Currently, we have plans for a new Senior Centre, a new library to new big connector roads going to be improved. That's a lot of what we've done. And that's that takes several million dollars in several years. And those are all in process. Those are all approved and going. And so that's going to happen. I want to say that I'm a good connector to the past but to the future. I understand appreciate our past I grew up in Saigon. But I also know that we have to move and look toward the future. I want to leave office know that I've done the best to set Saigon up for success in the future. The best way we can in many different area's infrastructure wise, facility wise, transportation wise. Business, I cannot do that one wise. That's what I want what my legacy to be, is we're ready. We're ready for growth. We're ready for the future Saigon is going to be so much bigger and better than we have been.

Shannon Bryant (host): Okay, so fun question. I'm driving into the city of Saginaw we have the opportunity to put up a huge billboard. Welcome to the City of Saginaw. What does it say?

Keith C. Rinehart: I think one of the things our residents might like would it's our turn. I think they've been waiting for a long time for their city to grow. We've had a lot of growth in our community where we have a lot of a number of long-time residents and we have a lot of new residents coming in and they know that they can go other places to get entertainment or to go clothing shopping or go out to eat sit at a sit-down restaurant. And then why can't we do that here. And that's one of the things as our council and our administration staff have been working on is trying to provide that for them trying to bring in you know in the last, I can mention in the last two years we have for mixed use developments which for city the size of Frisco or Plano that's that happens every day. They have for more mixed-use developments, but for Saginaw. That's huge. That's really big and I know all the developments that are coming in. Are residents going to be so proud of what has been built and what they're going to be getting. I wish I could mention some of the businesses and Mayor even hinted to some minute ago but well, in the future. I'll be glad to call back.

Mayor Todd Flipo: When I can talk. Yes, stay tuned. Good things are coming.

Keith C. Rinehart: Yes

Shannon Bryant (host): Very good. Excuse me. So as a newbie, still somewhat of a newbie to Texas. I come visit city in Saginaw. Where do you recommend, I go, we talked about food truck Park? Some favourite spots to go visit.

Mayor Todd Flipo: One thing that we haven't mentioned I'd like to highlight we have a new park it used to be called Project Dream play now to the second that kind of stations or when it's called what is called Willow Creek Station. But it is an all-access Park is all abilities park one of the few in this area that I can count one or two others in Tarrant County, kill children all beliefs can play at this park, whether you're in if you're in a wheelchair, or if you're walking, if you're on a walk or any kind of thing. You will be able to come play there which is fantastic and it is packed. People love it. And fun fact, parks are expensive. playground equipment is crazy expensive when you look into it. But it's worth every penny. This is a exodus of public private partnership. A group came to us years ago called Project Dream play and they had this vision or a bunch of parents had had some kids that had some special needs and said Hey, you know we would love to have a park like that and so we worked with them. We're in, let's do it. And it comes for us we opened a couple years ago. And it's just amazing. I want to expand it; I want it to be bigger. I want to add some splash pads and more stuff. It's, it gets a lot of use. It's beautiful. And it just it warms your heart to see kids of all access all ages can come play on that park. And it's fantastic.

Shannon Bryant (host): I will definitely have to check that out. So, gentlemen, I really appreciate your time today, a couple of things, any parting thoughts or words that you would like to relay to our listening audience about the city of Saginaw or anything else that you might have going on?

Mayor Todd Flipo: Sure, I will. You know, I would say Saginaw is a hidden secret in Texas, and in north Texas, we might just be the small town you're looking for. We like to think Keith did well at 25,000. We still like to think of ourselves as a small town. You see people at the grocery store at church. But we have a lot of big city amenities. And our location is fantastic. You can get anywhere in this region very quickly and easily. You can live work and eat and then go other places you can go the airport; you talk to the cool things from slack unless you're home base. So come see it's.

Shannon Bryant (host): Very good. And so, with that being said, if anyone is listening to audience and including myself, who wants to learn more about the food trucks and coming to your events, what web address might I visit or social media outlets. Do you have any that you can mention today?

Keith C. Rinehart: Yes, our city of second Our website is saginawtx.org. That will get you to anything on our website economic development, anything else parks, recreation, such being age 53. I don't know the technology or the terminology for our Facebook page, but it's city of Saginaw, our Facebook page and also our LinkedIn and Twitter feed.

Shannon Bryant (host): Okay, very good. Well, I would like to thank my guest today, Mayor Todd Flippo and Keith Reinhart from the city of Saginaw, Texas. Thank you very much for joining us today and I thank the listening audience and we look forward to seeing you on the next edition of the workforce lens.