

Swedish Club chief promotes ethnic heritage

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AS WITH other immigrants, their first tough assignment meant learning English. Brogren's father, an engineer in his homeland, attended language classes at Detroit Northwestern High School. As a schoolboy, Brogren was thrown into learning the new language in the classroom.

As in many families, the mother faced the most difficult task in learning a new language. "We didn't have a radio or a telephone. It was the Depression," Brogren said.

Drawing on his own experience, he says he thinks that having teachers who conduct classes in the children's native language may be more of a hindrance than a help.

Swedish immigrants have faced the challenges of life in America for the better part of three centuries. The first colony of Swedes settled 150 years ago in Delaware. For Detroit-area Swedes, the vast of the Swedish

royals is the anniversary's highlight.

"There are more Swedes in America than in Sweden," he said.

THE FARMINGTON Hills resident is a member of the Detroit New Sweden '88 committee, which is sponsoring next month's visit, April 10-27. Swedish Club members will attend an afternoon reception for the royal couple at Cranbrook Academy of Art and a dinner at the Detroit Westin Hotel.

In addition, they'll play host to a group of five Swedish musicians from Delaware who will entertain at the reception and dinner. Members will meet the musicians at Detroit Metropolitan Airport, treat them to a coffee/reception in Farmington Hills and escort them to their hotel.

Retirement has given Brogren the time to devote his attention to the club and his heritage. He retired last year from Pullman Corp., Coldwater. He was a sales

engineer for the company's spring division.

He's also retired as a Farmington Hills volunteer firefighter. Brogren and his wife, whose parents came from Sweden have two grown children.

"Young people aren't this interested. This happens when you get a little older," he said, smiling. "It's difficult to entice young people to come here (the Swedish Club)."

INVOLVEMENT WITH their jobs, their marriages and children usually leaves little time to devote to ethnic activities, Brogren concedes.

However, occasionally, the club manages to lure younger people to its activities. "Yesterday, a young couple from Pontiac—a young doctor doing his internship and his girlfriend who came from Sweden 2 1/2 weeks ago—came to the club. We have Swedish exchange students who come to our brunches," he said.

Each June 21, the club celebrates the Swedish mid-

summer with children dancing around the maypole. It's possibly the one time of the year when children crowd the club's grounds, vying for a turn around the maypole.

And Brogren sees hope for such traditions to continue. "It seems today people are more inclined to think about their ethnic background than before."

Continuing the customs and visiting Sweden holds more than an academic interest for him. Last year marked his fourth visit to Sweden to see his cousins. He stayed on the farms his grandparents once owned. The properties have been passed to his uncles.

BACK AT home, the club will help pass the traditions to other, future generations of Swedish Americans. Brogren sees satisfaction with this and other facets of his busy retirement. Fishing and golfing help balance on his club work.

"Retirement," he says, with a grin. "When you're retired, every day is Saturday."

Residents blast lot splitting

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"I think it (the study of lots historically larger than the minimum size required by the zoning district) is going to be sporadic here and there," assistant city manager David Call said. "In general, there's probably more lots in the southern end."

CITY STAFF will study areas where zoning could negatively affect the larger lots. They will prepare a report for the city council and ask it to lift the moratorium or place it on specific areas until planners study zoning, Call said.

The moratorium is not to penalize people for lot splitting but to maintain the character of the neighborhoods," Call said.

Eventually, as requested by Dolan, a public hearing is expected to be scheduled. "We'll change their zoning if that's what they want. It would stabilize their communities. A lot of them don't realize what they have," Dolan said, adding that most resi-

dents are unaware of the land use zone in their neighborhoods.

Lot splits are allowed in Farmington Hills providing they meet minimum requirements of zoning ordinances, including lot width, area and open space requirements. No more than four lots can be created from a split.

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The patient's next question usually is: "What should I do now?" Using common sense in nutrition, undertaking reasonable activity, and complying with the medical regimen are the best ways for patients to help themselves. Also, the person with rheumatoid arthritis should exercise caution. He or she should be skeptical of anyone who, other than good intentions or for a fee, offers a cure that supposedly medical science has overlooked or withheld from the public.

on the agenda

Below are highlights from the agendas of government meetings this week. All meetings are open to the public.

Farmington Hills City Council
Farmington Hills City Hall
31555 11 Mile
7:30 p.m. Monday, March 28

The council will consider uses for \$380,000 in a special major road appropriation from the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, as well as a grant application for park development.

Several zoning ordinance amendments also will be enacted.

The council also will consider proclaiming the week of April 3-9 as Prevention of Child Abuse week.

Farmington Board of Education
Lewis Schulman Administrative Center
32500 Shawwassee
7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 29

The board will consider:

- bid openings for bleacher renovations at Warner and Power middle schools and for electric motors at East Middle School.
- a resolution about placement of a probationary teacher on third-year probation.
- purchase of computers for the engineering architectural drafting programs at the three senior highs.
- a building and site committee report about the process to select an architect for the new westside school and the new Farmington High media center.

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